

Beyond the Implementation of Development Goals: Adult Learning as Appropriation

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Providing a context: “The Girl Effect”

Source: <http://www.girleffect.org/learn/the-big-picture>



Everything Micro: Marketing Microfinance

- Creating a compelling story
- In 2003, the *Social Performance Indicators Initiative (SPI) Final Report* concludes, “the need for tools assessing the social performances of micro finance institutions is more and more widely recognised within the micro finance sector, which is only assessed so far through financial performances.”
- Girl → School → Cows → \$ → Business → Clean H2O → Social Change → Stronger Economy → Better World
- Language and a **Linear Modality** (cause, effect, input, output, performance, impact, implementation)
- **Logical Framework Approach** (LFR)

Why Myanmar (Burma)?

- In the opaque world of Burma's political economy few things are ever entirely clear-cut, but it does seem that certain of the MFIs currently operating there are **at a tipping point**. From this place they *could* transform into sustainable financial institutions. Alternatively, microfinance could fail to make this leap, and continue in the dismal tradition of Burma's financial sector – of just another idea, well-intentioned and sound in theory, gone wrong in **application** (Turnell 2009: 350).



Photo by: Timothy Payne

Myanmar (Burma) continued

Source: 2010 Microfinance Industry Report Myanmar

http://themimu.info/SectorCluster/Agriculture_%20Livelihoods_Food%20Security/Microfinance/ACTED_Microfinance-Industry-Report_Apr2010.pdf

Table 2 – Population and Demographic Data, Myanmar

Total Population	58,510,000 (average age 29)
Estimated Population below poverty line	19,308,300 (33% of the population 2007)
Estimated Households below poverty line	3,329,017
Estimated Population needing access to credit	Around 4,000,000
Rural Population	70%
Number of active microfinance clients	385,283 (September 2009)
Number of cottage industries	Around 60,000
Cost of cultivation for 1 acre of monsoon paddy	Between 100 and 150 000 MMK (100 to 150 US\$)
Exchange rate	Official rate: 6.1 MMK / US\$ Market rate: 1,000 MMK / US\$ (average Nov. 2009)

Research Objectives

- To better understand the shift in development thinking and practice from a more scientific/mechanistic point-of-view to one characterized by attention to **language, ethics, and social engagement**.
- To explore leadership and strategy from a **critical hermeneutic perspective**.
- To learn new ways of developing programs and policies that better reach underserved groups with approaches based on conversation, particularly by conducting **conversation based assessment** in which people bring forth their knowledge, experience, and creativity.



Photo by: Timothy Payne

Scope

- Delineates a project in Burma.
- Provides a platform for the development of programs and policies that better reach the underserved groups within the country of Burma.



Materials and Method Used

- A **critical hermeneutic orientation**
- **Metaphor** as a medium for unveiling poetic imagination in the collection, presentation and analysis of data
- Recorded **conversations** transcribed into a written text to identify themes



Orientation towards Metaphor

If certain activities are implemented, and assumptions hold, then a specific output will be delivered:

- *Structure → Conduct → Performance → Impact (on clients/non-clients, communities etc. in many dimensions)*

The poetic language employed in this research might look like the following if it shared a linear relationship:

- *Narrative (Stories) → Metaphors → Poetic Imagination → Appropriation and Action (capacity for seeing oneself as another)*

Conclusions and Implications

- Metaphor, elevated to **a level of discourse**, allows for work in a creative space where new contextual meanings and understandings expound (projects, workshops etc.)
- The development process, **informed by identity**, provides an alternative modality for project assessment and **invites multiple interpretations**.

Conclusions and Implications continued

- Appropriation of a project, beyond implementation, “suggests from the outset that the selfhood of oneself implies otherness to such an intimate degree that **one cannot be thought of without the other**” (Ricoeur 1992: 3).
- Adult learning is “an activity or process by which nothing ‘selfish’ occurs, but rather by which the different members of the world are brought into **belonging to and with one another** and are helped to realize themselves and each other in realizing this belonging” (Heidegger 1971: xix).

Conclusion and Implications Continued:

Implementation Paradigm

- Potential for self-actualization
- Language appears as a tool
- Scientific method
- Non-linguistic steering medium of money

Appropriation Paradigm

- Interpreting our problem-setting stories
- A dialectic mode within an interpretive framework
- Narrative identity
- Shared lived experience engendering a concept of self in relationship to the other

Thank You.

Humans live in metaphor and narrative far more often than they do in certitude.

