Development

DEVELOPMENT IS A PROCESS IN WHICH A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE STRIVES TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL ITS MEMBERS TO SATISFY THEIR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN NEEDS AND TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES

QUOTE FROM TRAINING FOR TRANSFORMATION BOOK ONE

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(REVISED EDITION), 1995 MAMBO PRESS

MAMBO PRESS, GWERU - ZIMBABWE

Link to Information

The gap is widening even faster than the other gaps in access to resource, which define the inequity of the world in which we live in.

This has major implications for development organisations. Development is largely about empowerment.

Two crucial elements of empowerment are that people should have the necessary information to make choices, and that they should have their views (which are a particular form of information!) valued and listened to. Source: Information Management for Development Organisatons (2nd Edition) by Mike Powell

Scenario in NGOs

- Lack of awareness, particularly among policy makers, of how important information and data are to the work of institutions in their sector

- Lack of clearly defined policies and responsibilities for information management in sector institutions

- Lack of well-designed modern systems for managing the various kinds of information and data (source: IRC Water and Sanitation Centre, WHO Collaborating Centre)

Scenario in NGOs

- Lack of appropriate organisational structures and coordinating mechanisms for information management

- Lack of competent information personnel/skills

- Lack of suitable accommodation, equipment and supplies for information handling

- Lack of adequate financial support

- source: IRC Water and Sanitation Centre, WHO Collaborating Centre)

Case: DENIVA study

- Information is a resource that needs to be nurtured through effective planning, if development programmes are to reach their full potential.

- Most NGOs did not make predetermined arrangements concerning what information would be required by the organisation, where and how to get it. They do not plan for the human resource or the finance.

- Perception that information is important for their work is thus no backed by realistic sequence of actions to achieve specific goals and in a good number of organisations, top management does not seems to appreciate the importance of information processing procedures.

Source: DENIVA study on opportunities and challenges in Information Management

Information management

- involves closing the gap between information needs and information demands

- disseminating the right information to the right person.

Information management activities comprise of

- the analysis of existing information flows and needs

- the development of information policies

- definition of procedures for information handling from collection to repackaging, networking and administration

Source: Information Management for Development Organisatons (2nd Edition) by Mike Powell

Information shifting and management system

- Before one can devise a system it is best to link the aims and activities of the organisation to the information which is needed and which is generated
- Identify the scope and nature of information in the organisation
- Identify the users of the information and what information they require
- Identify which information is relevant to the needs of the organisation.

Information is power, Power is information necessary component for most, Personal, Institutional, National growth and prosperity

<u>Example on health information</u>

A mother's awareness of simple, low cost disease prevention measures like immunizations can make the difference between a smiling child and a tiny corpse

similarly

Accurate information about disease burden can help a Minister of Health determine whether a new vaccine should be added to the national immunization programme

and

Clear guidelines for the use of that vaccine can empower doctors and nurses to save many more lives

(Scott Willet – global directory of health information resource centers)

Knowledge is like a garden

If it is not cultivated,

It cannot be harvested

Guinean saying

You never know where you are going

Until you know where you are coming from