D-Lab Development
2009.09.14

D-Lab Philosophy

DIALOGUE /   Talking + Listening
Understanding the User Context

DISCOVERY /   Get Your Hands Dirty
Explore
Active Learning

DEVELOPMENT /   Creative Capacity
Encourage Community
to create themselves
—confidence
—belief
—skills
Cultural barriers to
work through

DESIGN /   Technology can improve
people's lives.

DISSEMINATION /   Real Work, in the field
More than academic exercise }

RESPECT /   Community members you are working with
Be aware of your own knowledge

Collaboration = Richness

HUMILITY /   As much to learn as to teach

OPTIMISM /   There are many failures
Difficulties + Barriers
Continue to believe

½ Full   THERE IS STILL A DROP LEFT.

IDEALISM /

ENTHUSIASM /out of idealism

IRREVERENCE /   Sense of Humor
A Grain of Salt

ANECDOTE

Uganda Refugee Camp
    Technologies to assist refugees
    Grinding Stone
        Commercial Grinder
            1,000,000 Shillings (300USD)
            Too much for refugees
            Diesel Inaccessible
        Bicycle Powered Meat Grinder
            Piece of Crap ! (was made by us)

Engaged Community
{
- Made it accessible to community to improve
- People had critiques of how they would improve

Economic & Technological Accessibility

Work with villagers. Really work, you learn
and it is a small relief for community. Creates
an exchange of respect.

"If we loose the humanity in
who we are and what we do,
what is the point of scaling?"

Bish Sanyal — History of Development

Colonialism – When countries became independent
(post WWII) What was left to work with?

1. There was an association of 'primary'
   cities to view of amount of development

2. All good land was taken
   by European Colonials

3. When countries became independent
   – what does "catching up" mean?
   – how did we frame the conversation
     at stake "the know how"
   – material extracted, processed away
     from colonies then sold back
   – need universities to educate people
     – subsidize technologies of the future

4. Local Government
   – was used to telling people what not to do.
   – there was no respect amount people and authority
   – big changes happen by giving
     power to local governments

5.

6. Poverty associated with ignorance
   – was justification by colonizers
   – this mentality was internalized by colonies
   – Gov't started to say people weren't smart

How Is Thinking DIFFERENT NOW?

Thought of taking labor from rural area to cities for industrialization.
   "unlimited supply of labour"
   – capitalize on inequalities
         – industrialization was seen to have
           a higher rate of return (over Ag)
         – don't squander money on poor
             FOCUS ON ELITE
             subsidies put here
   >> And now (today) cities are packed

STRATEGY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION
– Import substitution – create your own base
      – focus on large scale industry
      – ignored small household goods
            thought they could come later
            [things D-Lab works on now]
– Up To Date Technology
      – you don't catch up gradually
      – how do you keep labor cheap?
            – subsidize food in the city
            – force farmers to sell cheap

QUESTION
Size + Scale
      How does this matter?
      Countries with less people have it easier
            less mouths to feed
            need to create food surplus to invest
      Natural resource also an element
      Smaller not a problem, later on labour may
            be a problem

POLITICAL MODERNIZATION

1. Allow people to participate and have a say in government
   Something not available in colonialism
   Create a nation state (WHY?)
2. Ability to move around, without ties to pre-existing standards
   (with new labor force)
   - Also able to exert your own preferences

QUESTION
Conflict of nationalism + personal identity
       how do you appeal to personal identity for votes

NOW
___
Today

People trying to organize
Unorganized Labor (informal sector)

Public policies get put in place
by (pressure) from political parties
   { Who are the political leaders? } ASK THIS WHEN
   { What do they represent? }   VISITING PLACES

   Connections to political parties and
   organized labor can be important [for Development]

SOCIAL MODERNIZATION

Need to understand the arrogance previously had when
dealing with colonized people

Seen as irrational {religion/superstition/etc}
       - Makes it seem as if they have nothing
         to offer
       - Not respecting their knowledge

Choosing your identity
       - a socially modern concept
         {this is what I believe, want to do, etc}
       - often we are quick to define the identity of
         those we visit
       - consider what is going on though their head

! COPING WITH CHANGE IS VERY DIFFICULT
       - change causes deep levels of uncertainty
       - our idea of change is mechanical
         {doing A causes B}
          this is not always true though
       - consider America's own situation, credit
         is not as readily available as it once was

At another time, Bish will tell us
how this model didn't work.

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