

River Park Church Community Development Class

- Readings
- Homework
- Review
 - 1) Theological Foundations
 - 2) Definitions
 - 3) Overall process

Innovation

- Introduction of change
- Something new, different
- Idea, skill, tool, machine, etc.

Basic Principles of Innovation

- Participation is key (goal and method)

Participation

- Enthusiasm is driving force of innovation
 - motivation, desire, energy, commitment
- Heart is involved, not just head; emotions
- Key to enthusiasm is ERS
 - Early, Recognizable Success

Early Recognizable Success

- Must be the people's own success
- Not delayed, long term
- Must be valued by the people in their own terms (recognizable) –felt need resolved
- Must involve the target population
 - -the poorest, most marginalized
- Requires that KISS principles be followed
- Avoid failure: this destroys enthusiasm

KISS

- Keep it Simple and Small; Slow too
- Needs are overwhelming on many levels
- Temptation to address many diverse needs right away with “effective” external technology to “solve” the “problem”
- Sustainable grassroots transformational development requires SIMPLE, SMALL steps in the innovation process; SLOW

Why go slowly?

Why go slowly?

- Allows learning process to occur; basic skills acquisition
- Allows involvement of most marginalized, least educated
- Allows flexibility when adaptation required
- More possibility of early, recognizable success
- Less chance for failure
- Allows local people to build leadership

Why go slowly?

- Build critical mass of participation
- Real change requires 25-45% of community to join in
- Cultural barriers; risk issues
- Pilot project approach very good
 - Demonstration Effect
- Use of existing local knowledge builds dignity

Activity

- Many numbers placed on whiteboard
- Must memorize these
- Individual vs group cooperation, participation
- Importance of unity, coordination
- Allows much more to be done

Why start simply?

Why start simply?

- Many of the same reasons as why we start slowly; more local participation possible
- More possibility of sustainability based on local resources
- Danger of high budget, high technology interventions; outsider driven, dependent
- Less technology to more people is better than more technology to fewer people
- More grassroots empowerment, dialogue

Building Capacity

- Focus on building the confidence, capacity of local people to sustain innovation
- Enthusiastic local leaders teach others
- Local leaders must gain own successes
- Achieve process of improvement
 - 1) learn about and try new technologies
 - 2) learn to teach technology to others

Limiting Factors

- Identify development bottlenecks
- Least adequate condition for maximum productivity
- CAUSE Canada: microcredit, literacy, basic health knowledge and skills, etc.

Technology Pyramid

- As success is achieved at simple level, more enthusiasm, capacity for further innovation is created; multiplier stage
- Begin with numeracy; proceed to literacy, then to financial management training, then to leadership skills, business management, health care practices, ...