The “ABCD”: a Model for Capacity Building for People & Community Development

A METHOD for DEVELOPMENT ACTION PROGRAMMING

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The “ABCD” : An Overview

I. Community Development - The Earlier Approaches

II. The “ABCD” as…

* a PARADIGM OF DEVELOPMENT
* a METHOD or APPROACH
* a STRATEGY

* Some examples of ABCD in actual applications
Economic Development (Production & Wealth Creation) → Economic Development + Equity (Social Justice) → Economic Development + Equity + People Participation & Empowerment → Wholistic & Sustainable Development

“1st Generation” → “2nd Generation” → “3rd Generation” → “4th Generation”


Do devmt for people → Do devmt thru people → Do devmt w/ people → Empower people for devpmnt

Stimulus for devmnt --Deficiency of Communities-based Approach (“D-C-B-A” or Problem-Oriented Approach)

Assets - Based Community → “A-B-C-D” Approach
The New Millennium – ushered in new hopes & inspiration…

1. A re-awakening & renewed idealism/vision shared by poor & rich countries -- "a world without poverty". Pressed by urgency of the times, the UN has produced the “Millennium Declaration”:

Reduce by half the number of people on extreme poverty & hunger by 2015.
25 September 2015 – UN Development Summit convening UN Member States & adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development –

* “a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality & injustice, & tackle climate change by 2030.”
“The new Global Goals, & the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, addressing root causes of poverty & the universal need for development that works for all people.” (all-inclusive growth)

2. The “ABCD” Model – in a new millennium… a new paradigm, & a more positive outlook of our world searching for lasting peace & development.
The “ABCD” & “Traditional” Approaches to People/Community Development

Focus

Perspective of people/community

Leaders/Leadership

Relationship w/ outside agencies

Tools/Techniques Process

Needs, Deficiencies, Problems

Negative aspects (problematic, weak, “sick”) overwhelm/overlook people’s inner strengths - self-deprecating - dependency on “outside” help - selfish interests

Influenced by “outside” resources (donations, grants)

Donor-client relationship Doctor-Patient

Participatory needs assessment or problem analysis (“Problem Tree” or Needs Map)
Community Needs or Problem-oriented Map (“Traditional” Approach)

- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Laziness
- Broken Families
- Poor Housing
- Crime
- Mentally sick
- Poor Health
- Welfare recipients
- Illiteracy
- Gangs
- Child Abuse
- Low Production
- School Dropouts
THE PROBLEM TREE of Mawlamyine Diocese, Mon State, Myanmar

EFFECTS

- Lack ambition to pursue higher studies
- Short of life
- People are displaced
- No voice against injustice
-Numerous diseases
-No vocation
-No respect to elder
-No peace in family
-Dark future for the country

Low education

- More illiterate people
- Weak children & adults
-Hatred for the military
-Deep in debt
-Low morals
-Lack of food
-No proper work
-Lower standard of living
-No peace in family

Poverty

- Cannot get regular work
- Frightened people
-Gambling drinking & stealing
-Lower standard of living
-No proper work

Low income

- Low education

- Poverty
- Low income
- Low education
The “ABCD” & “Traditional” Approaches to People/Community Development

Focus

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Doctor-Patient

Tools/Techniques Process

Participatory needs assessment or problem analysis (“Problem Tree” or Needs Map)

Focus

Assets, Capacities, Potentials

Perspective of People/Community

Positive aspects (assets) are good starting points & Stimuli for development
- self-motivating
- mobilize internal resources
- mutual-help

Leaders/Leadership

Influence people & community to build up their inner strength & internal resources

Relationship w/ Outside Agencies

Partners collaborate to strengthen community’s inner capacities for empowerment

Tools/Techniques Process

Participatory Mapping of Assets or Resources
Community Assets Map
(“ABCD” Approach)
The “ABCD” & “Traditional” Approaches to People/Community Development

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Participatory Mapping of Assets or Resources
Some sayings depicting the positive vs negative

Murphy’s law (an adage): “Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.”

Yhprum’s law (a saying): “Anything that can work, will work.”

LOVE vs. HATE

“Light-up the darkness, don’t curse it.”
The ASSETS-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("ABCD" Approach)

**PEOPLE:** knowledge, skills, attitudes, talents, education, etc.

**PHYSICAL:** household properties, other physical assets used to generate income (water, land, infrastructure, school, transportation, weather, etc)

**ORGANIZATIONS:** internal-based & external-based associations, agencies, organization; formal & non-formal; Government and NGOs

**LIVELIHOOD:** income levels, sources of income. Credit, market, etc.
1. Collecting stories of successes/accomplishments of the community
   (Appreciative Inquiry: discover, dream, design, deliver)
2. Organizing a Core Group (leaders) interested in discovering/mobilizing community assets.
3. Mapping completely the capacities & assets of individuals, citizen’s associations, local institutions, physical assets & local economy.
4. Building relationships of local assets for mutually beneficial problem-solving w/in the community.
5. Convening as broadly representative a group as possible for the purposes of building a community vision & plan.
6. Mobilizing the community’s assets fully for economic & development & information sharing purposes.
7. Leveraging activities, investments & resources from outside the community to support asset-based, locally defined development.
A Methodology of “ABCD”

1. Collecting stories of successes/accomplishments of the community (Appreciative Inquiry: discover, dream, design, deliver)

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3. Mapping completely the capacities & assets of individuals, citizen’s associations, local institutions, physical assets and local economy.

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APPLYING “ABCD” TO EMPOWER POOR COMMUNITIES

Let me share some experiences & case studies
• Since March 2000, the College of Agriculture & South East Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (SEARSOLIN) of Xavier U, Philippines decided to work w/ grassroots Civil Society to test, apply & study the ABCD Model in selected rural/urban communities of Northern Mindanao.

* The ABCD Model has been incorporated into the SEARSOLIN Leadership Training Program for development leaders, particularly in their Development Action Programs.

Let me briefly share w/ you some of our experiences.
LOCAL INSTITUTIONS
- Tho Lam II Agricultural Cooperative
- Kindergarten
- Health center
- Catholic Church, Pagodas
- Agriculture & Extension Dept.
- Market
- Social Association/Organization
- People’s committee

NATURAL RESOURCES
- Forest
- River/springs
- Land: Fertile paddy fields, high lands

EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS
- Dong Nai Department of Agriculture
- NIAPP
- Sub-NIAPP
- C. A.E.V.
- DN Food processing factory
- Cooperative Union
- C.C. A.
- A. W. C. F.
- SEARSOLIN

ECONOMIC ASSETS
- Cows, buffaloes
- Vegetables/crops
- Industrial trees
- Poultry, aqua-culture
- Trade stores
- Credit activities
- Means of production (Plough, harrow, sprayer, rice grinder, etc.)
- Irrigation and drainage system
- Etc.

INDIVIDUALS
- Farming skills (poultry, plant, raising, fishing, etc.)
- Handicraft skills (Carpentry, rattan making, etc.)
- Cashew nuts processing skills
- Marketing

ASSETS MAP OF LAM VILLAGE, VIETNAM
ASSETS MAPPING - MIDKIWAN COMMUNITY
BARANGAY Bayanga, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, June 2002

CITY VETERINARY OFFICE, SEARSOLIN, XUCA, CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE RURAL TECHNOLOGY (CART), HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS GROUP

VEGETABLE & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

LAND, TREES, LIVESTOCK

“BAYANIHAN” SPIRIT or COOPERATION

VALUE FORMATION, PRAYER, GROUP MEETINGS, FAMILY ROSARY

BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES (BEC)

FARMING SKILLS

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

FAITH IN GOD

LABOR

TEACHER

SCHOOL

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

DEPT. OF EDUCATION XAVIER UNIVERSITY

SEARSOLIN, Xavier University College of Agriculture (XUCA), Department of Agriculture (DA), City Engineering Office, Department of Public Work & Highways (DPWH), Misamis Oriental Rural Electric Cooperative (MORESCO)

ELECTRICITY, ROAD, WATER IMPROVEMENT

BARANGAY COUNCIL

MICODA

EMPLOYMENT, MARKETING

FARMERS COOP

LAND, TREES, LIVESTOCK

FARMLANDS, TRESS

EMPLOYMENT, MARKETING

FARMERS COOP

BAYANIHAN SPIRIT or COOPERATION

VALUE FORMATION, PRAYER, GROUP MEETINGS, FAMILY ROSARY

BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES (BEC)
1. Midkiwan
2. Kitaotao
3. Tongantongan
Poor tenant farmers organized their MICODA organization to use ABCD to deal with their issues (e.g., tenancy, water supply, road, school, electricity, a meeting center, health & farm livelihood projects, children’s education, solving internal squabbles, partnering with outside agencies and government learning to negotiate with them.)
PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA) w/ rural poor families (Midkiwan)

* GROUP WORK
* ASSETS MAPPING
* WEALTH RANKING
* DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE
* SEASONAL CALENDARS
* ACCESS & CONTROL PROFILE
* VENN DIAGRAM
Linking of Assets in Midkiwan

- Civic group
  - Youth club
  - Group of music
  - Dancing/singing

- Better life
  - Other skills
  - Farming Skills
    - Raw materials
  - Culture activity
  - Teacher
  - School
  - School Supporting Committee
  - Department of Education
  - Medicine
  - Herbal Medicine
  - Health Center

- Economic
  - SA
  - GAD
  - Better Education & Festival

- Labor
  - Labor group
  - Construction skill
  - City Government
  - Local vote

- Services
  - Political skill
  - City engineering
  - Constructure

- Construction
  - Department of Health

- Agriculture
  - Land Crops/Livestock
  - Barangay Dev’t Association

- Barangay
  - Barangay Religious office
  - SEARSOLIN

- City
  - Barangay Religious office/
  - Carmen and Cogon market
  - Grocery store/motor taxi

- Diocese level
Rural Poor Learning Skills on Leadership, Farming, Cooperatives (Midkiwan)
Projects in Midkiwan

Home Gardening

Farm Tools

Livestock

Food Processing
Leveraging Internal Assets for External Resources for Projects (Midkiwan)

Livestock Project with Heifer Project International

Educational Sponsorship with the Christian Children’s Fund
Landless indigenous people organized to set-up communal garden -- giving them new perspective to improve their lives, upgrade farm & organization skills... in the process strengthening their communal spirit & confidence, accepting a more diffused non-traditional leadership structure, & learning to link-up w/ “external” agents (Gov’t. & NGOs) for technical & material support.

CASE No. 2: KITAOTAO
PROJECTS IN KITAOTAO

Communal Garden of Indigenous People
CASE No. 3: URBAN COMMUNAL GARDENS IN CAGAYAN DE ORO

5 urban poor communities & 2 elementary schools organized to operate their communal gardens w/ ecological sanitation & basic hygiene practices promoting health, food security & environmental sustainability.

The process: 1) started w/ identifying community internal & external resources (e.g., local knowledge & skills, idle urban lands, academic & govt. institutions w/ technological expertise & social influence; & 2) linking w/ other partner-institutions (local & foreign) for material support.
ABCD & RELATED METHODS (TOOLS) APPLIED

1. Assets-based
2. Internally-driven for community empowerment
3. Relationship-driven for synergy

Assets Mapping

Telling Success Stories

Communit y Organizing

Social Map

Demographic Profiling

Resource Mapping Transect Walk

Venn Diagram

Income-Expenditure Tree
1. Strengthened associations – more confidence in group action, more capable to deal w/social issues, more pro-active stance, more capable to deal w/ government & other agencies, learning organization/managerial skills, more open to link/work w/ other groups for bigger issues.

2. Leadership development -- more democratic & diffused, w/ leaders relying more on community internal strengths to leverage for outside support.

3. Members’ attitude more positive – more sharing, more open to ideas, less suspicious of “outsiders”, more articulate, more active & involved.

4. Learn agricultural technologies & other livelihood skills.

5. Learn to visualize & articulate (in meaningful symbols) aspirations, dreams, plans.

6. Becoming more positive in outlook.

7. “Outside resources” -- more receptive & supportive as partners.
ROLE of NGO & EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS

- Training & formation of leaders, extension agents, etc. on philosophy & genuine appropriate application of ABCD (i.e., ABCD not an end in itself, but a process towards making community become internally strong -- “Masters of Their Own Destiny” (Coady).

- Facilitating linkages w/ other useful resources.

- Providing technical, material & moral support.
ON-GOING ISSUES

• Sustainability - a key issue. “Small is beautiful”, a principle to keep in mind, each small step as important as subsequent gradual steps to tackle greater greater social issues.

• Shift from “traditional” DCBA paradigm to a conscious, consistent application of ABCD Approach is quite challenging to facilitators & extension agents long schooled in DCBA w/ deeply-ingrained habits of its practice. The same w/ community people.

• Poor communities look forward to & expect tangible/quick benefits from ABCD. The ABCD by itself does not guarantee this. Hence, the importance to leverage internal assets w/ outside support to obtain some positive results.

• Leadership - The leader’s credibility, integrity, capability, position power, w/ a pro-ABCD attitude (or lack of) can make or break the development process.

• The strength of the organization (i.e., cohesion & loyalty of members & their integration to organization’s vision & objective) -- an important factor.
A “loaded” & Critical ISSUE --

**HOW CAN PEOPLE APPRECIATE “ABCD” W/OUT BEING DISCOURAGED ABOUT THEIR POVERTY?”**

“loaded” because the poor do hope & aspire for a better life… but they are actually discouraged & overwhelmed by complex problems of being poor.

* On this note lies the exciting, uplifting & challenging potentials of the “ABCD” approach to help people & communities pursue sustainable development.
Thank You