In Search Of A Working Philosophy For The Faith-Based Nongovernmental Development Organisation

By Seth Le Leu
In Search Of A Working Philosophy For The Faith-Based Nongovernmental Development Organisation

Within a post-modern development era how does a multinational faith-based nongovernmental development organisation find a coherent philosophical basis for its development activities in the global setting? A case study of The Salvation Army: a faith based N.G.O. and its involvement in Primary Health Education in East Africa.

A thesis presented in partial completion of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Philosophy in Development Studies at the Massey University, Palmerston North New Zealand.

I declare that this thesis is my work, except for those sections explicitly acknowledged, and that the main content of this thesis has not been previously submitted for a degree at any other university.

Seth Le Leu
30 January 2001
Abstract

The role of the Nongovernmental Organisations in development has rapidly expanded over the past thirty years. This growth in scope has resulted in a number of significant problems and benefits. For most NGOs there has been a move from being solely a charity welfare organisation to being required to take over many services previously undertaken by governments in the area of development. A recent further development has been the major change in emphasis by many international development organisations from long-term development to humanitarian assistance as a result of a series of major humanitarian disasters globally. The challenge faced by the international NGO is how to synthesise a comprehensive development philosophy that embraces all its activities. The dominant approach over the last thirty years has been funding projects, with the presumption that these activities would result in sustained community change in the recipient communities. Despite the fact that project-related funding is the main source of development funds, it is very confusing for NGOs in search of a workable philosophy to read the theory on the subject and to find that the development project is almost universally derided as being inappropriate. A synthesis is needed to evaluate the correct place of the project in community development if NGOS are to be consistent in their theory and practice.

Acknowledgements

Firstly I would like to thank Commissioners Verna Skinner and Norman Howe, my leaders in the Salvation Army International Programme Resources Department for their funding support for the research in East Africa and their willingness for me to spend so much work time on this project. Secondly thanks goes to support staff for data processing, proof reading, and thesis preparation: Jonathan Le Leu, Philippa Smale and Elizabeth Cadillo-Edwards. Also thanks go to my family and my wife Pam for their support through the whole exercise.
Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Development Background
3. Sustainable Development
4. Implications For NGOs
5. NGOs And Partnerships
6. The Place Of Projects In The Development Process
7. Implications For The Faith-Based NGO
8. East Africa Survey
9. Conclusion

Bibliography

Survey Data

1. Survey Summary
2. Bungoma Survey
3. Machakos Survey
4. Tarime Survey
5. 1995 Survey Material
6. Survey forms
Table Of Figures

1. Generations Of NGOs
2. The Deprivation Trap
3. Key Dimensions Of Religions With Implications For Non-Profit Development
4. The Survey Sites

Glossary of terms

AUSAID Australian Aid
CCW Chama cha Wanawake (Women’s group)
CIDA Canadian International Development Agency
FBNGO Faith-Based Non-Governmental Organisation
GRO Grass-Roots Organisation
KANU Kenya Association of National Unity
NGO Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA Overseas Development Aid
OECD Organisation Of Economic And Cultural Development
PVO Private Voluntary Organisation
UNAIDS United Nations AIDS
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR United Nations High Commission for Refugees
USAID United States of America International Development