

Wellbeing in Developing Countries: Opportunities in and for Ethiopia

Presentation by Alula Pankhurst

- **Poorest worldwide – yet poverty only recently become salient,**
 - Arguably not thought through
 - More focus on inequality – and special issues land, famine etc
 - Quality of life not much looked at -
 - Cultural aspects often neglected (both + and -)
- **Comparative issues 4 countries**
 - Parochial tendency, as if Ethiopia in isolation
 - Learning process - e.g. land tenure
 - Social exclusion (Peru) famine (Bangladesh), (AIDS, Thailand)
- **Inter-disciplinary**
 - Generally not much exchange econ, psychol
 - even ant – soc
 - economic dominant discourse, not much on culture and society
- **Revisiting sites 10 years later**
 - Basic questions what has changed poverty > or <
 - Continuity and change over time and space
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- **– multi sites**
 - 15 restudies
 - 3 new panel
 - 2 urban
 - 2 pastoralist
- **by end of study contribution to understanding complexities**
 - changes over time (10 years on)
 - differences over space (different agro-ecological-cultural conditions)
 - some in depth studies on a wide range of focused issues
 - comparative and comparable data on a large number of sites
- **Opportunities to influence research**
 - dialogue between academics from different disciplines
 - opportunities to test ideas and hypotheses cross culturally
 - opportunities to test innovative approaches in multi-sites
- **Opportunities to enter dialogue with policy, practice and local realities**
 - dialogue with policy makers,
 - dialogue with donors, NGOs
 - opportunities to share ideas with the communities involved

The Village Studies: profiles

- Economics department CSAE household panel surveys 3 rounds
- IFPRI in mid 80s sites food insecure area + high potential areas

- Sociological-anthropological component village studies
- Background paper – MA students in anthropology, secondary sources
- Rapid assessment in PAs by site managers and enumerators
- Field site by anthropology MA student of up to a month

- The reports
 - **Locating sites in space and time** (geog, climate, production, soc structure, history)
 - **Seasonal activities and events** (seasonal calendars)
 - **The farm economy** (crops, livestock, land, labour, interlinkages, technology innovations, common property resources, environment)
 - **Off-farm income activities** (within the community, occupational structure, migration)
 - **Reproductive activity** (household management, fuel, lighting, water, sanitation, fertility, childbirth, and childcare, socialisation, education, training, health)
 - **Consumption** (food and other day to day goods, saving and investment, housing, household assets, local services),
 - **Local institutions** (households, marriage, divorce, inheritance, kinship, lineages and clans, age-grading, life-cycle changes and rites of passage, friendship, markets, credit and social security, decision-making, local organisations)
 - **Beliefs and values** (land, religion, explanations of misfortune and illness, community values, political beliefs and attitudes)
 - **The Community** (social conflict, poverty and wealth, social mobility, status, social stratification, dissent)
 - **Relationships with other communities and the wider society** (villages, towns, and regions, relationships with wider Ethiopia, effects of government policies, government activities in the community, NGO and community activities in the community, future)
 - **Calendars** (seasonal crop, off-farm, livestock sales, diseases, fuel and water availability, gender division of labour, consumption harvesting and credit, men, women, and children's labour, diseases (men, women, children), historical time-lines, of rain and crops)