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

HUMILITY / As much to learn as to teach

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

IDEALISM / A Grain of Salt

ENTHUSIASM / out of idealism

IRREVERENCE / Sense of Humor

Collaboration = Richness
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 lose 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

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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

People trying to organize
   Unorganized Labor (informal sector)

Public policies get put in place
by (pressure) from political parties
   Who are the political leaders?
   What do they represent?
   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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