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Millennium Development Goals and Capacity Development: A Promising Challenge that Needs Further Investigations

By

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Agenda

- Reminder of the Millennium Development Goals
- The Millennium Development Goals: a Mid-term Evaluation;
- The Reasons Behind Partial and total Failures in the Implementation of the MDGs;
- The MDGs Implementation is a Project of Social transformation;
- Capacity Development Agenda;
- ┌ Key Issues to Accompany the Thinking about capacity building to Meet the MDGs Objectives
- Conclusion.

Reminder of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger;
- Achieve Universal Primary Education;
- Promote Gender Equality And Empower Women;
- Reduce Child Mortality;
- Improve Maternal Health ;
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Other Diseases;
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability ;
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

The Millennium Development Goals: a Mid-term Evaluation

- ⇒ All existing mid-term Evaluations and Analyses show that almost no country can realize all the objectives while a limited number can partially achieve some goals within the horizon of 2015;

The Millennium Development Goals: a Mid-term Evaluation (Cont.)

Four categories of developing countries:



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graph TD; A[Four categories of developing countries:] --- B[Fast growing regions with significant progress on MDGs: East Asia;]; A --- C[Fast growing with limited progress on MDGs: South Asia;]; A --- D[Slow-growing regions with limited progress on MDGs: Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa and Western Asia;]; A --- E[Slow-growing regions with little progress on MDGs, transitional economies of eastern Europe and central Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.];
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Fast growing regions with significant progress on MDGs: East Asia;

Fast growing with limited progress on MDGs: South Asia;

Slow-growing regions with limited progress on MDGs: Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa and Western Asia;

Slow-growing regions with little progress on MDGs, transitional economies of eastern Europe and central Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Reasons Behind Partial and total Failures in the Implementation of the MDGs

The reasons

- Lack of economic growth;
- Inequality in the distribution of income;
- Governance failures;
- Policy neglect including absence of consideration of the specificities of cultures, and the differences between urban and rural populations.


The Reasons Behind Partial and total Failures in the Implementation of the MDGs (Cont.1)

The missing links

- Coordination;
- Participation;
- Knowledge and know-how.

The Reasons Behind Partial and total Failures in the Implementation of the MDGs (Cont.2)

Conclusion



The achievement of MDGs is a complex process that lies in the willingness and capacity not only of the government but also of men and women at the various levels of society.



It is a huge mission for weak States.

The MDGs Implementation is a Project of Social transformation

- Eight strongly inter-related objectives with effects on the population both as individuals and groups;
- A better distribution of revenues will eliminate disparities, integrate new segments of the population in the formal economy, change the relations between the different groups, between individuals and groups and the government system;

The MDGs Implementation is a Project of Social transformation (Cont.)

- Education, gender equality, women empowerment will introduce new values and create new forms of relations within the society;
- Better governance and the emergence of new actors in the area of development, such as local elites and civil society will introduce a more democratic government process and relations between State and Citizens which remains at the long term the real guarantors of economic and social stability.

We are dealing with a social transformation which requires capacity and effectiveness from the State in order to perform permanently their functions efficiently and effectively. To do so the States needs a capacity development agenda.

Capacity Development Agenda

The success of the millennium Declaration is contingent upon development of the capacity of the State to be developmental:

1. To be able to build a vision, to have leadership, to have the capacity to transform society within a relatively short period of time;
2. To be a good performer able to set a clear strategy, to mobilize for the raising of the challenges and have a field pragmatism to react promptly;

Capacity Development Agenda (Cont.)

3. To develop national capacity to « set objectives, develop strategies, draw up action plans, develop and implement appropriate policies and programs, to design regulatory and legal frameworks, build and manage partnerships, and foster an enabling environment for the civil society and the private sector » (S. Cheema);
4. To foster a different distribution of the executive power, empower new elites and new partners, to mobilize the political class over long term objectives;
5. Be prepared to deal with resistances and destabilizing effects of social transformation.

Key Issues to Accompany the Thinking about capacity building to Meet the MDGs Objectives

- How to construct a pro-development thinking mode?
- How to train leaders to be constructive, able to show their vision, to set rules that allow action to be transparent and evaluated?
- How is that the leadership should account for the MDGs and integrate them within a larger strategy that includes other objectives arising from the society expectations?
- ┌ The leadership should have commitment of elites for the success of a long term national project like MDGs, this raises the issue of the renewal of the elite and the role of education in promoting new elites, and capacity building of these elites;

Key Issues to Accompany the Thinking about capacity building to Meet the MDGs Objectives (Cont.)

- How to reconcile the requirements of the developmental State and the agenda of good governance?
- Does the normative aspect of good governance have a negative effect on the achievement of MDGs by the majority of developing countries? Moderate propositions exist: “the good enough governance” (Grindle) less normative, more pragmatic;
- └ How to make institutions, organizations, individuals learn from experience in the field?

Conclusion

- The Millennium Declaration recognize the elementary right to a decent life for over one billion of men and women; it was a source of hope for the upcoming birth of a global human community based on solidarity and sharing a set of values;
- Today, it does not seem that the goals targeted globally could be achieved by 2015;
- The ability of many countries to raise the challenge is inadequate and new constraints resulting from global economy make these objectives difficult to reach;

Conclusion (Cont.)

- Still MDGs are a wonderful challenge and an opportunity for social change and transformation;
- Capacity development is a central process for long term development. But it is a complex process that needs more research, field evaluations and learning.
- Adapting the content and the process of learning to the different categories of stakeholders is still a challenge for experts in capacity building and should be addressed. Learning from experiences in the field, from success stories and from the people's wisdom may help.



THANK YOU