

Panel Presentation

The presentations and discussions so far provided brilliant oratory, which was inspirational, but rhetorical to a large extent and also provided some concrete case studies.

I think the key practical ideas presented so far can be summarized using the sustainable livelihoods framework with which I have had some association. The main steps in this framework are the following:

- Analyse the vulnerability context in which people live.
- Map their asset base in terms of human social physical natural and financial assets.
- Facilitate the development of the people's vision of a more sustainable livelihood.
- Identify what the people can do on their own to get from where they are to their vision.
- Only then, determine what help the people might need from outsiders.

Since the introduction of these ideas into development practice in the mid 1990s there are a wide range of experiences.

^{1*} Time does not allow me to tell you the stories of failures and success of another 25 countries but what are some of the questions that arose over the last few days to which I think I can share some insights and point to the way forward. I take as my points of departure the view expressed by John McKnight that government, corporations, and the academy are obstacles to be overcome; as well as the point by Mary Coyle that we have to build one community at the time. I think that both these viewpoints are flawed, as I will show during my presentation.

Policy and Institutional linkages to assets, ownership / access to these assets, productivity of these assets to some goal: for example:

Community Economic Development, Local Economic Development, Poverty Reduction, Wealth Creation or Sustainable Livelihoods.

To answer these:

1. Context of the community
 - Islands struggle in a sea of support – North America, etc.
 - Oceans of struggle with islands support – developing countries

So let me focus of latter which I think had disproportionately less attention over the last 2 days.

Action:

1. What are the opportunities and challenges for ABCD in developing countries and in different contexts.

¹ * See Book: Sustainable Livelihoods: Building on the wealth of the poor by Kristin Helmore and Naresh Singh (Kumarian Press, 2001)

2. Relative macro-economic stability of Developed Countries vs Developing Countries
3. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR

Property rights

- You start with the assets they have and then you realise they don't really "have" these. "Have" implies a relationship access or some form of ownership, collective or individual that is protected in law.
- Property rights system, which works for poor communities.
- System of access to justice and rule of law in which works for poor communities. E.g.: it's time to repeal the anti-poor laws of the world.

Poor communities need to make their assets productive through labour and business rights.

- Takes 315 laws, 500 days and 6 months of the salary of a labourer to open a baker shop.
- What about bankruptcy, LLC (limited liability corporations) etc. for the poor.
- Citizen led development requires citizenship.
- Legal identity
- Several of these actions are described in detail in the report of the commission on LEP. Entitled: Making the Law work for everyone(UNDP, 2008)

Conclusion:

1. Send me: the evidence of how and where ABCD is helping people to get out of poverty.
2. An inventory of Canadians engaged in ABCD.
3. I will explore how CIDA might help to make a difference.