

# Observations on Development Projects

---

Lecture for LAPE

SFU

Anil Hira

# Overview of Lecture

- Idea of Grass-roots devt
- Development Projects' Place in Devt.
- Traditional Approaches to Devt. Projects
- New Targets for Devt. Projects
- Shortfalls of Traditional Approaches
- New Ideas for Devt. Projects
  - Getting back to the grassroots?

# The Context of Devt. Projects

- Development comes in wake of post-colonial order & Marshall Plan
- From reconstruction to “modernization” theory- Sir Arthur Lewis
- Aid in the context of the Cold War: mid-1960s changes in approaches: grass-roots/CD pjects
  - Why grass-roots projects
- 1970s- Begin movement towards private; change towards growth w/equity
- 1980s- Debt crisis- end of large infrastructure projects; “Lost Decade”

# Devt. Projects after the Cold War

- End of Cold War- significance for aid
- Multilateralization and reduction of bilateral; SAPs; major retreat of state fr. social life
- Buzzword: sustainability
- 1990s- huge growth of NGOs; revival of CD in guise of “civil society” (r/ed to E Europe, democ.)
- New buzzword: governance; institution-bldg
- New focus on part. groups, esp. women

ODA Grants Cold War			ODA Post Cold War	
1975-89	Annual		1990-95	Annual
\$ millions	Average		\$ millions	Average
India	191.4		Ethiopia	364.6
Pakistan	139.5		Sudan	220.9
Bangladesh	129.1		Mozambique	215.4
Ethiopia	122.7		Bangladesh	212.3
Sudan	107.4		India	210.2
Somalia	87.0		Malawi	161.9
Egypt, Arab	80.2		China	152.3
China	76.3		Pakistan	151.7

Multilateral Loans			Multilateral Loans	
1975-89	Annual		1990-95	Annual
US\$ million	Average		US\$ million	Average
India	1290.0		India	2300.2
Brazil	909.3		Mexico	2157.4
Mexico	854.7		China	1966.7
Indonesia	832.1		Indonesia	1839.6
Turkey	607.7		Pakistan	1302.2
Korea, Repu	487.2		Argentina	1193.9
Colombia	417.3		Brazil	1018.1
Pakistan	408.7		Turkey	813.2

Source: Hira and Parfitt, 2004

## Table 1.5: Proportions of Aid vs. Private Capital to Developing Countries

US \$b (total of 100% of all capital flows)

	1970	1980	1990	1998	1999
Long-term debt	6.9	65.2	43.4	104.7	44.7
FDI (net)	2.2	4.4	24.1	170.9	192
Portfolio	0	0	2.8	15.6	27.6
Grants	1.9	13.1	28.2	27.1	26.4
Notes: Grants excludes technical cooperation					
	1970	1980	1990	1998	1999
Long-term debt	62.7%	78.8%	44.1%	32.9%	15.4%
FDI (net)	20.0%	5.3%	24.5%	53.7%	66.0%
Portfolio	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	4.9%	9.5%
Grants	17.3%	15.8%	28.6%	8.5%	9.1%

Source: Hira and Parfitt, 2004

# Traditional Approaches

- Types of aid: emergency; structural adj; project-based
- Project Cycle: assessment/feasibility (CBA)
  - Rof R matched against competing pjects
  - project team set up; monies disbursed
  - interim reports; post hoc evaluation
  - Next project assessed
- Host government is the intermediary party and helps to id priorities as well as channel project monies; thus h.g. has some responsibility for pject

# The Project Cycle



# New Targets for Devt. Projects

- Major push on women's projects
- Other priorities:
  - Environmental (sustainability)
  - Population/birth control
  - “civil society;” democratization and social K projects
  - anti-narcotics
  - AIDS
- Do the new priorities represent the genuine priorities of Developing Cs?

# Ex.s of Probs. w/Devt. Projects

- 1. No learning or evaluation
- 2. CBA/feasibility may not be approp (experiments & difficulty in CBA)
- 3. Priorities may be off
- 4. Most aid is “tied” both formally and informally
- 5. Are NGOs up to task of replacing traditional aid? Many problematic aspects of NGOs

# Shades of New Approaches

- Deconstructing Development- meaning; subject/object
- Renewed focus on participation
  - How would this be possible?
- Incorporating Evaluation, in a diff. sense
- Can Host govts. be bypassed?
- universal vs. local- respect vs. priorities
- Is aid itself destructively paternalistic? ex. of depcy cycle; need for tailorization; pwer shift
- Funding cycle and mistakes are perpetuated by Northern NGOs, c.s. builders; “authenticity”/self-actualization vs. mat. gain as a goal?