



Wellbeing in Developing Countries

ESRC Research Programme based at
the

University of Bath

October 2002 – September 2007

Summary of Presentation

- ESRC WeD Research Programme
- Ethiopia WeD Research Programme
- Ethiopia WIDE Research Project

ESRC WeD Research Programme



- Origins
- Aims
- Main themes and areas of research
- Partners
- What's new?
- Levels of study
- Multi-methods
- Timetable

Origins



- CDS at Bath
- Resource Profiles
- Theory of Human Need
- WHOQOL
- Welfare Regime Analysis

Wed Aims

- Development of a conceptual and methodological framework
- To understand the persistence of poverty and widening of inequality
- Good social science to contribute to more effective poverty eradication processes
- Framework developed through empirical research in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru and Thailand
- Bringing conceptual debates into contact with the reality of the field

Areas of research

- The relationships between objective states of wellbeing and subjectively experienced quality of life
- The ways in which existing policy regimes affect the quantity and quality of resources people deploy
- The ways in which the inequality of resources affects well-being and experiences of quality of life

Partners

- DEID, SPS and Psychology Departments, University of Bath
- BIDS and IDPAA, Proshika in Bangladesh
- SOSA, AA University, Ethiopia
- CSEPAR, PUCP, Lima, Peru
- FHSS, University of Khon Kaen and FNR Prince Songla University in Thailand



What's new?

- Social actors, structures and dynamics: what people do
- Meaning: human needs of the body, mind and soul and for relation, identity and autonomy which if not met through the doings of self or others lead to harm
- Power
- Livelihood resources: cultural/ material/ human/ social (including political)
- Time: calendars, rhythms, histories
- (Not new)



Levels of Study



- People
- ‘Household’
- Face-to-face networks/organisations
- ‘Community’
- Regional community context
- Country
- ‘Global’

Multi-methods

- Six communities in each country: four rural and two urban
- Grounding and piloting: universal and local
- Community Profile; Household Needs and Resources Survey
- In-depth study over at least 1 year – people, households, networks/organisations, community
- Country study
- Secondary sources from different social science disciplines

Timetable

- Conceptual and theoretical development: October 2002 – September 2007
- Grounding and piloting: February 2003 – June 2004
- Resources and Needs Survey from March 2004
- In-depth research from June 2004
- Field research completed by December 2005
- Analysis and writing-up January 2006 – September 2007

Ethiopia WeD Research Programme

- Guiding research question: what are the processes, relationships, and mechanisms underlying the production/ reproduction/ reduction of poverty?
- Policy relevance
- WIDE 1 : Wellbeing and Illbeing Dynamics in Ethiopia - 15 rural sites in 1995
- WIDE 2: same 15 sites + 5 more in 2003
- DEEP: in-Depth Exploration of Ethiopian Poverty - 4 rural and 2 urban sites 2004-5
- ENTIRE: Exploration of The In/security Regime in Ethiopia: country study: 2003-2006



WIDE 2

- Methodology
- Modules
- Policy connections

Methodology



- Follow-up to 1995 research
- Male and female researchers for 30 days each
- Using protocols
- Training
- Analysis
- Capacity-building

Modules

- Introduction to people and society
- Social structures and dynamics
- Site history: social, economic, cultural and political
- Policy regime interfaces
- Crises and local responses: drought and famine; child malnutrition, illness and death; HIV-AIDS; conflict
- Grounding WeD-related concepts
- Changes in wellbeing and inequality
- Revisiting people and society

Policy regime interfaces

- Exploratory question to ‘policy providers’ and ‘policy recipients’
- Selected respondents
- Style of questions
- De-centralisation; resettlement; service co-operatives; ADLI; land; food aid; education
- Health; drinking water and sanitation; women’s projects; roads; micro-credit
- Security, policing and justice; formal and informal taxes; war and conscription;
- Others

