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Methodologies and Compatible
Methods**

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Good Governance and Good Governance
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Letters to the Editor

RESEARCH PARADIGMS: METHODOLOGIES AND COMPATIBLE METHODS

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The complete version of this summarised article is available at:
<http://www.stclements.edu/articles/Research-Paradigms-Full-Article.pdf>

Abstract

Conducting educational research studies is not only a daunting task but also a challenging experience for novice researchers. The novice researcher, on the other hand, is not only haunted by the ambiguity of the new research experience but also challenged by the difficult choice of research paradigms and compatible research methodologies and methods that are often presented as competing phenomena and therefore as against each other. This paper represents a humble attempt to discuss and clarify research terminologies and share with novice researchers some ideas and experiences that may help them choose appropriate research methodologies and methods as seen compatible with the positivist, interpretive, and critical paradigms.

Introduction

A paradigm consists of four parts: ontology, epistemology, methodology, and methods. Ontology is “concerned with ... the nature of existence” (Crotty, 1998: 3) which Grix (2004) considers as the departure point of all research. Epistemology, on the other hand, “deals with the nature of knowledge” (Crotty, 1998: 8). It deals with the nature of the relationship between the knower and the known. This reality makes the relationship between ontology and epistemology fundamental. Grix (2004: 58) states that “ontology and epistemology can be considered as the foundations upon which research is built.” It is the researcher’s ontological and epistemological assumptions that inform the choice of methodology and methods of research. Methods are the “range of approaches used in educational research to gather data which are to be used as a basis for inference and interpretation” (Cohen et.al2003: 44). Methodology is the strategy, or action plan that justifies the use and choice of certain techniques (Crotty, 1998).

1- Positivist Approach

Positivism is closely associated with French philosopher Auguste Comte (Pring, 2000). Positivists think that they can apply methods of the natural sciences on the practices of social sciences. Positivist social scientists try to replicate procedures followed by natural scientists to control and understand the natural world. They are committed to value neutrality,

statistical measurement, quantifiable elements, and observable events to establish causal laws (Seale, 2000). Positivists believe in the possibility of establishing cause-effect relationship. They are after regularities to make predictions and establish scientific laws. Positivists believe that the role of the neutral researcher is to present an objective explanation of matters of concern and predict laws.

Ontology and Epistemology

Positivists hold a realist, foundationalist ontology. Guba and Lincoln (1994: 109) state that “an apprehendable reality is assumed to exist, driven by immutable natural laws and mechanisms”. For them, social reality is external to individuals. Objects exist independently and have no dependence to the knower (Cohen et. al, 2003: 6).

Epistemologically, positivists hold a dualist and objectivist view. The knower and the object to be known are different entities. Neither of them exerts influence on the other. Positivists are interested in facts and hold that research should be value free. Threats to validity are controlled by preventive procedures. Causal relationships can be established and therefore generalization and replicability become possible.

Methodology

Positivist methodology aims at explaining relationships. Cause and effect relationship is one of the tenets of the positivist paradigm (Creswell, 2009; Grix, 2004; McDonough and McDounough, 1997). Experimental designs seem to provide an umbrella to explain this causal relationship (Creswell, 2009). Questions and hypotheses are tested and verified through experiments. The researcher should seek a cause-effect relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The attribution of the effect to the independent variable can be warranted by the manipulation of other variables that may threaten research validity.

True experimental and quasi-experimental designs are both experimental; with the main difference that the sample in the quasi-experimental is not assigned randomly (Best and Khan, 1993). In this case, the

belief is that true experimental designs use empirical testing and random sampling by which researchers control and manipulate variables and use experimental and control groups (Best and Khan, 1993). True experiments attempt to explain relationships and therefore make predictions and generalizations. Moreover, a deductive approach is followed. Accordingly, terms such as intervention and treatment become key words in the scientific paradigm. Based on this reality, the independent variable, or intervention and treatment, is the cause of any change in the performance or behavior of subjects. This change in the performance can then be attributed to the independent variable if necessary precautions are taken to remove any creeping threats to validity.

Methods

Positivist researchers use data collection methods to gather quantitative, numerical data that can be tabulated and analyzed statistically. According to Creswell (2008), four major types of data are gathered in quantitative research: Individual performance, individual attitude, individual behavior, and factual data. Researchers may rely on public documents or school records to gather data about a sample.

Quality Criteria

Validity and reliability are the criteria to evaluate the quality of a positivist research. Kumar (1999: 138) defines validity as the “ability of an instrument to measure what it is designed to measure.” Positivists try to meet internal and external validity when they conduct research. For positivists, the findings of a study are not internally valid if factors other than the independent variable affect the outcome. External validity is the extent to which the findings can be generalized to larger groups. The main task of a researcher is to manipulate variables and control other variables that may be a threat to the validity of the research. Mortality, history, Hawthorne effect, and practice effect are mentioned to be among the potential threats to validity. Reliability, on the other hand, is “a synonym for consistency and replicability over time, over instruments and over groups of respondents” (Cohen et al 2003: 117). Perry (2005) shares the same position and defines reliability as consistency of data results.

2- Interpretive Approach

Interpretivism is mainly associated with Max Weber (Crotty, 1998) and Alfred Schutz (Pring, 2000). Cohen et al (2003: 21-22) provide a good presentation of the distinguishing features of the interpretive paradigm. Interpretivists state that reality is a multi-layered and complex phenomenon. They believe that since people are creative they also actively construct their social reality. They further note that the social world should be studied in the natural world, through the eyes of the participants, without the intervention of the researcher.

Ontology and Epistemology

Interpretivists hold a realist, anti foundationalist ontology. Relativism is the view that reality differs from person to another (Guba and Lincoln, 1994). Interpretive researchers believe in multiple realities (Crotty,1998; Pring, 2000) and that reality itself is socially constructed matter. Epistemologically, interpretivists adhere to a subjectivist view in that subjective meanings and subjective interpretations have great importance (Pring, 2000). Crotty(1998: 79) states that the object “ cannot be adequately described apart from the subject, nor can the subject be adequately described apart from the object.”

Methodology

Interpretive researchers use different methodologies such as case studies, phenomenology, and ethnography. Denzin and Lincoln (2008: 29) state that “qualitative researchers deploy a wide range of interconnected interpretive methods, always seeking better ways to make more understandable the worlds of experiences they have studied.” Interpretivist methodology aims at exploring and understanding phenomenon inductively. Interpretivists believe that the “social world can only be understood from the standpoint of the individuals who are part of the ongoing action being investigated” (Cohen et al, 2003: 19). For this reason, interpretive researchers start with individuals and try to understand their interpretations of the world surrounding them. Contrary to the positivist paradigm, theory should generate from the data (Cresswell, 2008); in other words, it should follow data and not precede it (Cohen, 2003). Moreover, researchers are not detached from the situation under study. They “see themselves as participants in the situation they investigate” (Edge and Richards, 1998: 336). According to interpretivism, it is the involvement that enables researchers to have a thick description of the situation (Holliday, 2007: 74-5) under study.

Methods

Contrary to positivists who rely on randomization, interpretivists use purposeful sampling and select individuals and sites that are information rich (Cresswell 2008: 214). Interpretive researchers rely on various methods to collect qualitative data. Creswell (2008) categorized qualitative data into four categories: observations, interviews and questionnaires, documents, and audiovisual materials. In terms of preference and usefulness, Punch (2009:144) states that “interview is the most prominent data collection tool in qualitative research.” One of the reasons for this merit is underpinned to the flexibility of the interview as a tool since researchers may choose on whether to design structured, semi-structured, unstructured interviews; or whether to triangulate and use any two tools or a combination of more tools in one study. This means that researchers choose the type of interview that is aligned with the purpose of the study and the research questions. The methods of data collection that

interpretive researchers employ enable them to build a relationship of trust with the subjects. They may use introspective methods (Dornyei2007) which may allow them to achieve deeper understanding of the phenomenon under their interrogation.

Because of the immense information they can collect, qualitative researchers use different techniques to organize data. Miles and Huberman (1994: 10-11) present their view of qualitative analysis by stating that it consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification.

Quality Criteria

Establishing explicit quality criteria for qualitative data is problematic (Dornyei, 2007). Dornyei (ibid) presents three basic quality concerns in qualitative data: insipid data focusing on individual meaning, quality of the researcher which determines the quality of the study, and anecdotalism and the lack of quality safeguards which deals with selecting specific examples to present their findings.

Lincoln and Guba (1985) in Seale (2000) explain their criteria to establish the trustworthiness of a research and suggest credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability as key factors in considering the quality of a research. Seale (2000, 2002) argues that Lincoln and Guba added a fifth criterion, authenticity, which can be demonstrated by showing that researchers have represented different realities. Seale (2000: 43) shares Lincoln and Guba's point of view that establishing "trustworthiness of a research report lies at the heart of issues conventionally discussed as validity and reliability."

3- Critical Approach

Critical theory is associated with the Institute for Social Research founded by Adorno, Marcuse, and Horkheimer. It is especially influenced by the work of Habermas (1972) and Freire (1996).

Ontology and Epistemology

Ontologically, reality in the critical research paradigm is described within a political, cultural, historical, and economic context. Epistemologically, the critical theory researchers emphasize the importance of the interactive relation between the researcher and the participants and the impact of social and historical factors that influence them. Mertens (2008: 99) holds that the "interaction between the researchers and the participants is essential and requires a level of trust and understanding to accurately represent viewpoints of all groups fairly."

1.1. Methodology

Critical methodology is directed to raise the awareness of participants and interrogate accepted injustice and discrimination. Critical theorists are "concerned with

action rather than discovery" (Edge and Richards, 1998: 341) and have an agenda of change to improve the lives and situations of the oppressed. Researchers and participants are involved in the research process. Participants may help in designing research questions, collecting and analyzing data, and "reap the results of the research" (Creswell, 2009: 9). Habermas in Carr and Kemmis (1986) contends that human knowledge is made up of the technical, practical and emancipatory interests and that critical science theory serves the emancipatory interest in freedom and emancipation. Carr and Kemmis (ibid) propose three different kinds of action research parallel to Habermas' three types of knowledge interests: technical action research, practical action research, and emancipatory action research. Apart from action research, critical theorists use ideology critique, critical discourse analysis and critical ethnography as critical methodologies.

Methods

Mertens (2008) argues that critical researchers may use qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods but should be aware of the underlying contextual, historical and political factors inherent to the subject under interrogation. She states that within the assumptions associated with the transformative paradigm, several of these approaches can be combined in the mixed methods design, which means the use of qualitative and quantitative methods.

Quality Criteria

Lather (1986) contends that the qualities of rigor and care can be achieved by adopting measures of conventional ethnography. She advocates using triangulation, systematized reflexivity, member checks, and catalytic validity. According to Dornyei (2007), researchers adopting mixed methods should be careful to defend the methods they employ and presents three quality aspects of mixed methods research. First, researchers should justify the choice of mixing qualitative and quantitative approaches. Second, they should consider the design validity of the study by combining and integrating qualitative and quantitative components to give the study complementary strengths. Finally, researchers should consider the quality of the specific methods which implies that "most of evidence included in the validity argument will need to be in accordance with the quality standards of the particular paradigm."(ibid: 63). Elsewhere, scholars give advice that researchers should understand the weaknesses and strengths of qualitative and quantitative research and use them effectively as the outcome of mixed methods is superior to that of a monomethod approach (Johnson and Onwuegbuzie, 2004).

Reflections

As a teacher of English Language, my interest in research goes beyond paradigm wars (Gage, 1989). I am interested in the impact that different research

paradigms have on my day-to-day teaching practices that can be implemented in classrooms in order to enhance learning. Within the Audio-lingual approach, inspired by positivist paradigm, the learning outcome is molded as students are exposed to same stimulus to produce an identical outcome. It is molded to be one, similar, identical without differences. It is one outcome that reflects the ontological assumptions of the positivist paradigm. The interpretive paradigm tried to address the shortcomings of the positivist paradigm and granted more importance to learners' differences. The importance of differences stems from the ontological assumptions of the interpretive paradigm that have an impact on teaching practices and techniques implemented in classrooms. Interpretive researchers do believe in different realities and differences between learners who cannot be shaped by a similar stimulus and produce the identical product.

Interaction, interdependence, and involvement, advocated by interpretive theorists, seem not to satisfy critical theorists. Reality in the critical research paradigm is described within a political, cultural, historical, and economic context. Learners in a critical context need more than involvement and interaction. They need to be conscientised and see relationships in the classroom as problematic. To acquire this critical ability, learners should be exposed to activities that promote noticing. As learners should notice the gap between their production and an original passage for example, they should be conscious enough to notice the gap between their status quo and the equal world that they should strive for. Achieving conscientisation (Freire, 1996), in a classroom inspired by the critical paradigm, can be acquired by implementing activities that promote consciousness raising.

Understanding research paradigms and their impact on educational research and teaching approaches should help teachers to adopt an eclectic approach. This is to support the assumption that an intelligent teacher should not be a slave to one research paradigm or a specific teaching approach. Instead, s/he should adopt the techniques that best meet the needs of learners, the context of instruction, and the expected learning outcomes.

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DEMOCRACY A NECESSARY ELEMENT FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE A NECESSARY ELEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

“A SYMBIOTIC-RELATIONAL ASSESSMENT”

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The complete version of this summarised article is available at:
<http://www.stclements.edu/articles/Democracy-a-Necessary-Element-Full-Article.pdf>

Abstract

This piece explains the concepts of democracy and good governance with a conceptual and theoretical assessment of their dynamics and as well the mechanism of their workings towards the realization of a viable and veritable political system of a state. The research pays attention more specifically to the symbiotic and overlapping relationships and effects that exist between the two variables and their boundaries in regard to their elements, contending that, for the practice of good governance to be achievable in a state, the elements of democracy are significantly necessary conditions and if democracy becomes an adopted and adapted ideology, such a governmental process must definitely guarantee the needed good governance. To this end, the dividends of democracy, expected to reach the grass-root, where the peasants and the needful dwell will circulate, giving everyone the desired sense of excitement, belonging, care and security at all levels of administration. The author argues that, where this expected process becomes a mirage or an illusion, then, such a government ideal or process is wishful, not credible, popular and legitimate, as it cannot serve the people's interests. The author posits that where exists a political system that lacks credible elements and principles of democracy vis-à-vis good governance such a government is deemed unpopular.

Keywords – Democracy, Good Governance, Element, Necessary, Condition.

1.0 Introductory Survey Summary: An Etymological and Methodological Analysis

The term democracy is viewed from three principal contexts, namely, concept, ideology and system. As a concept, it is a word in the politics dictionary, as an ideology, it is a thought or practice with normative and empirical expression and as a system, it is the mechanism for a political life that respects human dignity and ideal governmental process in the state. It

is from these three paradigms that the actual object of this research is established by looking at democracy as an element of good governance and vice-versa.

The need for government has been central to man since human existence to preserve justice and freedom as necessities for social order. With the increasing complexities in human's growth with reference to population and technology, this necessitated a governmental system that was believed to be able to adequately accommodate this circumstance and its scenarios known to be 'Democracy'. However, before arriving at this base, this process went through stages determining man's primacy for economic condition and the need for an acceptable social order guaranteed by an ideal political system to survive it. Man then moved from the primitive life to an agrarian one where feudalism was observed before the communal stage. Governance at this stage was structured rigidly and was integrated with peoples' culture and tradition for rules observance, with individuals taking up roles and laws defining power relations and social interactions.

Feudalism gave birth to capitalism and the latter precipitated liberal government that promoted representative government now observed as modern democracy.

Since governance establishes social and political order and the means by which this governance is carried on daily is government, the latter takes various forms and embraces different ideologies as already enunciated, with the modern democracy being the most popular today. This popularity is orchestrated by the way any leader in the present continuum would wish to be seen as a democrat or any regime would prefer to be described democratic, even when it is not (Enemuo, F.C. 2005). To this end, every nation today wishes to adopt and practice democracy, indeed, representative democracy, not only to satisfy mere constitutional requirements for the governance that preserves its rule and respects freedom and liberty, but, principally,

because of continual agitations by the people to have a change of system that they believe takes care of their needs and protection of human dignity.

The word democracy emanated from the Greek's perception in the Greek-city states where the practice first surfaced to describe the way people are governed. This was the direct form of democracy. The word is broken into two parts namely: 'Demo' which means 'the people' and 'Kratia' or 'Kratein' interpreting 'rule by the people'. The two words were now fused as "Democracy" which implies 'the rule by the people'. In the old Athens, everybody was involved in governance process by direct participation, then, population was sizeable. However, with the growing societies and complexities caused by 'change' and modernization, the direct form of democracy spilled to the indirect form called the representative democracy. This process revolutionized Europe and its environs while the wind of change spread across other continents of the globe to the extent that, today, and everywhere, the only acceptable form of government has been 'representative democracy'.

Various scholars came to use intellectual traditions to explaining this concept as a process and governmental system by linking it with governance, while harmonizing its elements with governance elements in order to determine an ideal government formed by the people's representatives, through an established electoral system, based on people's desires and values (Enemuo, F. C. 2005: 141 - 2). Prominent among these scholars were J. J. Rousseau and John Locke, Heywood, David Held, Heater, Appadorai, Odinga, Omoruyi, Omotosho, Anyaele, Abraham Lincoln, Roskins, Robert Dahl, Anifowoshe, Garner et al and others. These scholars have viewed democracy with different lenses, ranging from liberalism, neo-liberalism, ideological, libertarianism and institutionalism, they tended to have settled for a consensus opinion of 'rule by the people through their representatives with a constitutional process that aims at determining the scope of operation, power distribution and its exercise and the limitations behind the authorities of the actors in the game of politics e.g. the powers of the three organs of government and those of their associated agencies as enshrined in the provisions of the constitution (Appadorai, 1983; Enemuo, F. C. 2005; Omotosho, 2008; Garner, R. et al, 2009; Heater, D. B. 1964 and Odinga, R. 2008). For example, Appadorai (1983), views democracy as a system in which the people exercise the governing power either directly or through their accredited representatives periodically elected by the people themselves. For Omotosho (2008), it is the government by people's consent or by the approval of the people on whom that authority is exercised, and for Heater (1964), it is essentially a method of organizing society politically, stressing the importance of the concept's five basic elements of equality, sovereignty of the people, respect for human life, the rule of law and individual liberty that determine people's participation

and how responsible and responsive the government of the day is.

While examining democracy as an element of good governance and good governance as an element of democracy, the piece views the latter as an administration believed to be responsible and responsive to the needs of the people by an enduring rule that copes with the challenging circumstances that surround ruler ship, through making of laws and framing of policies that address those societal needs within the ambit of the constitution. This process then engenders justice, equity, transparency and accountability, fairness and equal opportunities for all as well as deliveries of the dividends of democracy by the government of the day. Consequently, the government becomes people-centric and societal focused where the desires of the weak and the under-privileged are met and where everybody's participation is ensured by a viable and transparent electoral process through exercise of voting right and accommodation of every group's interests.

The paper concludes that, given the elements that characterize democracy as a people-oriented ideology, its process and practice cannot be divulged from what is good and ideal in governance, believed to be free from all forms of mis-rule, corruption of the leadership and an irresponsible representative government in power. The author recommends that, if democracy would thrive in the state, its process that helps the administration to pursue and sustain good governance, through deliverables to the citizenry as well as disciplined, responsible and responsive leadership must be guaranteed and consolidated.

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DIALECTIC THINKING

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(Dip. TESOL, MA- TESOL, MA- Ed. Man., D.Ed.)

The complete version of this summarised article is available at:

<http://www.stclements.edu/articles/The-Concept-of-Dialectic-Thinking-Full-Article.pdf>

Today, preparing youth for society, the workplace *and* for them to thrive, is far different than it used to be. Society has undergone change from a factory based economy to being a computer and knowledge based economy, to what some call the ‘concept age’. In pace and relevance, education systems exponentially lag behind ever increasing global interconnection, competitiveness and mark a worrying disconnect between learning environments and reality on the outside.

Learners are conditioned to accumulate a plethora of subject-matter information, but are not taught how to think, to think *a higher order level*.

A consequence is that learners can *repeat* what they have learnt, but usually cannot *explain* the phenomenon about which they are being questioned.

Progressivist philosophy instruction, a practice most practitioners would prefer to emulate today, is typically interdisciplinary oriented; it rarely focuses on conveyor-belt, rote learning, and represents an outlook, the very opposite of the instruction mode ‘one size fits all’, prescribed set tasks where what is learnt, how it is learnt and used is separated, with no or little skills and strategy development. The point is not to merely challenge learners – ‘harder’ and ‘more rigorous’ does not necessarily mean ‘better’. Rather, expose learners to thinking, thinking differently about things that *matter*, is a key issue today.

Helping learners to understand concepts, ideas from the inside out through engagement in different models of thinking, through performances of understanding to achieve correlative gains in sophistication, through completion of signature assignments.

But how to move forward, when there is no general agreement on *what* to teach youth, never mind the question of *how*?

Consider exploring the concept of ‘Dialectic Thinking’ ... It represents a way of thinking that helps us to explore and understand the world we live in and can help us achieve a more holistic understanding of the many processes in which we humans participate. Perhaps observation and thinking in this fashion might engender an alternative viewpoint to ways of knowing.

Dialectic Thinking is based on the experience of our fundamental *unity* with Nature, and may lead the observer to see beyond the paradigms of the conventional scientific ways of knowing, which is based on the assumption of our fundamental *separation* from Nature. The latter is based on Rationalism, the opposite to Dialectic Thinking, and appears to be moving beyond the scope of its limitations in providing solutions to many problematic issues faced today.

Dialectics may be characterised as a science which concerns itself with the general relations of things in Nature, history and thought. Dialectics considers all things in their most general relations, in their mutual relations of dependency, in their *development*. The opposite of dialectics is the isolated consideration of things only in their *fixity*. Dialectics in application constitutes discourse between people holding different points of view about a subject and who wish to establish the truth of the matter guided by reasoned arguments. Dialectics has three main principles; the most general and most inclusive fundamental proposition from which the other principles are deduced is Permeation of Opposites.

This principle of Permeation of Opposites may be deduced from the examination of thought itself; in thought this principle is inherent in the basis of consciousness, and this basis consists in the fact that one knows that one is part of our Natural world, a part of being, and on the other hand, in the fact that one knows oneself to be distinct from the external world - distinct from other things. The basic structure of thought is, from the very beginning a Polar- Unity-of- Opposites; from this all other principles of thought are derived and corresponds to the nature of things.

This principle applies to all *motion* and *changes* of entities, including to those in the mind – mental concepts.

In relation to thought, therefore, it may be put this way; on the one hand the human mind is capable of infinite condensation of things into unities, even the sharpest contradictions. On the other hand, it is capable of infinite differentiation and analysis of things into opposites.

The human mind can establish this unlimited *unity* and *differentiation* because they are present in reality. The principle Permeation of Opposites holds that entities and concepts move, change and develop as Mutually Interactive Reciprocities and that development is potentially unlimited, but it is the principle of Negation of Negation, the second principle in dialectics, that has a sense beyond the proposition that all entities are processes.

Negation of Negation involve changes and also state something about the most general form of these changes, developments. The first stage of this process is negation of a thing from which the change/development proceeds.

However, this in turn is subject to the third principle Transformation, which transforms things into their opposites. The negation is itself *negated*, and therefore the reference Negation of Negation.

Negation and affirmation are polar concepts, and this phenomenon logically results in something *positive*, in thought as well as in reality. It is through the process of double negation that new qualities and new forms emerge in which the original qualities are not only retained, but *enhanced*. The third principle of Transformation of *quality into quantity* and *quantity into quality*, states that the mere augmentation of an entity produces a change of quality, of characteristics, and conversely that a qualitative change produces a quantitative one.

Quality and quantity are polar opposites – quality is quantity analysed. To elucidate, an apple, a pear and a plum all have different qualities and can only be counted together if their different qualities are abstracted from them, or negated.

One cannot add an apple, pear and plum together – one can only say ‘three pieces of fruit’. In other words, negated quality is quantity and negated quantity is quality – these opposites are contained in each thing.

There are various examples of reciprocities, in which, generally, argument is the quantifiable aspect and counter argument the qualifiable aspect, both of which are represented in the equation :-

$$1/n \times n = 1$$

$1/n$ stands for the quantitative component, and n for the qualitative component and n itself is equal to any integer from naught to infinity. The answer is *always* one (1), and echoes Albert Einstein’s observation that Nature is the embodiment of the simplest conceivable mathematics.

All things have, at the same time, quality and quantity - as opposites they permeate each other and are transformed into each other. Therefore, it is important to be conscious of the dialectical nature of things.

Dialectic Thinking, a term coined by the author, incorporates not only the principles of dialectics as foundational, but also Von Goethe’s Empiricism, Rudolf Steiner’s Bio-Dynamics, Viktor Schauburger’s Mutual Interactive Reciprocities, and Bill Mollison’s Permaculture design concepts – all compatible and connected.

From the foregoing it is clear that a dialectic perspective is *elemental* to learning, thinking, and human development, but how to progress?

Applying Naturalist Intelligence, Goethean Epistemology seemed a congruent progression to find solutions to deterrents affecting learning today, or at least provide an exploration of the world we live in, which may lead us to see beyond the perceptual blind spots of strict adherence to the conventional scientific ways of knowing.

Von Goethe’s Empiricism focuses on process and relationship; it allows for intuitive perception of direct knowledge of the world. It focuses attention on the phenomena themselves and on the dynamic relationships they form in space and time between the observer and the observed.

It represents a *conscious-process-participation epistemology* and a shift away from the science of quantities, measurable and predictable parts that determine the function of the whole, to a science of qualities and conscious awareness of relationships and interactions between the parts out of which the whole emerges, and which are dependent on that whole. It allows one the ability to conceptualise, without straying into fantasy, and when the phenomenon being explored does not have the ability to think, the process becomes the most *participatory* part of the Goethean observation into ‘Being one with the object’.

Rudolf Steiner’s Bio-dynamics is explained as a science of Life-forces, a recognition of basic principles at work in Nature - it integrates precise observation of natural phenomena, an approach which takes into account clear thinking, and knowledge of Spirit.

It brings about in a real way an ongoing path of knowledge, rather than a focus on assembly of methods and techniques alone. Many insights of Bio-dynamics are rooted in Goethean Science.

Viktor Schauburger’s Mutual Interactive Reciprocities refer to synergy, a process of negation, by which opposites – contradictions - are seen to merge themselves on a unique phenomenal level in a higher truth that comprehends them. Two discrete entities emanating from a single generative principle to attain a cohesive whole. A ‘balanced-imbalance’, as in Nature.

Bill Mollison’s Permaculture design refers to a concept design of concepts, techniques and strategies, much the same as the human body is composed of a brain, blood, muscles and organs.

When complete, the design functions as a whole assembly with *a unified purpose*, with the parts functioning *in relation to each other*.

Dialectic Thinking applied to teaching and learning studies, involved the author in extended research, building on previous work. (MA in TESOL thesis on *How the Individual is Intelligent, Intellectually Functional*, the author's interpretation of Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory – *external perceptions*).

However, *internal* perceptions gave rise to wider connections in concept, underlying ideas, and lead the author to ponder and also investigate more fundamental aspects in relation to teaching and learning; it became apparent that elemental aspects have been overlooked in education. Real, practical, every-day *elemental* aspects with esoteric effects on the learning environment, such as:-

- **An Integrated School Tutorial Programme in Dialectic Unity.** An instrument for student development in the utilisation of tutorial techniques to advance and meet critical competencies required in – learning skills, organisational skills, social and academic skills.
- **An effective Group Learning Strategy in Polar-Unity-of-Opposites.** An instrument to create essential dynamics for an interactive, collaborative learning environment.
- **A cognitive, normative framework for the recording, processing of observations and learning development.** An instrument enabling the practitioner and students understanding as to what *actually* takes place in their teaching/learning environment – knowing 'Life' in the classroom.
- **Effective Personal Profiling** - An instrument for comprehensive profiling of the individual. *How the individual is Intelligent / How the individual is Intellectually Functional / Individual Content Behaviour Analysis* – an integral function of behaviour. 'Know' the learner, for the purposes of knowledge conveyance – teaching for Multiple intelligences, for learner self-regulation development, and learner self-efficacy beliefs' realisation.

Dialectic Thinking is not unlike a synthesising mental disposition at a higher level of synthesis - Interdisciplinary Synthesis. This mental stance allows one to knit and riddle information from disparate disciplines into a coherent and cohesive whole. There are four main components to embrace when synthesising :-

A goal – conception of what the synthesiser is trying to achieve,

A starting point – an idea, concept or image or any previous work on which to build,

Selection of strategy, methodology, approach – this component needs approaching in a disciplinary fashion. One needs to choose a synthesis format and draw on the tools of one's discipline with steady sessions toward a goal set. Tools may range from logical notebooks, sketchpads or written notepads.

Drafts and feedback - drafts are often rough, primitive at the start of a project, yet may contain the nucleus of the final whole.

Synthesising does not end when synthesis has been fashioned; it is but a first step in an ongoing process, based on a vetted and often revisited process as with the mental processes in Goethean Methodology and Bio-dynamics.

From the starting point when synthesising, one should consider adopting the view that every empirical object / situation is incomplete, that it is only half there, and that it should be completed by its other half, by the idea *proper to it*.

Then one should, in observing, not merely observe the external world available to one's senses; one should observe the internal world of ideas also; this, to enable one to apprehend the *totality* of the phenomenon.

Every empirical thing has its ideational aspect which is perceived only by the human mind as the inner form, another way of knowing the world, through awareness as a by-product of brain and body processes. An awareness of how people perceive, how they interpret and direct their attention and intentions toward their environment, and each other.

External perception may describe and explain natural phenomena, *internal perception* gives one wider connections and underlying ideas.

The correct idea that belongs to the phenomenon is not normally derived from hypothesising or postulating only, but by staying with the phenomenon, seeing it in one light and then in another, observing the coincidental aspects that make up the whole. Eventually concepts will materialise to satisfy the mind's need for an explanation.

Dialectic Thinking is not magic, neither is it part of anyone's natural equipment.

It is a skill that must be practised and learned by practitioners and learners alike and it should be realised that dialectics and its fundamental laws can only be understood through repeated study and practice.

Ultimately anyone can grasp them, because one has the proof of dialectics in one's daily experience as well as in one's own mind. In this respect human thought is exactly the same in all minds.

The most general characteristic of dialectical thought is the study of things in their interrelations, in both '*One-*

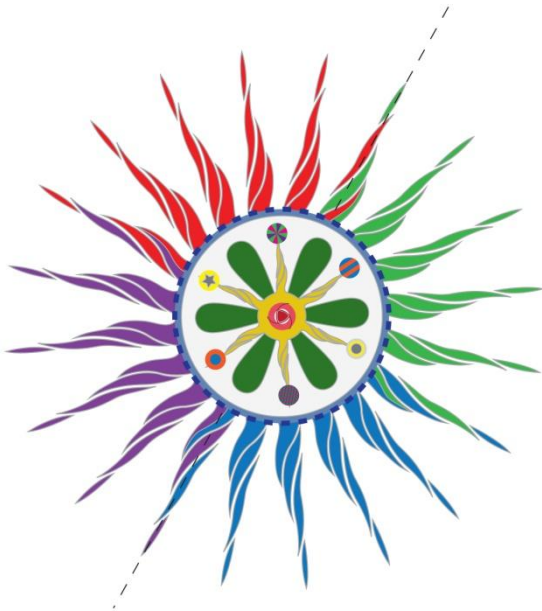
Beside-the-Other’ and *‘One-After-the-Other*’ relations - that is, in their changes, their transformations.

There appears to be no agreement among philosophers or cultures about ‘self-evident’ ideas in rationalism; often such ideas have been rejected at later times - take, for example, English Language Teaching and the many CLT Methodologies tried since the early 1960s...

Though sense experience may not be ‘certain’ according to those who subscribe to Rationalism, it can provide information which is reliable as needed – this writing a case in point.

The fact that a belief is not ‘absolutely’ certain should not disqualify it for knowledge. Why not take the position that something is ‘known’ as long as there is no good reason to *doubt* it?

Dialectic Thinking in Education... *Food for thought.*



Other papers by Richard Roest :-

An Integrated School Tutorial Programme in Dialectic Unity / The Cultivation of a Learner Mental Constitution / Dialectic Thinking in Education... / Educational Philosophy Orientation - You, as a Professional / A Transition toward a Learner-centred Environment / The Ecological Approach & Exploratory Practice - The emerging post-method approach to English Language Learning / Pin Point Me.



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MEASURING FINANCIAL INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA

Dr Chhiv Sok Thet*

The complete version of this summarised article is available at:
<http://www.stelements.edu/articles/Measuring-Financial-Investment-Full-Article.pdf>

ABSTRACT

Financial markets performed a vital function within the global economic system and the heart of global financial system, which channels savings to the institutions needing funds for business development. Moreover, it develops a mechanism for financial investments which private firms and government institutions can issue the stock, bond and other securities in order to raise funds to support the investment and business development projects. Simultaneously, the public and investors are interested to invest in the financial instruments for income.

The research intends to study the chances and benefits from financial investment development in the country to support the economic growth and its challenges that have an impact on the financial sector development in the country. The descriptive research and quantitative and qualitative approach has been used to meet the objectives and test the variables and the hypotheses of study. Descriptive statistic model used to analyze and assess the sources of data and aims to describe the samples are concerned with the research, the measures commonly used to describe a data set and measures of variability. The convenience sampling technique used in the survey by drawing the samples from interviews, after analysis and evaluation, the findings found that the financial investment development is less profited to support the current economic growth of Cambodia, but at least, there are a number of benefits to support macroeconomic such as the tax income, the employment opportunity and the financial legal framework improvement as well as the financial sector development.

Key Words: *Financial Markets, Money and Capital Markets, Financial Investment Development, Global Economic and Financial System & Economic Growth.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The financial market development in the country provided chances and benefits to economic growth and financial sector development, which private enterprises, corporations and government institutions issue the financial instruments such as stock, bond and other securities in order to raise funds for support of the business and investment development. According to the

road map of financial sector development to improve the national economic growth sustainably and the contribution of poverty reduction, the Government has set out the Financial Sector Development Strategy 2006-2015 in order to strengthen the financial system through the capital market development to increase the revenue for economic growth and assure the competitiveness advantage of within the globalization framework. Although, the financial investment is a source of economic growth, but it is a basis of the financial crises, because this mechanism is a newest one in the country, thus, the challenges may happening because of the most capital flows in the capital markets is a sources of debt and currency crises. Moreover, the most important concern is that the people still do not participate in this process and knowledge are still low and incomplete in terms of the investment principle, risk reduction and portfolio managements, and unreliability on investor's right protection, transparency and operation of the securities market as well as carrying out of securities regulations and laws. Thus, the study aims to determine relationship between financial investment developments and economic growth since capital markets has been developed in order to see the market is providing opportunities and benefits to the financial sector development and economic growth or not.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS

The research aims to study the problems that Cambodia is facing since development of capital market order to reinforce the financial system and economic growth. Currently, the banking systems is unable to finance the economic growth in the country, because of the banking system has an inadequate progress, if compared to the neighboring countries in ASEAN.

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The main purpose of this study aims at to define an alternative financing source from the financial investment development to support the economic growth in the country. Also, determines the benefits from the financial investment development to support the long-term investment. In addition, the study intends to find out its challenges can have an impact on the economic growth and financial sector.

4. HYPOTHESIS OF STUDY

H₁: Financial investment development has provided a chance of new financing to support the economic growth in the country.

H₂: Financial investment development has provided benefits to support the economic growth and the financial sector development in the country.

H₃: Financial investment development has provided challenges to the economic growth and financial sector development in the country.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

6.1 Research Designs

According to the research problems, the methods that used for research purpose is descriptive research design. The design has been used both quantitative and qualitative approaches for reaching conclusion. The conceptual model has been formulated to show the interrelationships between the variables and hypotheses. The study intends to determine the inputs and outcome of research focusing on chances to raise a new fund to support the economy and benefits to the economic growth and financial sector development as well as its impact on the economic growth in the country.

6.3 Data Collection Methods

The data collections for research are quantitative and qualitative design. The requirement of data sources and other information for this research are primary data and secondary data. The researcher creates the structured questionnaire as the research instrument to collect data and specific information from the institutional and public investors. The process of sampling selection used the personal interviews between researcher and respondents at their offices for this survey. Primary data provides the facts through questionnaires interviewing with 120 respondents and do an experiment of the working variables and hypotheses for evidences to the claims of researcher.

6.4 Measurement Model for Research

The descriptive statistic model used to analyze and interpret data. The data are collected from questionnaires are computed in Excel using arithmetic formulas such as the average, mean, median, mode, standard deviation, and variance. The mean and standard deviation and the normal distribution is used to find relationship between mean and standard deviation. The Normal Distribution Calculator of David M. Lane (2012) has been using. The ANOVA, T-test, Scatter Plot, Pearson Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Linear Regressions Model $Y = a + b_1x_1 \dots + b_nx_n$ have been used to compute for reaching conclusion.

7. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

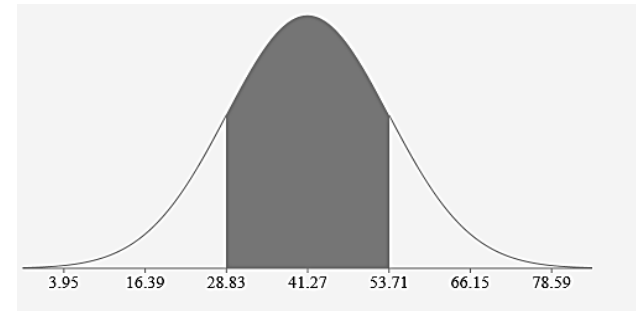
7.1 Normal Distribution Analysis

The Normal Distribution is used to compute the mean and standard deviation to see percentage of the shade area of accurate constancy of respondent's response.

7.1.1 Interpretation of the Questions:

Questions (Q)	Mean	Standard Deviation	Areas of Normal Distribution
Q1 – Q19	41.27	12.44	28.83 - 53.71

Total average mean = 41.27 and SD = 12.44 identifying the SD point are close to the mean and lies between 28.83 and 53.71 that contain 68% of distribution. Thus, it can conclude that respondent's responses are accurate constant.



8. MAJOR FINDINGS

8.1 Experiment of Variables

In order to make an experiment of relationship between independent variables (IV) and a dependent variable (DV), the *Multiple Regression Model* have been used to test (IVs), if they have positive relationship with (DV) or not. The slope shows that the regression line is significantly different from zero and has significant linear relationship between X and Y. In order to explain the behavior of DV, the multiple regression equation here $Y = a + b_1x_1 \dots + b_nx_n$ has been used to apply and calculate Y.

8.2 Multiple Regression Analysis

Analysis	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Intercept (a)	36.36048511	6.517845666	5.5786048	0.005062
B ₁	-0.070845531	0.08817691	-0.803448	0.466746
B ₂	-0.225528554	0.148812135	-1.515525	0.20422
B ₃	-0.347827703	0.142223287	-2.445645	0.050776

$$Y = 36.36048511 - 0.070845531*(X_1)$$

$$- 0.225528554*(X_2) - 0.347827703*(X_3)$$

$$Y = 36.36048511 - 0.070845531*(52.8) - 0.225528554*(37.5) - 0.347827703*(36.70)$$

$$Y = 11.39724 \cong 11.40$$

R² is the proportion of variance in the value of DV that explained by IVs in the equation together. According to calculation above indicates that while R² = 0.80189 (80%) or adjusted R² has 0.653323 and F=5.397237 > F sig.=0.0685271 are statistically significant correlation between IVs and DV. Thus, we can conclude that there is positive significant relationship between the financial investment development and economic growth in the country. However, based on the result of the survey showed that P-value of B₃ is 0.050776 \cong 0.05, thus, the

figure indicates that B_3 has more impact on Y than B_1 and B_2 meaning that Cambodia is getting more challenges than chances and benefits.

8.3 Hypotheses testing (t-Test model):

Hypotheses	Result			
	P(T<=t) two-tail	T Stat	T Critical two-tail	*R-value
H ₁	P = 0.10 P > 0.05	1.750	2.200	0.7666
H ₂	P = 0.059 P = 0.05	0.123	2.178	-0.479
H ₃	P = 0.904 P > 0.05	2.159	2.262	-0.0247

*R-value: Pearson Correlation Coefficient
Source: Developed from PhD Dissertation

H₁: Financial investment development has provided chances of new financing to support the economic growth

The result of hypothesis testing indicates that there is significant relationship between IV and DV. Even P-value is greater than 0.05, but value of t-critical two test is greater than t-Stat and value of R is 0.7666 showing that “new financing from financial investment development” has a positive correlation with “supporting economic grow”.

H₂: Financial investment development has provided benefits to support the economic growth and financial sector development

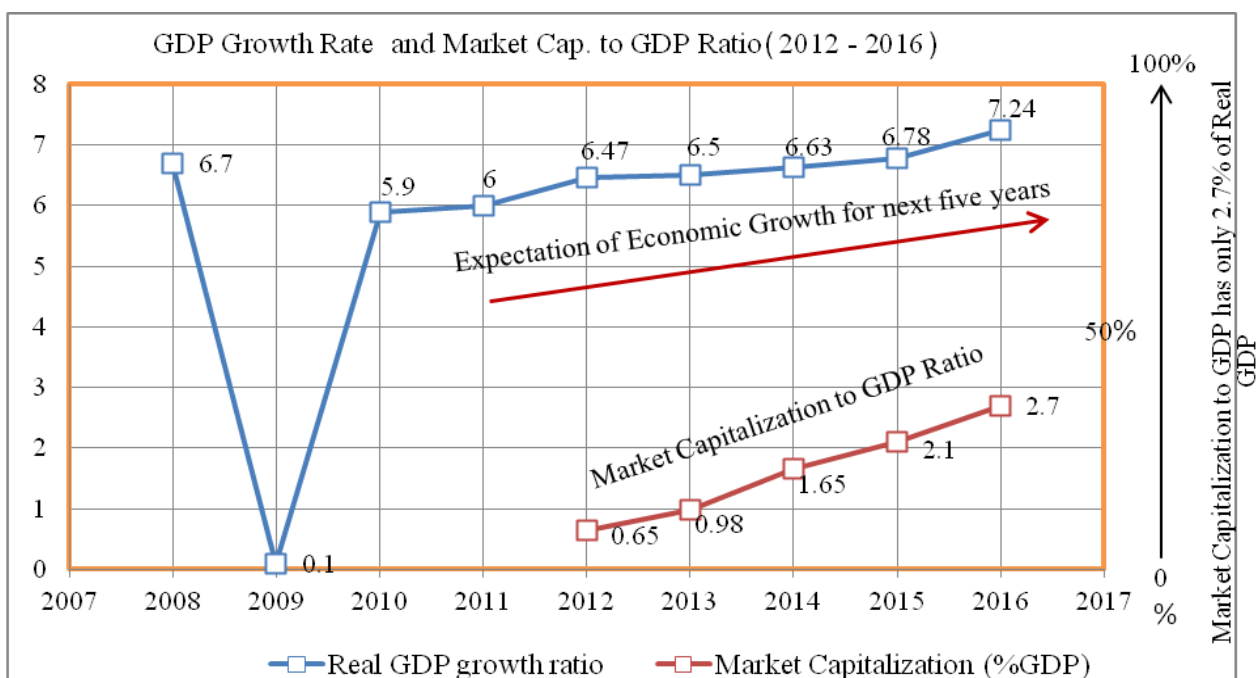
The result of hypothesis testing shows P-value is equal to 0.05 and value of t-critical two tests is greater than t-Stat indicating that H₂ is supported, however, the value of R is -0.47 showing that there is no link between “benefits of financial investment development” and “supporting the economic growth and financial sector development”. In addition, value of -0.047 shows technically a negative correlation or lowest relationship between both variables because the value of R is nearest to zero.

H₃: Financial investment development has provided challenges to economic growth and financial sector development

The result of hypothesis testing indicates that there is significant relationship between “challenges of financial investment development” and “economic growth and financial sector development”. Because of P-value is greater than 0.05, the value of t-critical two test is greater than t-Stat and value of R is -0.024, even the number shows a negative correlation, bur this value is nearest to zero. Thus, we can conclude that there is a significant relationship between both variables.

9. EXPECTATION OF CAMBODIA ECONOMIC GROWTH

9.1 GDP Growth Forecast and Market Capitalization to GDP Ratio (2012-2016)



10. DISCUSSION

Result showed Cambodia’s economic growth expected to grow gradually over past 5 years since launched capital markets in the end of 2011. The value of GDP in constant prices may increase from 33,781.97 to

43,917.22 billion riels. Whereas the growth rate of GDP expected to rise from 6.47 to 7.24%. The market cap has contributed to economic growth from 0.65 to 2.7%. For instance, 0.65% in 2012, 0.98% in 2013, 1.65 % in 2014, 2.1 % in 2015, and 2.7 % in 2016, however, the expectation growth is still lower than KSRI of Korea

forecasted that GDP will increase to \$24.3 billion in 2016, the market cap may worth \$12 billion, and size of bond market is \$10.9 billion. The figure is higher than forecasts of IMF estimating that GDP of might comprise \$21,081 billion in 2016. However, this expectation is still higher than market cap of Vietnam Exchange launched in 2000 increased only 0.22% until 2005, and then continued to 0.88%. Whereas, Cambodia's market cap increases alike to China in 1991 with a growth rate only 0.53%, and then, the rate rose marginally to 89.3% in 2006. China's market cap rose sharply to 178.2% in 2007 and fell back by 81.02% in 2010. In addition, Cambodia's market cap is higher than the market cap of Indonesia in 1988 increased only 0.28% and then, the growth rate of the market of Indonesia rose from 2.22% to 50.01% in 2010 from year of 1989.

Accordingly, it can conclude that there is relationship between economic growth and market cap of CSX for next five years. The results are consistent with outcomes of Harry, Robert and Elmer (2004) claimed that there is relationship between economic growth and capital market development meaning that while economic growth increased an impetus of 1%, it defined growth rate of market cap 0.4% of GDP. Whereas, findings of Nieuwerberg, Buelens and Cuyvers (2006) also indicated that there is a positive relationship between development of capital markets and economic growth measured by market cap and number of shares listed. However, Minier (2003) showed evidence from effect of stock exchange development on positive economic growth unless the market has growth in terms of revenue. Whereas, Liu and Hsu (2006) also showed positive results of stock market development and economic growth measured by market cap and revenue as a percentage of GDP, an influence of the capital market development has a positive effect on both economic growth and production factor.

11. CONCLUSION

According to the result of findings, we can conclude that development of financial investment in the country has provided chances and less benefit to support the current economic growth of Cambodia, although, this mechanism has provided challenges to the economic growth and financial sector development. However, at least, there are number of benefits to support development of this mechanism such as an approach to integrate the national financial sector into the region and global financial systems and particularly, this mechanism supports the macroeconomics such as tax income, employment opportunity and financial legal framework improvement as well as financial sector development.

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THE RELEVANCE OF CORRUPTION AND POVERTY: A LOOK AT TWO AFRICAN ECONOMIES - BOTSWANA AND NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

Corruption is one of the major problems facing developing nations. As a principal factor that perpetuates underdevelopment, it is wise to appreciate and examine the nation called Botswana, who according to transparency international has a low corruption record which is close to that of most European nations.

Several studies have shown that there is a strong correlation between the level of corruption, poverty and economic development. It will be interesting to notice the practical evidence of this conclusion when you examine the positive performance of various sectors of Botswana economy.

RELEVANCE OF STUDY

Over the years, several studies have linked corruption to poor economic performance. The usual references of such study are the developed nations of Western Europe and America. No African country seems to have qualified as a reference to fellow developing African nations, but consistent reports from world corruption agencies have reported the nation Botswana as a nation with a low corruption index comparable with some nations of western Europe.

In this light, this study is interested in finding out whether the performance of this nation in some selected sectors is significant enough to justify the results of past studies, especially when we consider the fact that the index of corruption in China, as reported by the same agencies is high, yet the economy of China is described as strong and robust by the International Monetary Fund.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The definition of corruption in this paper implies that corruption involves the violation of government rules and/or the circumvention of prescribed government procedures. It follows that if these government rules and procedures are adverse to economic performance, then it is theoretically possible for corruption to actually have a positive effect on economic outcomes.

Several studies actually make this claim, and they are supported by some of the empirical evidence reviewed. In fact, this view of the role of corruption tended to be

popular regarding the take-off period in low-income countries in the second half of the 20th century (Leff, 1964).

However, this view was challenged early on by Myrdal (1968), and increasingly so with the rise of institutional economics. But, notwithstanding the explosion of theoretical and empirical research on corruption since the 1990s, the controversy persists to this day (Svensson, 2005).

As a consequence, two competing hypotheses regarding the effect of corruption on economic growth can be found in the literature (Aidt, 2009): the "greasing the wheels" hypothesis, which postulates that corruption is beneficial for growth and development because it allows the circumvention of administrative impediments, and the "sand in the wheels" hypothesis, which postulates that corruption impedes growth and development because it entails resource misallocation, raises transaction costs, and has other negative effects.

Specific country experience corroborates many of the policy conclusions emerging from the empirical and theoretical literature. The case of Singapore clearly demonstrates the crucial importance of unconditional support by a country's top leadership for a successful transformation from a high to a low corruption environment. Similar lessons can be drawn from anticorruption campaign in Hong Kong and China, in the first half of the 1970s. In both of these contexts, anticorruption measures were accompanied by improvements in most other public sector governance indicators as well, supporting a holistic approach to anticorruption policies. It is interesting to note that the successful anticorruption campaigns in both Singapore and Hong Kong, were implemented when they were still relatively poor, and were characterized by a subsequently superior output performance, raising both countries' per capita income well above the OECD average by 2011.

This lends credence to the hypothesis that curtailing corruption has a major pay-off in terms of output performance, and that causality runs mainly from less corruption to higher output, rather than in the opposite direction.

METHODOLOGY

The study will examine the statistics provided by international agencies as it concerns Nigeria and Botswana (i.e. how the world report the two economies) and use it to pass informed comments on the two nations, thereby justifying or rejecting the assertion that corruption has serious influence on a nation's economy.

DATA PRESENTATION

A. CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX

Nation	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	AVER
Nig	6	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.4	6.4	5.88
Botsw	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.23

Source: TI, 2014

B. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

INDEX	BOTSWANA	NIGERIA
HDI (Pop below \$1 a month)	31%	64%
Global Competitiveness Index	Score=4.1, Global Ranking =79	Score = 3.7, Global Ranking =115
Average Inflation Rate (CPI)	8.1%	12%
GDP	\$34.53 (Billion PPP 2013)	\$510 (BILLION PPP 2013)
GDP PER CAPITA	\$9,500	\$1,500
GDP (SHARE OF AGRICULTURE)	1.9%	40%
GDP (SHARE OF INDUSTRY)	35.7%	15%
GDP (SHARE OF SERVICES)	62.4%	30%
POP BELOW POVERTY LINE	20%	45%
UNEMPLOYMENT	17.5%	25%
PUBLIC DEBT TO GDP	5.1%	18.8%
REVENUE	\$4.56 BILLION	23.5 BILLION
EXPENDITURE	\$4.13 BILLION (Surplus)	31.6 BILLION (Deficit)
CREDIT RATING	A+ (S&P)	B+(S&P)
Human Dev. Index	Scale (0-1) 0.63, Ranking= 118	Scale (0-1) 0.43, Ranking= 166
GINI COEFFICIENT	25	40

SOURCE: CIA WORLD FACT BOOK, 2013.

C. GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX

BOTSWANA

The Global Competitiveness Index

	Rank (out of 144)	Score (1-7)
GCI 2012–2013	79	4.1
GCI 2011–2012 (out of 142)	80	4.0
GCI 2010–2011 (out of 139)	76	4.1
Basic requirements (48.5%)	78	4.4

NIGERIA

The Global Competitiveness Index

	Rank (out of 144)	Score (1-7)
GCI 2012–2013	115	3.7
GCI 2011–2012 (out of 142)	127	3.4
GCI 2010–2011 (out of 139)	127	3.4
Basic requirements (60.0%)	130	3.5

D. ANNUAL GDP GROWTH %

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average
Nig	3.4	8.2	6.8	6.3	6.9	7.8	4.7	4.3	5.4	5.2
Bots	4.4	8.0	9.0	4.0	8.0	9.0	6.2	4.3	6.0	6.5

E. ANNUAL INFLATION

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average
Nig	17.9	8.2	5.4	11.6	11.5	13.7	10.8	12.2	8.5	11
Bots	8.6	11.6	7.1	12.7	8.0	6.9	8.5	7.5	5.9	8.5

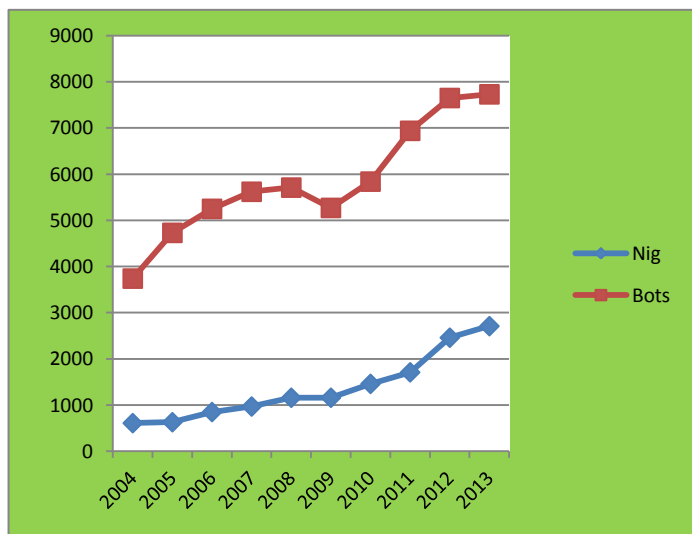
F. EASE OF DOING BUSINESS (PEST STABILITY) (1 = most friendly)

COUNTRY	2012	2013
NIGERIA	138	147
BOTSWANA	65	56

Sources: IMF; UNFPA; UNDP; World Bank

Source: World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey 2011, 2012

G. GROSS NATIONAL INCOME PER CAPITA (\$ UNIT ATLAS METHOD)



YEAR	NIG	BOTS
2004	610	3740
2005	630	4730
2006	850	5250
2007	970	5620
2008	1160	5710
2009	1160	5270
2010	1460	5840
2011	1710	6940
2012	2460	7650
2013	2710	7730

Source: World Bank

DISCUSSIONS

My discussion will be based on the various comparative data labeled A – G. If we look at the data presented in A which is the level of corruption index for the two nations supplied by the Transparency International for the period, 2004 -2013, it can be observed that Nigeria recorded an average corruption level of about 60%, while that of Botswana is 22%. This low level of corruption translated to an enviable economic performance in various sectors for Botswana when compared to that of Nigeria.

Considering the data presented in B, one will observe that the Human Development Index which is a measure of worldwide poverty, in Botswana is only 32% while

that of Nigeria is 64%. In Global Competitiveness, Botswana is globally ranked 79 while Nigeria is ranked 115. The average Inflation for Botswana is 8%, but for Nigeria it is 12%. The GDP per Capita for Botswana is \$9500 and \$1500 in Nigeria. Other measures in the table can also be compared, especially the credit rating by Standard and Poor which is A+ for Botswana and B+ for Nigeria. The GINI Coefficient is a measure of income disparity. In Botswana it is 25 but 40 in Nigeria showing wider income inequality.

The data presented in section C shows a three year score of the two nations in global competitiveness out of a rank of 144 nations surveyed, while the data in section D shows the annual GDP growth of the two nations for the nine year period 2005 to 2013, while

Botswana achieved an average of 6.5% growth performance, Nigeria recorded 5.2%, the average inflation figure for the same period is. A single digit for Botswana, it is a double digit for Nigeria.. The Ease of Doing Business Worldwide index for the year 2012 and 2013 was also considered. In a scale where one is considered perfect, Nigeria scored an average of 143 while Botswana scored 61 indicating that the nation is more investment friendly. Using the atlas method of calculating National Income, section G shows that in 2004 the per capita income of Nigeria measured in Dollars is \$610 and that of Botswana is \$3740 for the period and in 2013 their rose to \$7730 while that of Nigeria is \$2710.

CONCLUSIONS

This work lends a strong backing to various theoretical studies aimed at isolating the singular relationship between corruption and economic development. It is clear that the only factor behind the wide gap in economic performance of both nations is the difference in corruption.

Since the major agenda of Buhari administration is eliminating corruption in governance and administration, the author believes that as efforts begin to yield fruit in that direction, the nation will soon begin to witness the benefits of a corrupt free society: Efficient use and management of resources, increased investment and the attendant growth of in income, output and employment.

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CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE: A THERAPEUTIC APPROACH TO PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT IN TREATMENT PLANNING

Olusegun Emmanuel Afolabi*

Introduction

Psychological assessment is a key component of clinical psychology and dates back to the 19th century when contemporary psychology started evolving (Anastasi & Urbina, 1997) as a backbone of applied psychology. Nevertheless, many outcomes from past studies on psychological assessment are yet to be proved and analysed systematically. However, this development influenced the contributions made by clinicians and researchers toward sustaining this traditional area of psychology (Finn & Martin 1997).

The recent advancement in therapeutic assessment (Finn, 1996, 2007) offered a theoretical foundation and research methodology for treatment planning in clinical psychology. The therapeutic model views the assessment processes as an “intervention” rather than a sign of assessment in clinical practice. The uses of psychological assessment for treatment evaluation were limited in at least two respects.

- The process offered less information on the inconsistency of responses recorded by the clinician during treatment.
- The psychological effect of a specific treatment had little to do with the clinical outcome.

Therapeutic assessment identified differences in performance during treatment as opposed to mere speculation. Consequently, the negativity surrounding psychological assessment, particularly the attitude of the anti-assessment of the 1950s, and the debates about its effectiveness and practicability in clinical practice continues to dominate research (Eisman, et al., 1998).

Hollon (1998), for example, highlighted the clinical significance of psychological assessment in clinical practice by establishing the difference between real and specific, effectiveness, and successful therapies. According to this specification, a treatment is labelled efficacious, specific and clinically significant when therapy is “significantly superior to a pill or psychological placebo in at least two independent research settings” (Hollon, 1998, p. 18). For instance, if a psychological assessment was beneficial when there was no treatment in at least two settings, it was efficacious and clinically significant. However, if the therapeutic efficacy received support from single evidence, the assessment was assumed as possibly efficacious, pending replication. Equally, the clinical significant in psychological assessment was also

addressed in several reviews (e.g. Chambless 1998; Chambless & Ollendick, 2001; et al).

The clinical significance of a therapeutic assessment refers to its proficiency to attain the values of competence set by clients, clinicians, and scholars. A standard agreement has yet to be finalised and the proposed standard include:

- A high proportion of clients improving.
- A level of adjustment that is identifiable by peers and significant others (Wolf, 1978).
- A removal of the current problem (Kazdin & Wilson, 1978).
- Normative levels of effectiveness at the end of therapy (Nietzel & Trull, 1988).
- Changes that meaningfully lessen the risk from other health problems.

However, contrary views about what makes an assessment clinically significant remain.

Methodology

This study analysed and reviewed empirical literature that highlighted the complexities, practicability and acceptability of psychological assessment in treatment planning. The research collated and reviewed relevant articles, books, journals, and included a meta-analysis on the therapeutic approach to psychological assessment. Research from the ERIC and PSYCHLIT databases used the following key words: psychological assessment, treatment planning, therapeutic approach, and clinical psychology. This procedure initially reported about 1650 articles, journals, technical reports, paper presentation, case studies and book chapters covering more than a 28 -year period. Based on the abstracts retrieved from this initial 1650 plus articles and publications, the search was lessened to a relatively few hundred studies that are pertinent and relevant to the theme of this paper. The contents of the remaining several hundred of articles cum journals were further scrutinised and only those that reported empirical findings were used. The process shows that only a few studies documented empirical findings in the therapeutic approach to psychological assessment in clinical practice. Manual searches of relevant journals and articles related to the paper verified the references.

Historical Perspectives and Theoretical basis for Therapeutic Assessment

Therapeutic assessment is a short-term, highly organized hypothetically and scientifically grounded method of psychological assessment. Established by Stephen Finn and his professional colleagues this method swayed by the humanistic school and self-psychology played a significant role in the evolution of therapeutic assessment.

Historically, therapeutic intervention linked to the work of the humanistic crusade of the 1950s and 1960s. In fact, many humanistic oriented clinicians (Brown, 1972; Rogers, 1951) opposed the use of psychological assessment as a therapeutic process, while others strongly supported it (Gelso & Fretz, 2001). The periods between the 1960s and 1970s also witnessed scholars such as Goldman (1972) describing assessment and treatment as “a failure marriage” (p. 213).

The features of therapeutic assessment included:

- Assisting service users to develop questions requiring answers from assessment and testing.
- Gathering contextual evidence associated to client problems.
- Using previous assessments.
- Engaging clients in a partnership and understanding the results.
- Providing an immediate response to clients’ early questions (Finn, 1996, 2007).

The beginning of the 1990s introduced a review of the ethical guiding principles. The general opinion on ethics allowed professionals to share the needful test results with service users except in a few notable exceptions as, for example, forensic evaluations (American Psychological Association, 2002). Nevertheless, there was a lack of uniformity in the rules (Curry & Hanson, in press; Smith, Wiggins, & Gorske, 2007). This led to changes in modern assessment-related behaviour and research foci, and also the tone for different therapeutic models (Ackerman, Hilsenroth, et al) and individualized assessment (Fischer, 2006). The less noticeable but obviously associated models include collaborative consultation to psychotherapy (Engelman & Frankel, 2002) and brief personalized assessment feedback (Wild, Cunningham, & Roberts, 2007).

Initial Theory of Therapeutic Mechanisms of Psychological Assessment

Notwithstanding the above, research has long probed why psychological assessment is theoretically therapeutic and clinically significant. Most studies sought for particular assessment tools that would bring about therapeutic change in clinical practice and this prompted two caveats.

- The mechanisms for change did not functioning in all psychological assessments but were only used in the collective approach in psychological assessment (Finn, 1996) and by other professionals (Handler, 1996). Thus, clinical experience, without empirical confirmation, gave credence to the practice because basic human intentions were resolved by personality assessment and other effective psychotherapies. Furthermore, clients’ self-verification played an important role in therapeutic assessment and this suggested that clients who are ready and willing to partake in psychological assessment expected feedback that showed their opinion about ‘self’ and that of the people around them.
- The theory established that human aspirations should be respected and admired by others and that it is “good” to consider ourselves as decent-self-enhancement, highlighted by object-relation psychotherapy (Winnicott, 1975) and applied psychological assessment. Interestingly, a significant number of clients portrayed negative self-concepts at the start of an assessment. For instance, a client might question why he/she is lazy or a loser in a relationship. Thus, the clients’ assessment scores could contribute towards changing their negative assumptions. A client who sees himself/herself as “lazy” because he or she achieved little success in life might understand, after using the MMPI-2 test, that he/she is clinically unhappy. Additionally, clients might understand that depression has an emotional impact on energy levels and affects the ability to complete the basic daily chores. Such explanations helped clients to develop a positive view about their behaviour and changed the negative way in which they interpreted things (Newman & Greenway, 1997).

The ego psychologists (e.g., Freud, 1936; Hartmann, 1958) emphasised the human necessity for exploration, mastery, and control, viz. self-efficacy / self-discovery. Recently, this assumption formed the foundation of Bandura’s (1994) theory of self-efficacy. Therefore, any valid assessment must tackle such desires and offer clients a fresh understanding of their personality. In addition, such assessment must be efficient and organize evidence and the life experience of clients (Corsini, 1984). This therapeutic process names clients’ experiences for them. It also helps clients develop the ability to talk and discuss their personal life involvements.

A Therapeutic Approach to Clinical Significance in Treatment Planning

The therapeutic approach provides intervention and support for clients. Researchers such as (Lewak, Marks, & Nelson, 1990) considered psychological assessment as therapeutic to clients. This exercise received unexpected limited attention from both researchers and practitioners. According to Jacobson, Follette, and Revenstorff (1984) the clinical

significance linked to change and normalcy in clients. One way of hypothesizing this development accepted the client as part of a dysfunctional population and those who had completed the therapy had overcome their dysfunctional behaviour and is explained as:

- The level of effectiveness resultant from treatment should fall outside the range of the dysfunctional population, where range is demarcated as ranging up to two standard deviations beyond the mean for that population.
- The level of effectiveness resulting from treatment should be within the level of the normal population, viz., within two standard deviations of the mean of the population group.
- The range of effectiveness subsequent to treatment showed the client nearer to the mean of the functional group than the dysfunctional group.
- The third meaning of clinically significant change is the least illogical. This conclusion rests on a probability that scores would end in dysfunctional versus functional population distributions. Thus, clinically significant change is determined when a post-treatment score falls within the functional population on the variable of interest. When this standard is met, it is statistically more feasible to draw from the functional than the dysfunctional populace.

The Humanistic School argued that clients should not be involved in therapy because it is injurious to their health (Klopfer, 1954). Despite this opinion, the therapeutic approach is a humanistic endeavour that helps clients adjust and participate in assessment without any damage (Sugerman, 1978). The ethical documents of the American Psychological Association (APA, 1990) and the work of Pope (1992) mandated the assessors to involve their clients in the assessment. According to the American Psychological Association (1990), the more they (the professionals) share information with clients, the better it is for clients to gain from the experience. This means that sharing feedback with clients helped them to form therapeutic interaction and mutual aid during therapy. For example, Allen, (1981), set objectives for clinicians (De La Cour, 1986), and changed and invigorated "bogged down" treatment (Cooper & Witenberg, 1985).

Research also established the benefits that clients derive in therapy. Some of these included increasing self-esteem, curtailment of isolation, aiding hopes, reducing symptomatology, a growth of self-awareness and thoughtfulness, and motivating the drive for mental health treatment (Finn & Butcher, 1991). Therefore, to achieve a clinical significance, psychologists must broaden their emphasis and thoughtfulness to embrace actions that focus on the client-assessor connexion, problem background, and the psychologist's counter transference.

Empirical Evidence Supporting Therapeutic Model of Assessment

The clinical philosophy that guides therapeutic assessment is complex and comprehensive. Therefore, for an effective evaluation of clinical significance, the combination of objective empirical data and qualitative observational information are required. Clinicians must endeavour to identify the strengths and weakness of the therapeutic interventions by using the empirical method and not "gut feeling". Thus, the beginning of any therapeutic intervention must rest on experiential outcomes. This will affect a client's physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being, and enhance the health and development of mind, body and spirit. Similarly, empirical evaluations of treatment also suggest outcomes that are independent of clinicians' opinions. However, objection to this notion came from the clinicians themselves. For instance, most clinicians were of the opinion that "data" is not required to tell them what they "know" and that the treatments offered are based on their professional knowledge. Even though internal attributions for positive outcomes are usually acceptable, therapists remain misled by their subjective opinion of client improvement rather than controlling the alternate reasons for the results (Kipnis, 1994). Therefore, for an empirically supported psychological assessment, the evidence should result from research in addition those of the clinician.

This leads to the understanding that empirically supported therapeutic assessment is a treatment exposed to assessment using the accepted methods of psychological science emanating from an acceptable empirical study. For example, Finn and Tonsager (1992) looked at the impact of therapeutic assessment on clients who participated in a short-term psychological assessment at the university counselling centre. They found that those participants who took part in the MMPI-2 test indicated a substantial drop in symptomatic pain and an upsurge in their self-esteem both immediately after their feedback meeting and they retained this after two weeks. They also discovered that the participants showed signs of confidence in overcoming their difficulties after the short-term assessment.

Newman and Greenway (1997) sustained and duplicated the research conducted by Finn and Tonsager (1992) and discovered that clients who engaged in a brief assessment displayed high self-esteem and a decline in symptomatology after more than two follow-up sessions. Although the outcome sizes were less than those established by Finn and Tonsager (1992), the variations presented by those who participated were clinically and statistically significant. In addition, the positive report from the assessment linked to the feedback given to clients as well the quality of the design.

Conclusion

The debate about the clinical significance in therapeutic assessment continues to take centre stage in psychotherapy research. The conclusions of this appraisal are generally consistent with current evaluations of the therapeutic approach. However, psychological assessment faces crucial challenges, if clinicians embrace empirically validated treatment. Furthermore, a cursory scanning of literature revealed the existence of the research backed approach as an effective means of treatment. Overall, clients who received therapeutic treatment improved in clinical symptoms compared to those with no treatment irrespective of the approach (Weisz et al. 1995). Therefore, the therapeutic approach improved treatment, and helped clinicians achieve constructive treatment results in clinical practice.

Recommendations

Further research regarding the usage of therapeutic approach in clinical practice, particularly about patient characteristics, treatment selection and outcomes remain important.

1. Future research should focus on information regarding clients and therapist demography.
2. Professional Psychology bodies should embrace professional development training that focus on therapeutic models.
3. Policy makers should re-examine and embrace proficiency standards and guidelines for psychological assessment practice.
4. Clinical psychologist should identify successful models of treatment involving decision making in light of patient preferences.
5. Lastly, practitioner training on ethics, proficiency and evidence based practice is a priority.

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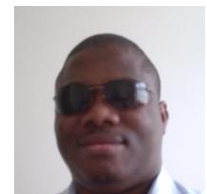
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WHY THE CONTEMPORARY FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS NOT A DEMOCRACY

Dr George Reiff*

“If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.”¹ wrote 20th Century activist Emma Goldman pointedly about the difference between demand and reality of democracy – also in contemporary Germany.

Is the Federal Republic of Germany a democracy? This question can be answered easily by examining whether or not its definition is matched to be a “rule of the people”.

The election of the Federal President for example shows once again that in Germany the sovereignty does not emanate from the people but from the cartel of government parties.

1. The “basically” illegitimate Basic Law

Let us again (*I have dealt with this problem in depth already in the February 2010 issue of VERITAS “The World and Germany –Towards an Equal and Respectful Dialogue”*) have a look at the legal basis of German democracy. According to Article 20 of the Basic Law all power of the state is emanating from the people. But who wrote this Basic Law? Eleven men who were emissaries of appointed (by American and British occupation forces) provincial strongmen in 1948 who – in turn - received the task² by the Allied Winners of WW II to design a constitution that would reflect the interests of said Allied Winners of WW II. The result was the eternal struggle between Federation and Provinces within the FRG. The people were never permitted to vote under which constitution they want to live. Also a plebiscite about a new constitution as prescribed by Article 146 Basic Law has been impeded by the Government Parties without reason to date although a re-unification of Germany took place in 1990, which would have been the logical and golden opportunity to constitute the German people anew in freedom and republicanism. Fact is, however, that Germany does not have a legitimate constitution according to international public law and therefore it does not have legally sound democratic basis from the beginning on.

2. Elections in FRG Germany – a sham!

In order to have democracy, the electorate needs to be able to decide in free and general elections between alternating political concepts. Liberty and equality does not only apply to the electorate but also to the candidates. An election where not all candidates and alternatives have the same chance to be elected is a sham – especially when the ruling parties can decide themselves whether somebody is permitted to compete with them or not. What FRG ruling parties criticize in

Iran or Russia, applies also to the so called Federal Republic of Germany. The understanding of democracy of the Federal Government of the FRG has been well demonstrated when former Federal Foreign Minister Westerwelle congratulated in 2009 Afghanistan’s “President” Karzai after his “victory”³ in a through and through rigged election. Karzai’s victory was based upon on rigging and also on the factual exclusion of the extra parliamentary opposition from the election. The latter we have also in the FRG. The difference is just gradually.

The election of the Federal President of the FRG is also a sham. Only puppets of the Party Cartel are permitted to elect the highest representative of the people⁴. And who just says that the candidate of the political competition is at least as suitable as the own candidate like Christian Democratic Union Representative Professor Dagmar Schipanski is sacked at once (Interview of the SZ Newspaper from 18.06.2010 “How I was sacked as Assembly Woman”).⁵

3. Free Market Economy? Not for German Parties.

The same parties, who preach to us at any given opportunity the advantages of free markets, impede at the same time a free political market for new ideas and parties. Expressed in Numbers: since establishment of the Bundestag (Parliament of the FRG) or the Volkskammer (Peoples’ Chamber of the former Communist part of Germany) only the Christian Democratic Union CDU, the Social Democratic Party SPD, Free Democratic Party FDP and Socialist Union Party (nowadays: The Left) were at the helm of power. In 1983 the Communist leaning Green party was able as the only party of about 500 in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany to establish herself as a newcomer. This only happened as the other parties stubbornly neglected the topics international peace and environmental protection for decades. Nowadays, however, this specific party has lost its profile ever since it was streamlined by stone-thrower turned Foreign Minister J. Fischer⁶, who even managed to turn his coat from being a PLO sympathizer to becoming a backer of the US war against Yugoslavia⁷.

A functioning open and free political market would certainly look completely different. And so will black (Christian Democrats), yellow (Free Democrats), red (Social Democrats), dark red (Left/Communist), green collect 95% of the vastly hesitantly and grudgingly casted votes at the next election – as ever. Germans elect traditionally what they consider to be the lesser evil.

4. How government parties make sure to secure their power cartel through the Federal Election Regulation

The Question is who decides in Germany about competing with the ruling parties in elections? This the ruling parties decide themselves! Among others, the Federal Electoral Regulation (BWO) - adopted in 1985 by a coalition of CDU and FDP and amended 2002/2005 by a coalition of SPD and Greens - serves as anti-democratic power backup bulwark.

We need to imagine that somebody has realized how futile and hopeless the established parties are and he draw the conclusion to engage seriously within German democracy. There are two options: either joining a small party, or creating a new one. Both ways are simple. However, it is almost impossible to appear nationwide on the ballot. Through § 39 BWO the government parties demand at least 2,000 signatures per province which totals at approximately 30,000 so called support signatures nation-wide. Petitions and lists of signature are forbidden - every voter must complete a single official form⁸. The 30,000 forms with the support signature for a small party have to be presented to up to 5,500 registration offices, which are located throughout the Republic, in order to officially confirm them with enormous use of human and financial resources. Support forms received by fax or e-mail are considered void. The next hurdle is the federal distribution: most small parties, which you see on ballots, are only present in one or two provinces.

A party which, for example, has collected 200.000 signatures in North Rhine-Westphalia, does not appear on any of the other 15 federal provinces' ballot if there are not also sufficient support signatures recognized per state. Another undemocratic problem: each signature is valid to support one time only. In order to implement the eligibility of a small party at European elections, parliamentary elections and state elections, one needs to collect supporting signatures for three times per respective election date, of course. All in all, this means that a small party who wishes to participate in elections in all of Germany, in all provincial elections and in the EU election must collect 18 separate signatures for one legislative period! Needless to say, of course, there is only a short window for each election depending on the announcement of the election date and that is between 6 months to at least 48 days before the respective election date.

Another undemocratic twist: if a voter already signed for another party, he may not do it once more for your party. The established parties prohibit citizens to make more than one small party electable. There is absolutely no objective reason for all these impediments, and none of these obstacles applies to the CDU, SPD, FDP, the Greens and the Left. If your small party does not participate/qualify for 6 years in an election due to this BWO regulation harassment, your party loses party status. Then you can set up no more regional party lists, but only present direct candidates. In the history of the Federal Republic yet

not a single such representative of a small party ever won even a single direct mandate. "Equal" elections – the absolute requirement for democracy – do not take place in Germany like in most of the rest of the world. Is it not very telling that in a country like for example Thailand the position of a party on a ballot is determined by lot in order to guarantee the same amount of fairness to a newcomer as much as the last winning party⁹? A small detail practiced in Thailand – overlooked by a whole world of democracies.

5. The 5%-Threshold: Weimar as Boogeyman

The 5% threshold does not reflect the will of voters and is therefore is unconstitutional in a democracy, this fact is even recognized by the Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht) - and yet in turn declared constitutional because allegedly a functioning parliament is more important. This is ridiculous for three reasons. Firstly, the 5% threshold in local elections is unconstitutional – this has been declared by the very same Constitutional Court as well as numerous state constitutional courts. So the threshold was abolished there, and no municipal parliament works bad since then. Secondly, the reasoning of the Court is absurd in the place that a parliament would be incapacitated by the involvement of small parties. The problem resulting from this is the fear scenario of "Weimar conditions", although it has never been the problem that there were too many parties in parliament. The problem is the parties whip (see below). Thirdly, the 5% threshold includes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Voters think their vote for a small party is lost if there is a risk that it does not make it into parliament. And so they do not vote and therefore a political alternative, which the voters actually wanted, could not reach a share of votes equal to the actual number of the electorate who actually desire an alternative.

6. The Unconstitutional Party Whip

A significant problem of both - the Weimar Republic and the Federal Republic – is abuse of power through the faction and party leaders in order to hurt their political opponents, to come to power or to retain it. As a result, they vote always against anything that political opponents advocate - and they even do so when the suggestions are very useful for the citizens. According to Article 38 GG the members of parliament are "representatives of the whole people, not bound by orders or instructions and only subjected to their conscience." However, any informed person knows that MPs are order takers of their party leaders. Those from the government parties, who resist the orders of their party leadership, can bury their political careers. In the German Parliament (Bundestag) trained monkeys could work as parliamentarians if they could hold elected offices. The government parties are undoubtedly unconstitutional and this should constitute a clear case for the Office for the Protection of the Constitution - which is, however, controlled by the government parties. And also regarding this vast scandal the mainstream media look dutifully away.

7. Popular Votes? Nearly impossible!

For example, 1.3 million Bavarian citizens (13.9% of eligible voters) voted on 12/03/09 against the policy of "their" CSU / FDP government and for a chance to introduce protection for non-smokers. It was a huge political victory of the people over the "representatives", but unfortunately so far only the only successful initiative of citizens since 1997. All others failed, inter alia, over the costs. Without PR no referendum comes to pass and successful PR usually costs a lot of money. 3,000 helpers, countless posters and leaflets were only possible through financial aid by sponsors. Without the sponsors this referendum would likely have failed for want of money. And not only money is an almost insurmountable hurdle because 10% of eligible voters have to support a referendum in order to enable a vote on whether or not a contested bill should pass. That's almost 1 million citizens in the province of Bavaria. To mobilize such a mass of people is almost impossible. And the good question is: whenever has a referendum - or the democratic placebo performed by the Petition Committee of the Bundestag actually brought change of a law? Andreas Fischer, spokesman for justice and home affairs of the Bavarian FDP, said – fully in line with the arrogance of power: "We recognize the petition as having exceeded the set threshold as set by the legislator for popular participation"¹⁰. In other words, the representatives of the people could not care less about the will of the people.

8. The failure of Fourth Estate: The "self-censorship" of the media

"The Freedom of the press in the West ... is ultimately the freedom of 200 rich people to publish their opinion," stated already great German journalist Peter Scholl-Latour¹¹. Over 115 small German parties remain small because the media do not report about them. Which wide-reaching media would put serious consideration to the concept of non-parliament-parties?

In Germany there are at least 50-60 parties whose objectives are more citizen-friendly and humane than those of the government parties. Some parties have quite good programs. With a functioning Fourth Estate at least they should be presented and discussed as potential alternatives. Why does instead essentially occur a relatively uncritical journalism where bulletins of the establishment are published only?

Already the great Roman Republican Marcus Tullius Cicero asked: *Cui bono?* The answer to the question "who benefits?" reveals the probable reasons. The powerful of the country benefit from the current system. They are not interested in democracy as it has once been the duty and happiness of our Athenian forefathers in Europe. Gone are the times where the media understood themselves as modern agora, where a plethora of thoughts would be presented.

Now we have only the systemic redistribution from poor to rich, from the debt of the state into the pockets

of the bank and capital owners; money fueled lobbying influences the rest etc. Therefore, alternatives are hushed up as long as possible, and if a fairly critical of the system party but then once perceived as a threat to their power, operate pro-government media smear campaigns against the "danger" (see for instance the artificial survival of the new German Nazi party NPD whose personnel and finances are sponsored in full from the FRG government through legal channels (so called party financing¹²) and illegal channels (German Secret Service¹³).

The actual work of the Fourth Estate takes place almost exclusively on the Internet outside the establishment, for example through info-warriors etc.

9. Purchased Decision Making

Is Germany a representative parliamentary democracy? She is probably not because many important elected representatives of the people do not represent the people but lobbyists instead. The decision makers in the specialized committees are an especially rewarding prey for lobbyists. Pharmaceutical companies focus on the Health Care Committee, energy companies on the Committee on the Environment, on Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety, arms exporters on the defense committee, etc. The committees make it extremely easy to identify the decision-makers. And so the lobbyists safe also a lot of their bribe monies because they only have to pay the faction leaders and not their party colleagues who have to follow through anyway. How to buy parliamentary decisions? By minimizing their risk of getting caught! And that is easy: the decision-makers participating directly or indirectly (via spouse, friends or other persons of his confidence) to a consulting firm to which lobbyists can place an arbitrarily high priced order. Officially billed returns are diffuse consultancy services which no one can really verify. More suitable are law firms since as lawyers and their clients are protected through client confidentiality regulations. Those MPs who are not able to hide these legal bribes through consulting contracts or alleged legal mandates, have to publish this additional income. However, this can be veiled in Germany as only a kind of category has to be published and not the actual amount received. The highest category 3 means "over 7,000 € per year"¹⁴. Therefore a bribe of 100,000 EUR as is the going rate for so called lecture fees can be hidden as being equal to category 3 "over 7,000 € per year." And if someone was too clumsy and gets caught, his parliamentary immunity protects him. Germany is the only country in the Western civilization where bribery for MPs is not a criminal offense.

How do you recognize corruption?. Just ask who profits? Who profits for example when avalanches of uneducated and culturally hostile immigrants swamp Germany against the express will¹⁵ of the people? Perhaps the large companies who do not want to pay decent wages in Germany anymore? Who pays the social costs for hostile Immigrant Ghettos, Out-of-

Control Crime rates based on foreign-origin youths and culture/religion related “honor killings”¹⁶? The people pay as ever while the political class and the rich live in their guarded housing estates.

10. Inner Resignation: A Republic without Citizens

52.1% of eligible voters in the province of Brandenburg did not take part in the provincial elections of 2014¹⁷. 28.5% did not participate in the national election in 2013 and also a whopping 47.3% did not participate in the provincial election in Thuringia in 2014¹⁸. In parliamentary elections on national, provincial, local and European level, voter turnout decreases even more and more. The government with its dishonesty repels the citizens to identify with their state, and thus the motivation to participate in democracy shrinks.

In Germany 97% of all voters do not want to participate in any party. The remaining 3% are mostly party members because they belong either to the 288,000 elected officials, or they require a party ID card of a governing party for their career in public service – starting with town hall civil servants and ending with public school teachers.

Most citizens have resigned long time ago. A democracy is not a democracy if it is not covered and supported by the Demos (originally: city quarter, village) anymore. “*No taxation without representation*” was once the war cry of the American revolutionaries under Sam Adams. Now it could be: “no votes without doing what the people want” if a European version of the Sons of Liberty banded together.

Summary

What is the basis of democracy? People participation, a bedrock of enshrined constitutional liberties and the handing over of government power without Coup d’Etat and civil wars. The opportunity for new parties to challenge and overcome the inert and helpless old parties is existentially important for real democracy. None of the established five parties in Germany has a program that could be really attractive for voters. It is simply proven by decades that none of them can address the growing mega problems of our time (unemployment, poverty wages = increasing money slavery, pensions, birth rates, national debt, clean energy and the previously unseen buildup of an artificial plebs based on uneducated hostile culture immigrants).

Weimar Republic journalist Kurt Tucholsky once remarked: *Do not be impressed by the expert saying: “dear friend, I am doing it like this for 20 years”. One can also make one thing wrong for twenty years.*

The Federal Constitutional Court declared the 5 percent threshold in the election of the European Parliament (“Europe Elections”) as unconstitutional¹⁹.

“The associated serious interference with the principles of electoral equality and equal opportunities for political parties by the five-percent threshold regulation in § 2 Sentence 7 EuWG cannot be justified under the existing legal and factual conditions.”

It is interesting to say that most other democratic countries do not know a 5% threshold and the like.

It is also noteworthy that the first Federal Parliamentary Election of the FRG still was held in the normal republican way with one vote per voter. There were no two votes like it is now common in Germany with a so called First Vote and Second Vote. A 5% threshold only existed on provincial level and so a party came into parliament according to its total percentage, when the threshold was passed in one of the then 11 provinces of the FRG. Additionally, the provincial 5% threshold was rendered useless if a party won one or more constituencies. Accordingly, the first FRG parliament was constituted in a representative way. However, the government of Rhineland separatist (1923) Chancellor Adenauer, consisting of CDU, her Bavarian sister party CSU, FDP and DP (German Party) could not help but remove these traces of real democracy asap. By simply changing the election law, they introduced early enough the system of a first and second vote in 1953 and by this the 5% threshold now was implemented nationwide in order to thoroughly remove 3 parties of West Germany. The KPD (Communists), who was traditionally established in the industrialized regions, lost all 15 MPs, CSU competitor Bavarian Party lost 17 MPs – both parties never to come back to a national parliament of the FRG.

As CDU forbearer Center Party was still able to obtain one MP by winning a constituency, the Adenauer regime was still peeved by too much democracy and changed the regulation again in 1957 making three won constituencies mandatory in order to circumvent the 5% threshold.

The small German Party (DP) who helped removing electoral democracy, was kept artificially alive by Senior Partner CDU for a while (CDU did, for example, not contest certain constituencies in order to let DP win). However, in 1960 nine MPs deserted the party and went over to the CDU, while only 6 MPs remained. This was the well-deserved end of a small party who had helped burying electoral democracy so eagerly.

The failure of German parliament democracy was topped – in due course – by the failure of the European Union states to establish an EU Parliament that would worth being called a parliament.

It is nearly needless to say that the EU parliament does not vote on laws and implement them.

The EU Parliament does not elect a Prime Minister. Instead we have an unelected European Commission President who is appointed²⁰ by prime minister’s backroom dealings presented as fait accompli to the public. Sounds like the good old USSR, right?

The European President is also neither elected by the EU Parliament nor by the EU citizens (citizens of the 28 member states). He is simply the president of the European Council and appointed by some shady internal mechanisms²¹ that have to do with democracy as much as Joseph Stalin with Benjamin Franklin.

And so the Germans, like all their European neighbors and fellow EU citizens are endangered to end up like the ones who once lived under the iron fist of the British East India Company. That would be a life under the power of the financial Concerns with powerless politicians and unreal government authorities. Already Mussolini said that *"Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power"*²².

So where do powerless elections and powerless parliaments lead us to? Quo vadis sine res publica?

Either to a 2.0 Modern Day Version of the Life under the East India Company.

versus

Corporate Fascism as it is already very successfully practiced in China where the immense corporate power is – visible for everyone - merged with the power of the state.

Notes:

1
<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/e/emmagoldma107325.html#x2ITwEIuECKU0yog.99>

2
http://www.chroniknet.de/daly_de.0.html?year=1948&month=7&day=01

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<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/bundespraesidentenwahl-dagmar-schipanski-so-wurde-ich-als-wahlfrau-entfernt-1.961699>

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USING VISION AS A STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING DRAMATIC CHANGE

Senator (Prof) David Iornem*

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Visions or dreams have done wonders for great men and great nations. You often hear of the American dream. Whatever that dream may mean to the various interest groups in that country, there is no denying the fact that America is a great nation. You may not like them for any of the reasons you have; but that does not change the fact. Before you can make it great like most great men, you must have a dream.

Dreams Can Perform Wonders

When in the 1960s, Martin Luther King, a black American, said he had a dream and began to talk of the America which he was dreaming about, most people did not believe him. Some thought he was a crazy man and so, they killed him! Dreams can be dangerous too. But see where Martin Luther King's dream has landed us. We have an America where a black man can aspire to even the Presidency. Some have vied for it with a great measure of support from whites. American blacks have been ministers, defense chiefs, chaired the Democratic Party, led American interests in the United Nations, you name it. To crown it all, Barrack Obama came like a thunderbolt to occupy the seat of the President of the United States of America, unarguably the most powerful position in the world today.

Nelson Mandela's vision of a South Africa with equal opportunities for both whites and coloured races was considered as treason. He spent the better part of his useful life in jail. But he and colleagues continued in the adamant, defiant and determined pursuit of the Vision. God has rewarded that pursuit handsomely, we can say. God gave him further vision where he led a government that was tolerant as a deliberate policy to retain the good aspects of the apartheid white regime while making changes in small installments so that black aspirations will be met to some degree without damage to the system. Just next door to South Africa is the opposite of what Nelson Mandela achieved in South Africa. Zimbabwe has not shown the same visionary traits that have helped to sustain development in South Africa.

There is another story of Joseph in the Bible who had a dream which his brothers feared it would lead to him being their leader. They sold him off as a slave. See how dangerous dreams can be. But that did not change the dream. It came to pass. David too had a dream or a vision about his own tribe. He also wanted the

promised rewards. It was that dream which propelled him to attack Goliath even though poorly armed. He succeeded. A vision is capable of emboldening even an apparently weak person to perform wonders.

Dreams can perform wonders for anyone, including you. But there is one condition: you must demonstrate commitment and integrity. When Singapore got independence in 1965, not many gave them a chance of survival as a nation. It is the power of visioning backed by leaders of integrity that propelled it to one of the top 20 economies.

Commitment

We have seen that dreams are dangerous, sometimes. They don't get realized on a platter of gold. Before you can realize your vision, you must show sufficient commitment. You must persevere. You must do things that are consistent with your desire to realize your dream. You must remain focused. You must stick it out, come rain or shine. You have to stay with it. Commitment means that once you have decided on what you want to do, or where you want to go, you don't waver in your ambition or approach. Let me illustrate with an example of someone who was not committed to what he decided to do and the consequences he reaped.

I am talking about Mallam Musa, who took his father's advice to get married. Two days after the wedding, he was still admiring a number of girls and wondering if he had made the right choice. The worst was still to come. He was driving one day along a street, and he saw a girl he really thought was a dashing beauty. He kept looking at the girl through the rear mirror of the car, and before he knew it, he had crashed into an electric pole. He died on the spot. The wages of non-commitment can be disastrous.

Musa should not have allowed himself to be rushed into taking such a major decision in his life. He should have planned very well, considered all the potential damsels, before making his final choice. Once that choice was made, he needed to be focused and committed to his marriage, avoiding all distractions in a disciplined manner. Because he lacked disciplined commitment, see where he ended up. This can happen to a business, a government or an individual.

Integrity

Integrity can be explained in many ways. I prefer to define it as being consistent and true to oneself, and doing as you say. For instance, if you have a family vision of bringing up well-educated children and retiring in a nice personal house, you cannot be stingy with funds when it comes to sending your children to a good school. You cannot be squandering your resources on women and wasting your life at drinking joints. You cannot be ignoring your wife, a partner to the vision, when she reminds you of what you should be doing. Your life style is not consistent with the declared vision. You are telling lies. You are not doing as you have declared. Your vision is in danger. This simple truth is applicable to individual visions, business visions and the visions of nations. A nation with a vision to be one of the top 20 economies by the year 2020 which its leaders consistently steal over 70% of its budget allocations year-in-year-out, has no integrity and is doomed to fail. This is not a curse. It is not rocket science. It is a natural truth.

Sharing Your Dream

You must share your dream with stakeholders and people who can help you. Your spouse, for example, can be quite helpful. Sometimes he or she may even be in a position to participate in the dream. The people you employ must share your dreams. You can ensure this through good communication and involvement. They should know the plans, objectives and goals which you want to achieve. They can even participate in shaping the objectives and goals. When they participate in this manner, they too will become committed to the dream because they develop a sense of ownership. It becomes "our vision" and this is a powerful element.

It is Never Late to Have a Dream

Some people think that for them, a new business or a dream or a vision of any nature is late. That is balderdash. Absolute bunkum. You can dream at any age. It is never late at any time or any age. This is true for individuals, organizations and nations.

Again, those who are in business but who have been operating aimlessly without a dream or without commitment think that it is too late to begin the practice. I say no. It is, indeed, the time for you to start having a dream. Thank God that you did not crash to death like Musa in our story, before knowing the importance of having a dream and a disciplined commitment to the dream. A vision gives you a sense of direction to life, a sense of discipline to life and a sense of energy to life (Brott, 2009:14). A person or an organization (even a nation) is not worth much. For a vision to succeed, it must be clear, inherently consistent and its formulators and implementers must have commitment and integrity.

Mission Statement

What is a Mission Statement? According to Evans (2010), a mission statement:

- Defines the present state or purpose of an organization;
- Answers three questions about why an organization exists -
 - WHAT it does;
 - WHO it does it for; and
 - HOW it does what it does.
- Is written succinctly in the form of a sentence or two, but for a shorter timeframe (one to three years) than a Vision statement; and,
- Is something that all employees should be able to articulate upon request.

The Mission Statement concentrates on the present. It defines the customer(s), critical processes as well as offer information about the desired level of performance (Diffen.com, n.d.).

An understanding of the Mission gives employees a better perspective of how their job contributes to its achievement. This tends to increase engagement, retention, and productivity.

A clearly defined Mission statement also helps employees better understand things like company-wide decisions, organizational changes, and resource allocation, thereby lessening resistance and workplace conflicts.

Vision Statement

The Vision Statement has a futuristic focus. It is an ambitious, inspirational and motivational statement. Often times, it describes the future of the organization as well as the future role of the organization in its industry or society and what the organization hopes to change (Diffen.com, n.d.).

According to Evans (op. cit.), a Vision Statement:

- Defines the optimal desired future state - the mental picture - of what an organization wants to achieve over time;
- Provides guidance and inspiration as to what an organization is focused on achieving in five, ten, or more years;
- Functions as the "north star" - it is what all employees understand their work every day ultimately contributes towards accomplishing over the long term; and,
- Is written succinctly in an inspirational manner that makes it easy for all employees to repeat it at any given time.

Evans highlights that leaders of an organization may change, but a clearly established vision encourages people to focus on what is important and gives them a better understanding of organization-wide change and alignment of resources.

For organizations and nation-states, one is concerned about a strategic vision. This can be defined as an ambitious plan of the future being of the organization or nation that everyone believes in but which is not easily attainable, but which offers a better state of existence and better state of affairs in many important ways that currently exist. (m.YouTube.com; April, 2012).

Differences between Mission and Vision Statements

In simple terms, the Mission statement defines the reason for the existence of an organization while the Vision statement defines where the organization is going. In other words, Mission is about the present while the Vision is about the future.

Creating a Vision

So, what essentially is a vision and how do we create a vision? There are a few management techniques which can be taken "off the shelf" and applied to the organization (Connock, 1991:24). These include Job Evaluation techniques, Management by Objectives (MBO) and even Total Quality Management (TQM). Visioning is not one of those. It has to be generated from within through the process which reflects, fundamentally, the unique circumstances of the organisation that wishes to embark on visioning.

Hussey (1995: 51) defines it as "a coherent view of the future that forms an over-arching objective for the organisation". I call it the undistorted and clear view of what you want to be.

In an attempt to explain what a vision is and its motivating nature, Mr. Gorbachev had this to say:

So if you can see this lofty goal, a shining temple on a green hill, then the heaviest stones are light, the most exhausting work a pleasure.

A vision, as Anita Roddick is reputed to have said, is "something you see and others don't. Someone would say that's a pocket definition of lunacy. But it also defines entrepreneurial spirit". Clarke (1994:126) adds that the visionary can easily be accused of being crazy and sometimes is, but it is people with such compelling dreams that create success and make things happen. The new paragon of an executive, according to one time editor of *Fortune Magazine*, is a person who can envision a future for his organisation and then inspire his colleagues to join in building that future (See Clarke, 1994:125).

How to Identify a Vision

If you were to create a defined future capable of mobilizing all your resources to carry you successfully to that desired state, the following actions are necessary:

1. Review current strategies

2. Reappraise future opportunities and threats in your circumstances.
3. Define your Critical Success Factors (CSFs).
4. Map out a strategy for achieving the desired state.
5. Identify and critically assess the emerging vision and the strategies with key executives.
6. Define your performance indicators as a basis for judging progress over time.

In carrying out this important task, the SWOT Analysis (assessing and analyzing your Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats is a desirable exercise).

Important Questions for Vision Formulation

A management desirous of creating an effective vision should seek answers to the following questions identified by Connock (1991:25) and Hussey (1995:6970):

1. Where are we now?
2. What are the problems?
3. Where do we need to be?
4. What will it look like?
5. How can we change?
6. What are the suitable techniques?
7. When should we measure results?
8. How can we do it?
9. Is the vision credible?
10. Is it challenging?
11. Does it have internal integrity?
12. Is it clear?
13. How does the vision relate to the past, present and the future?
14. Do you believe in the vision?

In order for a vision to work, the day-to-day actions of everyone in the organisation must be in consonance with and reinforce the vision. Furthermore, the implications of the vision should be thoroughly thought through; and the vision must be translated into strategies and actions.

Visioning as an Instrument for Fundamental Change

If the desired future state is not fundamental, all the trouble that we have to undergo to carry out a vision would be a colossal waste. Hussey has developed an approach for understanding the basic stages and requirements of the visioning process. It goes by the acronym termed "EASIER". The full meaning is as follows:

Envisioning: This is the stage of formulating a vision. It calls for a clear definition of the vision or the dream. Hussey warns that not all dreams are good ones. Some can be nightmares. This timely warning is meant to encourage managers to ask searching questions so as to arrive at what can be regarded as credible, realistic and workable visions.

Activating: After the vision has been formulated, it remains mere paper work except it is activated. The task of activating involves ensuring that all persons in the organisation understand, support and share the vision. The vision must be carefully communicated and explained to all. There should be a sustained campaign to ensure acceptance and commitment.

Supporting: Top management must support the visioning programme as well as provide a conducive environment for all other staff. Inspiring and supportive leaders can make a world of difference in taking followers to greater achievements. But, as Hussey states,

There is a danger when the person leading the change (vision) lacks integrity or is insincere. Pretending to give encouragement, when it is clear that the leader does not really care and is merely performing a ritual, is likely to be counterproductive. Support works when it is built on a base of respect, trust and integrity: it fails when these essentials are lacking (Hussey, 1995:57).

Implementing and Involving: Ensure that all the consequences of the vision process are understood, identify all actions that have to be taken - the persons and teams to take them, establish goals and prioritize. Take action. Do something. Just start, and aim at the vision always.

Ensuring: This aspect has to do with monitoring and controlling to ensure that the organisation is not keeping out of step with the grand vision. Ensuring involves comparing results with plans, taking actions on time and ascertaining that plans are still appropriate at every stage.

Recognising and Rewarding: Those involved in Implementing the vision must be recognised whenever they achieve targets. This helps to reinforce desirable behaviour. Public recognition in addition to other forms of reward can be quite helpful.

Organisations that have a properly articulated and communicated common vision and shared values have been found to be highly successful even in difficult situations. It is, therefore, desirable for every institution and every country to have a dream backed by a sincere leadership. As pointed out by Creech (1994:341), when the vision includes the power of the human spirit and the entire management system is based on it, success is sure to ensue.

Articulating a Vision

The importance of articulating a vision cannot be overemphasized. According to Flanagan and Finger (2003, p.302),

“It is so easy for an organization to busy itself with daily activities that it can become oblivious to its future, without reflecting or envisaging what can happen, without a vision or a sense of direction. Your

organization may be active in the short term; but, without a vision of the future, it will lose direction, purpose, and control – those essential ingredients for success in the long term”.

To articulate the vision for your organization and link its values, purposes and mission, Flanagan and Finger (2003); Bennis and Nanus (in Flanagan and Finger, 2003) and Collins and Porras (in Flanagan and Finger, 2003) have suggested the following ways:

1. **Putting the vision in context:** Visions are not ready made products to be picked from the shelf for use. Each situation and context demands a specific shape of a vision. The circumstances of the individual organization have to be taken into account in the visioning process.
2. **Understanding the core values:** A decision on the core values of the organization needs to be taken and communicated. Core values are important as they define what the organization may do as well as how.
3. **Understanding the core purpose:** This is the organization’s reason for being or its *raison d’etre*.
4. **Picturing the desired future (or mission):** This refers to a clear, compelling, unifying and enduring statement that you believe distinguishes your organization from others, a catalyst for team spirit.
5. **Isolation of core values:** Only a few values can be considered as core to the organization. This includes those values that define what the organization stands for, and are likely to have meaning and inspiration to the organization.
6. **Articulate your vision:** “Now is the time to paint a larger picture with words by bringing together all your reflections about core values, purpose, and the desired future to create the vision – the big picture. As it describes what it will be like to achieve the mission, the description should attempt to be vibrant and energizing and capable of arousing passion and emotion” (Flanagan & Finger, 2003, p. 302).

Customer Focused Vision

It is important to ensure that all the thinking and activities behind the visioning process are customer-focused. Whatever you are doing as a vision must be customer-focused (*Every Manager’s Desk Reference*, 2002, p.1112). Customers in this context is used in a broad sense to describe those whom the organization impacts and who, on the other hand, have legitimate expectations from the organization. In this sense, traditional customers who buy the products and services of the organization should be included on the list; so should suppliers, shareholders, other investors, employees, regulatory agencies, the community and the public.

Vision Killers

Vision killers are obstacles that hinder the formulation and implementation of vision as an individual, business or a nation. Mancini (2012) has outlined a number of vision killers as follows:

1. **Busyness:** Hurry and unnecessary preoccupation which makes people live in the wrong direction.
2. **Imitation:** People's inability to discern their own dreams and visions but rather allow themselves to be influenced by other factors such as family tradition, friends, etc.
3. **Fear:** Fear of failure or ridicule breeds dreamless living.
4. **Distractions** from focus
5. **Expectations** from others

Other vision killers include:

6. Tradition
7. Stereotypes of people, conditions, roles and governing authorities.
8. Complacency of some stakeholders.
9. Fatigued leaders.
10. Short-term thinking
11. "Naysayers"

Success Factors in Strategic Visioning

A good strategic vision generally considers the past and the future, attends to the big picture and also understands the details of specific circumstances of the individual, company or nation (Olk et al., n.d.). For the successful implementation, Githens (2010) outlined the following two key success factors. These are: alignment and commitment.

1. **Alignment:** refers to consistently focusing and acting on the intended outcomes of a strategic vision. Integrity is a precursor to organizational alignment.
2. **Commitment** of Individuals: having ensured alignment, leaders must work to secure the commitment of individuals. Commitment is peoples' willingness to invest resources – and stay invested – in the face of setbacks and uncertain outcomes. Collective commitment is the aggregation of individuals and their application effort towards the strategic vision.

Other success factors outlined by "Mission Partnering Toolkit" (n.d.) include:

3. **Team leadership:** There should be someone who will assume leadership of the vision by providing guidance, instruction, direction and overall leadership to the achievement of the vision.
4. **Feedback:** information regarding the performance of the vision which should be used as a basis of improvement.
5. **Collaboration** with all stakeholders to achieve the collective vision.

Others include:

6. **Integrity:** already discussed above.
7. **Continuous involvement** by all stakeholders
8. **Communication:** There should be open communication with all stakeholders to the vision.
9. **Reward:** There should be an open reward system in place to reward individuals who have made extra-ordinary contributions to the achievement of the vision, in order to encourage other stakeholders.

Vision Enablers

Given the importance of visioning coupled with the need to encourage attempts at visioning, the author wishes to attempt a recommendation of vision enablers.

1. There is a need to adopt models to guide the visioning process. The E.A.S.I.E.R. model proposed by Hussey (op. cit.) is a good beginning. Organizations and nations may identify appropriate models to their circumstances as the need may arise.
2. As part of the visioning process, individuals, families and entities undertaking the process have to design parameters or performance indicators to measure results to foster confidence that efforts are yielding results.
3. Individuals, organizations and nations without credible visions must decide to begin the journey without further delay. Taking that first step may be just what is needed to transform your situation.
4. Whether you are an individual, a company or a nation, visioning requires discipline. It will certainly require new orientation; new ways of doing things and this has implication for capacity development for all that are involved.
5. To sustain the visioning process requires continuous self-assessment, self-retooling and retraining to continuously remain at the leading edge.
6. The ways things are done (processes) within the organization must be consciously designed and redesigned for optimum results.
7. The leadership and all stakeholders must show commitment and exhibit transparent integrity.
8. Partnerships, alliances and collaborations can be quite effective in transforming individuals, organizations and nations. These possibilities should be explored with an open mind.
9. The people are the building blocks of a vision and are the purpose of any vision. This statement holds true for individual visions as for visions of nations. The people must be central in every vision if the vision is to be sustained.
10. Visioning has implication for customers. Any person entitled to benefits in the vision process is a customer. So, if the head of a family embarks on visioning, the wife is a customer, the children and other relations that have legitimate expectations of benefits from the process. For a company, the employees, the shareholders, suppliers, etc., are

customers. For a nation, the citizens in their various interest groups as well as countries and organizations such a nation deals with are the customers. It is necessary to consider all the galaxy of customers in formulating and implementing a model for visioning.

11. A vision without strategy for implementation is like a beautiful car without an engine. A coherent strategy with plans, goals, objectives and tactics must be in place to galvanise and operationalize the vision.

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CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM, ISLAM AND VIOLENCE – WHICH IS TO BLAME?

Professor Dr Bruce Duncan*

Preamble

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Would the answer depend on an individual's default appeal to creationist thinking or evolutionary theory? However, the reality of the link between religion and violence remains a 21st century media-selling source of income and information supply.

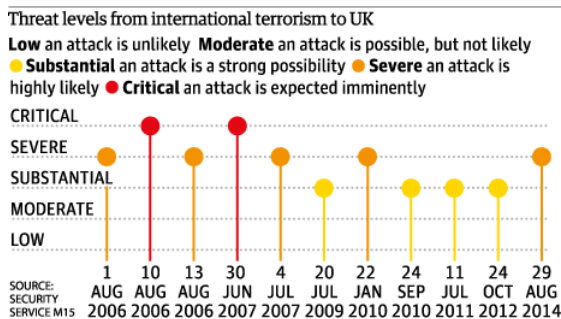
As an aside, history demonstrates that no single religious group has the copyright on violence. However, that is not the focus of this paper.

Specifically, in the light of the ripple effect of the Arab Spring (Houissa, 2014), world attention has focused mainly on the Middle East and North and West Africa. The already unstable regions east of the epicentre of the initial conflict zones also crumble in the face of violence and Islam is firmly in the crosshairs of criticism.

Globalised links form conduits carrying threats of violence also to the United Kingdom, America and other western countries where religious fervour bubbles in the hearts and minds of predominantly younger people – some of whom left their western country to join in a war that hosts protagonists from many fronts. The cycle of violence gathers supporters as it sweeps up conscripts into its cycle of destruction.

The United Kingdom has raised its security threat to "Severe" indicating, "An attack is highly likely". Terrorism is reportedly gestating in "sleeper cells" on an island of some 65, 000 000 people.

Threat levels

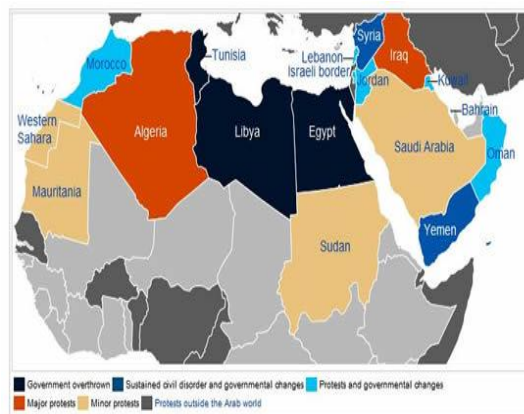


(Source: www.theguardian.com)

Violence and / or unease had infiltrated Muslim countries such as Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (National Staff,

2011). Soviet-style one-party states propped up by powerful security establishments collapsed or wobbled (Connolly, 2013); consequently some monarchical countries introduced compensatory reforms.

Nevertheless, the Jasmine Revolution's call for democratic reform and the removal of corruption continues to challenge core political, economic and nationalistic systems and beliefs; media channelled information focuses on the second largest world religion, Islam. Why?



Uprisings in Northern Africa and the Middle East (Source: English Online u.d.)

A new player has now entered the field viz. ISIS – another reported purveyor and instigator of violence and Islam's political / religious image remains under international scrutiny.

ISIS (IS)

As the attention of the world focused on Ukraine and Gaza, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) captured a third of Syria in addition to the quarter of Iraq it had seized in June [2014]. The frontiers of the new Caliphate declared by Isis on 29 June [2014] are expanding by the day and now cover an area larger than Great Britain and inhabited by at least six million people, a population larger than that of Denmark, Finland or Ireland. In a few weeks of fighting in Syria, Isis has established itself as the dominant force in the Syrian opposition, routing the official al-Qaida affiliate, Jabhat al-Nusra, in the oil-rich province of Deir Ezzor and executing its local commander as he tried to flee (Cockburn, 2014).

The new kids on the block soon established their bona fides and brand – a Caliphate. Unlike the Ghandi /

Martin Luther King approaches, the birth of ISIS, conceived in violence, grows its Islamic State objective along with Sharia Law – and violence paves the way. In so doing, viciousness continues to mark every furrow ploughed. Blood waters every pious utterance; the landscape remains dotted with decapitated bodies. Defenceless men, women, and children comprise the civilian cannon fodder that feeds the Jihadist ideal; unheeded cries cause the shell-shocked world to wake up to yet another orchestrated epiphany of violence, where in the name of Allah, violence spreads. In Britain, for example, the cries from the public demanded that United Kingdom’s Islamic leaders stand up and declare their opposition to such reported horrors – and they soon found hungry media outlets to voice their opposition to the ISIS menace along with their assurances that the self-proclaimed Caliphate was not following Islamic teaching.

Notwithstanding the barrage of condemnations against ISIS by Muslims across the globe, the maverick group continues on its chosen path. Its subtle, chilling publicity and provocative enticements invite challenge to its power and dominance – and its antagonists continue to play “catch up”.

Theistic Links to Violence

In the wake of the ISIS-led land grabbing initiatives and murderous rampages, the media continues to capture each moment and anti-Muslim propaganda has erupted – the focus being on the violence in the name of God. Alarming, however, “Islam”, means:

... submission **or** surrender to Allah
(**Pennington, 2008**).

Is Allah therefore a Shalwar Kameez, Keffiyeh dressed replicate of the Old Testament divinity who ordered horrendous genocide, murder and mayhem - the motivator of the violence?

Is the ISIS-fed tyranny a copycat revival of past Papal-fed “crusades” and biblically supported, doctrinally energised witch-hunts; Protestant inspired anti-Catholic pogroms, Zionist aspirations and 21st century water-sprinkled guns and the prayers of clergy from all sections of the Christian faith?

The writer continues to read media articles and listen to commentaries from diverse Christian sources (the pot calling the kettle ...?) – all of which have alleged that Islam and its holy book, the Quran advocate and demand violent responses by Muslims against infidels and those who propagate and advocate anti-Islamic beliefs and practices. Disconcertingly, the critics are spot on and the apologetics explaining away the facts do not address the anomalies surrounding Islam’s disturbing image.

From a global perspective, Islamic Jihadist movements number more than thirty groupings across the world (TRAC, 2014). Movements such as ISIS and the

Nigerian based Boko Haram are part of a wider, loose confederation of Muslim groups who draw attention to their commitment to the teachings of Islam’s holy book, Al Quran, Shariah Law and the Hadith. So, does Islam condone and advocate violence as instructed by their holy book, the Quran? The answer is, “Yes”.

For example, Nigeria’s notorious Boko Haram movement (circa, 2010) openly advocates violent conflict, is against “western education” and is opposed to Christianity. Its members draw from its arsenal of bombs to kill and maim civilians. Its followers continue to rape, kidnap and kill any who withstand its goal of making Northern Nigeria a Muslim State. Its formidable presence is fed by “connections to other African Islamist groups such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Somalia’s Al Shabaab, and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO)” (Schultz, 2013). The scourge of violence, sanctioned by a holy book, triumphs over the reported attempts by the Nigerian government to address the issue ... why?

Boko Haram has become something more than a terrorist group, more even than a movement. Its name has taken on an incantatory power. Fearing they will be heard and killed by Boko Haram, Nigerians refuse to say the group’s name aloud, referring instead to ‘the crisis’ or ‘the insecurity’ (Verini, 2013).

Apparently, Boko Haram’s rise to infamy grew out of the Nigerian State not addressing “bad governance, corruption, persistent economic hardship, and rising inequality” (Ibid, Schultz, 2013).

However, as we pursue our journey on the Jihadist road of infamy let the result of an American Christian-conducted survey bring more light to bear on this dark shadow of what is termed as Islamic Fundamentalism. Apparently, 70 percent of white evangelical Protestants now believe ...

Islam encourages violence more than other religions. While this number, one of the highest of any demographic group, has risen 13 percentage points since February, the beliefs of Christians from all backgrounds have shifted against Islam.

For instance, agreement among white mainline Christians has risen even more, from 36 percent in February to 54 percent in September (an increase of 18 percentage points). Agreement among Catholics has risen from 41 percent to 53 percent (12 percentage points), and among black Protestants from 35 percent to 43 percent (Lee, 2014).

The reference section at the end of this article points to a link about Islamic Fundamentalism.

However, Christianity and Judaism cannot smugly frown upon Islam because their holy writings in the Bible are equally warrior like. In similar vein, the Torah and Bible link with violence and, for those who believe in the Bible, resorting to violence to gain power and eradicate the enemy, is a deity-approved option.

The reference section at the end of this article points to a link about Christian Fundamentalism.

The egg or the chicken conundrum

Can we then accept that the religions of Islam, Judaism and Christianity per se are the instigators of violence or, the motivators behind the forces that unleash the cycle of destructive behaviours that rob, rape, kill and destroy?

Disconcertingly, we must because the recorded commands and instructions by a deity to commit violence in both the Bible and the Quran are plain for all to read (Tarico, 2014). Furthermore, there is no question of ambiguity of meaning or the possibility of misunderstanding both the instructions and methods of violence – the divinely given “How To” manuals – the books that the respective religious groups follow - are available for all to read, unpalatable as that might be.

“Number of Cruel or Violent Passages

“Bible 842

“Quran 333

“When analysing the statistics it would appear the Bible has more than twice as many cruel or violent passages as does the Quran.

“However, the Bible is a much bigger book. The results are interesting.

“Violence and Cruelty	Total	Percent
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“Bible 842	31102	2.71
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“Quran 333	6236	5.34
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“When expressed as a percentage of cruel or violent verses (at least as marked in the above sources), the Quran has about twice that of the Bible viz. 5.34 vs. 2.71%” (Ibid, Tarico, 2014).

Nevertheless, without getting into the nitty gritty of number crunching, controversial translation issues, nuances of interpretation, scribal interpolations and errors, one issue is clear – the commands to perpetrate violence in the most gruesome manner is part of the historical record and fibre of holy books.

Gott mit uns

Unsurprisingly, the motto, “GOD WITH US” formed the Imperial Russian motto (until the Bolshevik

Revolution of 1917). Therefore, the then powerful and influential Russian Orthodox Church found it easy to nest in the enclaves of a violent and despotic monarchical system with the backing of their holy book, the Bible.

All of you must be willing to obey completely those who rule over you. There are no authorities except the ones God has chosen. Those who now rule have been chosen by God. So when you oppose the authorities, you are opposing those whom God has appointed. Those who do that will be judged. If you do what is right, you won't need to be afraid of your rulers. But watch out if you do what is wrong! You don't want to be afraid of those in authority, do you? Then do what is right. The one in authority will praise you. 4 He serves God and will do you good. But if you do wrong, watch out! The ruler doesn't carry a sword for no reason at all. He serves God. And God is carrying out his anger through him. The ruler punishes anyone who does wrong” (Bible).

Adolf Hitler claimed to be a Christian and his book, Mein Kampf contains Biblical analogies and references to his Christian faith. For example, he wrote, “I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord (Hitler, 1925 / 26).

Furthermore the Fuhrer advocated that he saw his God-given task to purge society and in so doing to establish the Christian ethic.

Christianity could not content itself with building up its own altar; it was absolutely forced to undertake the destruction of the heathen altars. Only from this fanatical intolerance could its apodictic faith take form; this intolerance is, in fact, its absolute presupposition (Ibid, Hitler, 1926 / 26).

In parallel, Hitler's Storm Troops had “GOD WITH US” engraved on the buckles of their belts. Adolf Hitler's revealing work, Mein Kampf, contains many biblical passages and he appeals to Christian teaching in support of his Nationalist Socialist ideals and, of course his Christian faith.



Source: <http://www.gopixpic.com/>

It is a practice for military chaplains, serving their Lord, to use the Bible as their sword and affirm military actions – certainly with the sanction of the Bible. Cheek by jowl with this branding exercise and, in the name of their God, devout and pious men and women of religion continue to officiate at ceremonies to bless and pray for soldiers preparing to kill the enemy / die for their country.

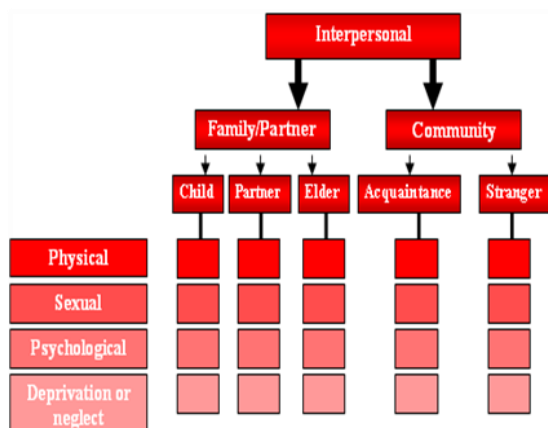
Tony Blair and George W Bush believed that their divinity told them to invade Iraq. Violence, endorsed by a divinity is commonplace but religion alone does not hold the patent.

Evolution and violence

What is violence? Evidence of violence is noted in "... genocide, war, hate crimes, rape, domestic abuse, bullying, tiffs, and spats ..." (Dess 239) and the Cambridge English Dictionary defines violence as "actions or words that are intended to hurt people".

The Violence Prevention Alliance typifies violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation" (VPA, 2014)

The Violence Prevention Alliance portrays its approach on the hierarchical graphic illustrated in the interpersonal relationships outline – an eminently sensible approach, is it not?

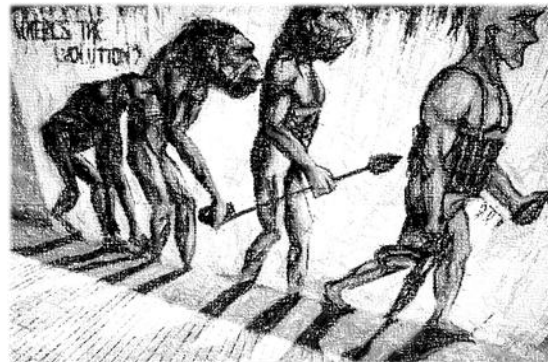


Source: VPA (2014)

Violence is evolutionary evidenced behaviour that has not changed since hunter-gatherer societies evolved into agrarian and subsequent lifestyles.

The skeins of violence remain deeply embedded in literature, recorded history and nature. Religion, therefore, is but the cloth that shines the lamp and causes the genie of violence to deploy its destructive purposes.

The root of violence lies within each of us ... it is part of our psychological DNA. After all, we have had, since time immemorial, a propensity towards behaviours that are destructive, have we not? Whilst violence presents in different hues and situations, it is an endowed ubiquitous, omnipresent and endemic construct.



Source: www.al-monitor.com

Evolutionary psychology

Therefore, from the perspective of evolutionary psychology, aggressive impulses and violent behaviours are part of the human behavioural repertoire.

Amongst hominids, as in the social behaviour of other primates, [and] in addition to violent actions directed at potential predators, such behaviours sometimes occur between conspecifics (Bloom & Dress, 2003).

The violence genie escapes the bottle when given conditions are in place viz.

- Within a band (especially in the context of behaviours that establish and maintain social dominance)
- Within group bonding usually inhibits violent outcomes from aggressive interactions
- In contrast, between group competition seems more likely to lead to a violent attack
- On the one hand, aggressors may seek to deprive members of another band of access to crucial resources; on the other, individuals - and especially high-status males - sometimes respond to between-group threat with what has been classified as kin-based altruism
- In short, from the perspective of evolutionary psychology, violent behaviour is an element in the human repertoire that is normally inhibited within bonded groups but more likely to occur when directed to external threats to families or communities (Ibid, Bloom & Dress, 2003)

To blame or not to blame – is not the question

So, which comes first, the chicken or the egg? Evolutionary psychology (and history) confirms that violence is part of nature's amazing endowment. The violence genie is within the psyche of every primate and present in nature itself.

Understandably, the writers of the holy books allowed the shadows of their violent genie to filter through to the papyrus; animal skin and vellum parchments ultimately to feed Gutenberg's genius and holy books carried the seeds of violence into the printed word.

The result is plain for all to see. The inborn trait (the genie of violence) in true Pavlov conditioned style, responds to the conditioned reflex of the written word and voila – violence. Modern day people are only perpetuating that which could relate (in measure) to Herbert Spencer's insightful phrase, the "survival of the fittest" (Philosophy, 2014).

Religion, fed by its specific divine source, has never addressed violence – a divided house cannot make progress. On the contrary, religion has been the efficient and effective channels to advance the evolutionary-fed genie of violence. It is paradoxical that religion advocates "peace and goodwill" but in parallel adds divine blessings to further conflict. The religious have eaten the leaven of the written word and digested thereby the innate calorific quota of violence.

An answer

Is it possible that humanism offers a way forward? As a road to renewal, then, humanist philosophy offers the following path:

Humanistic psychology is the psychological approach that states that the human is the most important thing, more important than the complex, the disorder, the behaviour, or the environment. It seeks to help people live better lives through practical therapeutic measures.

Humanistic psychology has its origins in existential philosophy. Believing that the universe is inherently meaningless, existentialists see themselves as ultimately free creatures able to define their own personally meaningful destinies.

Abraham Maslow attempted to explain human motivation from the standpoint that all people are looking to achieve "self-actualization". There is an entire hierarchy of needs that have to be fulfilled in order to reach that stage however.

Rollo May's existential psychology attempted to help people come to terms with the "meaninglessness" of life, reframing this "problem" as a profound state of individual freedom, free from the constraints of fate.

Carl Rogers' approach to therapy was to allow clients to direct their own recovery through the principle of "unconditional positive regard".

(Humanistic Approach, 2014).

Conclusion

Religion rests in the hands of the religious – each feeds from the cyclical relationship with the other. The words, written by individuals, impregnated with evolutionary skeins of violence customised the deity's image – and the cycle of violence continues.

The answer, then, is to refrain from displacing blame on religion / using religion as a reason, and to "know thyself" and then "manage thyself". In so doing, we might contribute to the lessening of violence and be able to create dialogue with those who, blinded by illogical and unproven theological assumptions about divine inspiration, irresponsibly follow textual lead soldiers to advance the kingdom of irreversible violence.

Viva, CHANGE!

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US INVASION OF IRAQ – REASONS

Dr Kemal Yildirim*

ABSTRACT

I shall concentrate on the reasons of US invasion of Iraq during early 2003 and shall also review the consequences of war in the light of contemporary environment in the post-Invasion Iraq. Iraq invaded on March 20, 2003 by US Troops, meanwhile US forces were supported and joined by coalition forces of many countries like United Kingdom, Austria, South Korea and Poland and Iraqi forces were quickly overwhelmed as US forces swept through the country. The invasion led to the collapse of the Ba'athist government; Saddam was captured in December 2003 and executed by a military court three years later.

US administration also termed this operation as 'Operation Iraqi Freedom'. The conflict, however, continued for much of the next decade as an insurgency emerged to oppose the occupying forces and the post-invasion Iraqi government.¹ The coalition forces defeated Iraqi military after facing a fair resistance for almost three weeks. Baghdad fell on April 09, 2003 and US declared the end of a major combat and removal of Saddam Hussein from office. It was end of US invasion of Iraq then but it was the beginning of what is now termed as 'Iraq War'. Although, US managed to capture Saddam on December 13, 2003 but US has never managed to gain control of Iraq. A guerrilla war began within Iraq soon after the fall of Saddam Hussein and with the death toll of American soldiers rising with every passing day in Iraq, it would be appropriate to reconsider the questions that what were the main reasons of US Invasion of Iraq? Has US really made any achievement on her objectives? What are the consequences of Iraq war in the region and the world in general and for US in particular?

INTRODUCTION

Causes of Invasion of Iraq

I think there we can categorize three important informal groups within the Bush Administration that were anxious to invade Iraq, although certain individuals belonged to more than one group. These groups were

1) War profiteers

There are also huge economic profits with political interests to be made in the reconstruction industry, which moves in to

rebuild what war has destroyed. I think War is great for business.

2) Neo-conservative ideologues

Neo-conservatives wanted to overthrow Saddam Hussein in 1998 because it was "almost certain" that he would "acquire the capability to deliver weapons of mass destruction", thus putting at risk American troops, Israel, moderate Arab states "and a significant portion of the world's supply of oil." Sure enough, five years later, when the neo-conservatives got their invasion and Iraq was descending into chaos and looting, US troops made a beeline to secure its oil facilities.

3) Supporters of Israel

Saddam Hussein was not involved in anti-American terrorism, but he was a supporter of anti-Israeli terrorists. He hated Jews and he wanted Israel destroyed. On the other hand, I remember that Bush, who in 1991 told Queen Elizabeth that he was "the black sheep" in his family, wanted to show his father that he could do something his father had failed to do: take out Saddam Hussein.

Bush administration thinks that they would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect, rule Iraq. The coalition would instantly have collapsed, the Arabs deserting it in anger and other allies pulling out as well. Under the circumstances, there was no viable 'exit strategy' they could see, violating another of their principles.

US invaded Iraq against the consent of world community hence violating international Law and breaking the UN Charter. Although, the war against Iraq was an illegitimate act even then US needed to justify the war. Hence, "the stated justification for the invasion included Iraqi production and use of weapons of mass destruction, alleged links with terrorist organizations, and human rights violation in Iraq under the Saddam Hussein government. Bush and his cabinet repeatedly linked the Saddam Hussein government to the September 11th attacks, despite the fact that there was no convincing evidence of Hussein's involvement."²

All these reasons had been given to create a situation where Bush Administration presented Iraq as a future

¹ "Iraq War". *Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved 27 October 2012.

² 2003 Invasion of Iraq, Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_invasion_of_Iraq

threat for the security of United States; hence US needed to act in a per-emptive manner in order to destroy a future threat in the form of Iraq. Subsequently, Bush Administration continued to beat the same rhetoric of Iraq having the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and when Saddam Hussein finally refused to allow the UN weapons inspectors to enter into Iraq for the purpose of inspection, the Bush Administration declared that Saddam Hussein was a tyrant and hence must be removed.

President Bush himself mentioned in his State of the Union address that Saddam, “the dictator who is assembling the world’s most dangerous weapons has already used them on whole villages leaving thousands of his own citizens dead, blind or disfigured... I have a message for the brave and oppressed people of Iraq that your enemy is not surrounding your country; your enemy is ruling your country. And the day he and his reign are removed from the power will be the day of your liberation.”³

“Therefore, the two most important stated goals of invasion, according to US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, were

- To find and eliminate weapons of Mass Destruction, weapons programs and terrorist;
- To end the Saddam Hussein government and help Iraq’s transition to democratic self rule.”⁴

Besides this, there were many subsequent goals of invasion stated by US himself, which included humanitarian and some other goals, such as, to end sanctions against Iraq and to deliver humanitarian support to the Iraqi people and furthermore; to secure Iraq’s oil fields and other resources.

“The opponents of Iraq war argued that the given justifications or the rationale of invasion of Iraq was untrue and US had actually some clandestine vested interest primarily, for which US actually invaded Iraq. These critics of war asserted that these US interests were to gain control over the region’s hydrocarbon reserves as US depend on it, to lower the price of oil for American consumers and lastly, in doing so, to channel money to defense and construction interests.”⁵

“Some argue that Iraq war was actually a “Resource War”. They argue that at sometime in the future the supplies of oil would reach their peak and as the world economy and human survival is based upon the fossil fuels, the world today needs to take some drastic steps in order to cope with the future oil shortage problems. According to them, the US policy-makers were fully aware of this fact and what they actually decided in the end was not to cut oil consumption by making major lifestyle changes but to use military to maintain control

over oil in the Middle East. Hence, the main objective of Iraq war was to control the Middle East by the military to maintain access to the oil reserves in the Middle East”.⁶

Political Aspects of US Invasion of Iraq

Besides all the stated goals and justification for war given by US and other critics of Iraq War around the world, there were certain political aspects in the background of Iraq war, which became the ultimate reasons for US decision to actually attack Iraq, even unilaterally, without the support of the world.

“Firstly, on October 11, 2002, the United States Congress authorized the US president Bush to attack Iraq if Saddam Hussein did not give up his Weapons of Mass Destruction. Secondly, on November 9, 2002, at the urging of United States government, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1441, offering Iraq a last chance to comply with its disarmament obligations and it reasserted demands that UN weapons inspectors that were to report back to the UN Security Council after their inspection should have immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to sites of their choosing in order to ascertain compliance.

Following these developments, Saddam Hussein did not allow the UN inspectors to get into certain sites maintained that Iraq had already disarmed itself as required by the UN Resolution 1441. Taking this rejection by Iraq into account, Bush demanded that Saddam with his two sons leave Iraq, giving them 48 hours deadline, which was obviously rejected by Saddam and they maintained that there were no weapons of mass destruction present in Iraq.

At this time, the UN weapons inspectors headed by Hans Blix, were present there in Iraq and they demanded some more time to complete their report on whether Iraq had complied with its obligations to disarm. Previously the UN weapons inspectors had already reported that they failed to trace any substantive evidence that Iraq actually acquired weapons of mass destruction after these had been destroyed after first Gulf War in 1991.

Thirdly, “the attempt of United Kingdom and United States to obtain a further Resolution authorizing force failed”. Fourthly, “the election of George W. Bush to the presidency returned to government many officials from his father’s administration who had favored removing Saddam Hussein from power in the first Gulf war. And lastly, after the 9/11 attacks, US moved toward a doctrine of first strike, pre-emptive war to eliminate threats to national security. Thus allowing US administration to frame more hawkish policies against Iraq”.⁷

³ *War Rationales and Debates*, Retrieved

⁴ *2003 Invasion of Iraq*, Retrieved From/

⁵ Internet link

http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/2003_invasion_of_iraq

⁶ M. Gasling, (2005), *US Invasion of Iraq was a Resource War*, Common Dreams News Center, Retrieved From/

⁷ *Persian Gulf Wars*, *Guardian Unlimited*, Retrieved

From/<http://print.infoplease.com/ceb/history/A0638511.html>

All these aspects combinedly formed such a prelude and political background for US to ultimately taking decision to invade Iraq and removing Saddam from power. These sequential events actually triggered the war and in such politically hostile environment, the Iraq war seemed inevitable for US administration that had already decided to destruct all the security threats through pre-emptive strike. However, the core reason and the major point of contention between US and Iraq remained the alleged presence of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

The term *Weapons of Mass Destruction* has been in currency since at least 1937, when it was used to describe massed formations of bomber aircraft. So the United States alleged Iraq that it had large stockpiles of Weapons of Mass Destruction such as chemical and biological weapons and Iraq was also trying to acquire the Ballistic Missiles. The US intelligence agency CIA, reported that Saddam Hussein was building up capabilities to acquire Ballistic Missiles and furthermore, the capabilities to acquire nuclear weapons ultimately. Thus, US administration concluded that Iraq was emerging as a potential future threat to world in general and America in particular. Bush included Iraq into the category of “Rogue States” and declared Iraq as a part of “Axis of Evil” along with Iran and North Korea.

All the intelligence proved to be faulty in the end as US has failed to find any WMD in Iraq. “Intelligence is meant to inform government decision-making, not to justify predetermined political decisions. The conduct of Bush and Blair administrations of Iraq has severely damaged the credibility of their governments, their intelligence assessments, and their leadership on other global issues”.⁸ “There is a good reason why troops had not found WMD or proscribed missiles-the bulk of them and their associated facilities were almost destroyed by the United Nations or Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War”.⁹

“On close examination, some of the statements about Saddam and his WMD made by President George W. Bush and his top lieutenants in the months leading up to the Iraq war included qualifiers or nuances. But the effect, and the intent was to convince most Americans that Saddam presented a clear and present danger and had to be removed by going to war¹⁰ Moreover, US failed to uncover any substantive links between Saddam Hussein and terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda.

⁸ D. G. Kimball, *Iraq's WMD: Myth and Reality*, Arms Control Today, September 2003.

⁹ F. R. Cleminson, *What Happened to Saddam's Weapons of Mass Destruction?*, Arms Control Today, September 2003

¹⁰ E. Thomas, R. Wolffe & M. Isikoff, *(Over) Selling the World on War*, Newsweek, June 9, 2003

The Real Outcome of the Iraqi War and Armed Opposition

America's ability to achieve successful goal remains highly uncertain. Because US and Iraqi forces scored impressive tactical victories against the insurgents in Iraq from 2005-2009. US gained initial victory when US-led coalition forces defeated Iraqi army, removed and then ultimately captured Saddam Hussein, but this initial victory of US was followed by an armed resistance in Iraq, against the occupation forces by Islamic insurgents, the US hawks and policy-makers could not foresee the situation in which US has indulged itself. After the fall of Baghdad, US forces started an operation against the members of Baath Party and family of Saddam Hussein and successfully captured Saddam and killed many of his close comrades.

Political Instability and Social Integration in Iraq

Iraq is highly diversified country: ethnically, religiously, socially, and culturally. The process of social integration that took place during the Royal regime as well as during the seventies (with help of Oil bonanza), gave way in the eighties to policies of domination and suppression thus reversing the previous trend. Mainstream Arab Nationalism gave way to religiosity and sectarianism. Iraq of today faces a crisis of identity.

Following the fall of Baghdad the first problem, US led coalition forces faced in Iraq was that of lawlessness, looting, and robbery and over all environments of disorder and chaos. To control the situation, specialists had been called upon from Washington, “the occupation forces established the military occupation and it was run by Coalitional Provisional Authority, which later granted limited powers to an Iraqi interim governing council. In June 2004, these two bodies were disbanded and a transitional constitution was formulated.

The first post Saddam prime minister of Iraq, Iyad Allawi, was selected to lead the governing council of Iraqi interim government. But this interim government was removed as a result of January 2005 elections, and new leaders were selected as Jalal Talabani the president and Ibrahim Al Jaffri as prime minister”¹¹

Despite all these US efforts to politically stabilize Iraq and to achieve a certain government, which is formed with the consent and agreement of all the parties in Iraq, US has failed at large to bring stability in Iraq. Many Islamist and insurgent groups considered the established government as puppet one, which had no writ or influence in the country and was unable to control the chaotic situation and to maintain law and order in the country.

¹¹ Post-Invasion Iraq, 2003-2005, Retrieved From/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Iraq

Religious and political divisions between the majority Shi'ite population and the formally ruling Sunni class complicated the establishment of new civilian government of Iraq. In Northern Iraq, Kurds had already established autonomous rule for twelve years under the protection of the no fly zone. The Shi'ite and Sunni militants groups began to struggle for acquiring power in the country and Kurds established an autonomous state in the north of Iraq. "Despite the defeat of the old Iraqi army, guerilla attacks against the collation and the Iraqi transitional government continued. Early on, the insurgents conducted sniper attackers, suicide bombing and ambush, resulting the killing of number of Britain soldiers and US every month. The insurgency can easily characterized as guerilla war and it consisted of many groups such as foreign terrorist, criminals, looters; Iranian backed Shi'ite radicals and supporters of former Saddam Hussein regime"¹²

The major tactics being used by the insurgents are to attack the civilians, infrastructure, Iraqi police and US collation troops. They also destroy the oil refineries and oil pipelines hence they have slowed down the process of reconstruction and rebuilding of Iraq. The main groups involved in the armed opposition to US forces include Muqtada-al-Sadr, who is the commander of largest Shi'ite majority group, which fight both with America and with the Sunni supporters of Saddam Hussein.

With the death toll now increasing in Iraq with every passing day, the American people have become more concerned about the uncovering of the ground realities, myths and stories told to them by Bush about the Iraq war. As one US writer and analyst describes Iraq War in these words, "one of the most controlled metaphors in our foreign policy is that a nation is a person. It is used hundreds of times a day, every time the nation of Iraq is conceptualized in terms of a single person, Saddam Hussein. The war, we are told is not being waged against the Iraqi people but only against this person. Ordinary American citizen are using this metaphor when they say things like, Saddam is a tyrant. He must be stopped. What the metaphor hides, of course, is that the 3000 bombs to be dropped in the first two days will not be dropped on that one person"¹³

Saddam Hussein spoke about Arab nationalism, he was promoting himself as a custodian of the whole Arab nation. I think nowadays, Arab nationalism is a mere synonym for cultural identity. But this identity is in a crisis, not only in Iraq but throughout the whole Arab world.

Consequently Iraqi is a failed state, and the Iraqi are so divided that rendered them incapable of salvaging the country. However, Neighboring countries have an interest in maintaining Iraq unity such as Turkey to prevent establishment of an independent Kurdish state

in the northern Iraq or though for different reasons. I believe American role is becoming ever more important, but they need to adopt a different approach, name that to engage all regional forces in an attempt to create in regional order, thus putting an end to the ever continuous vicious circle of war in the area.

Political Islam in a country divide on sectarian basis will be divisive force. Meanwhile Secularism has long tradition in Iraqi history, and most political parties were secular and Most of the Secular forces were among the casualties of the American occupation of Iraq, while sectarian parties were backed by some neighboring countries, the secular were the victims of sectarian polarization.

Kosovo as a precedent, if Europe helps them, Iraq may have a better Political Instability and social integration

Effects of Extended Consequences

In a broader perspective, the consequences of Iraq war can be divided into three broad categories, consequences for world at large, for Iraq itself and for America in particular. The consequences for US and Iraq both have already been discussed; this paper focuses on the explanation of consequences of Iraq war for US and for the world in general.

As the Iraq invasion was part of US war on terror campaign and it aimed at curbing the terrorism and terrorist networks but the war substantially failed to achieve the stated targets. Despite the positive effects, the war had negative effects on the war on terror campaign. The war has invoked a much greater feeling of hatred for America, particularly in the Muslim world, from where the young Muslims join Islamist organization in the name of Jihad and conduct so called terrorist activities against the west and America.

The Iraq war has proved costly for America, as it has taken much more time and economy then that was initially estimated. US trade deficit increased after the war and continue to increase till 2005-2006, US also suffered heavy losses in terms of life and property during the course of war and in fact the whole extended period of guerilla war, too, up till now.

"Moreover, the failure to find dramatic evidence of Iraq WMD has spurred widespread debate in the Middle East about the real purpose of the real war, which most Arab commentators now see as a bid by US to consolidate its regional and global hegemony. US threats against Iran and Syria play in to the fear, increasing a general determination to resist"¹⁴

¹² Post-Invasion Iraq, 2003-2005, Retrieved From/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Iraq

¹³ Retrieved From/ www.alternet.org/story/15414/28k

¹⁴ M. Lynch, *Taking Arabs Seriously*, Foreign Affairs, September/October 2003.

Conclusion

Iraq was diplomatically and militarily weak, and constantly tried to find a balance between conflicting pressures from the US and Iran. Iraq has tried to walk the line between the two competitors, preventing a major rift with either nation. Meanwhile Iraq needed trade and cross-border support from Iran, just as it needed aid, diplomatic, and military support from the US I think . Iraq's much-reduced military capabilities thus made it dependent on aid, military sales, and training from the United States, and Iraq thus lacked the resources and cohesion to resist against Iranian coercion and to defend against Iranian aggression.

Meanwhile America waged a war against Iraq, which is not legitimate by any standards of International law and UN charter. The war demonstrates clearly that being a sole super power America does not care for the common interest of the world community and does not bother to maintain international peace and security against her own self interest. America by-passed the UN and behaved in a unilateral manner to achieve her own objectives. The justification given by America for the war proved to be vague and wrong in the end as America has not found any substantive traces of WMD in Iraq and the world also discovers that there were no links between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda, the terrorist organization. Therefore, the main causes of Iraq War were the vested American interests and the war could have grave consequences for the region in general and America in particular. . it is likely that Iraq's future alignments will depend only on whether its leaders can become unified enough to move the nation forward, or continue to drag it down into new ethnic and sectarian tensions and the status of a failed state.

I think especially nowadays, All Iraq's leaders face critical choices regarding internal violence, deficiencies in government oversight and corruption, regional and international politics, and how to reshape and modernize their governance, economy, and security forces. They have so far consistently acted to seek or preserve power, rather than to serve their nation.

Although Saddam Hussein did not use weapons of mass destruction nor set any fire to Iraq's oil fields nor attack Israel with rockets, and though the conflict was relatively short, the war has had many serious results ranging from death and destruction in Iraq to regional instability to a weakened world economy. I think I remember Saddam allowed inspectors into Iraq who, contrary to the usual rhetoric, were hardly obstructed in their work and opposed the war Finally, much in the historical debate about Iraq mirrors the current policy debate about US options vis-à-vis the Iranian nuclear program because a war against Iran was the "least bad while the cost of a preventive war against Iran is small relative to the effect of Iran's nuclearization. United States possessed in dealing even with a non-nuclear Iran and the robustness of the US and Israeli

nuclear deterrents, the effect of Iranian nuclearization relatively became rather low when compared with the costs of a strike. A preventive war against Iran was therefore not a desirable option.

On the other hand, Saddam Hussein also wanted to rise to the status of a modern Saladin, which could be achieved by successfully standing his ground against the 'crusader states'. For the Iraqi leader, however, there were real dividends to be gained by letting his enemies believe he possessed WMD. And if the US was a mere 'paper tiger' Saddam could achieve becoming the undisputed leading figure of the Arab world by not giving in to the crusaders. Saddam did not know for sure what type of opposition he would ever face... However, Saddam might have thought that the US was rather soft, that they would give in to Franco-Russian pressure and therefore refrain from going to war. To sum up, it could be said that the US led the invasion of Iraq in 2003 for reasons ranging from relatively small practical considerations stemming from 9/11, namely disrupting terrorist organisations and their potential arming with WMD by Saddam Hussein, to the far reaching strategic masterstrokes of an act of deterrence, controlling the energy reserves of that country and transforming the entire Middle East (Toensing, 2007).

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- *Frontiers of Democracy, Scales of Justice*
- *Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Human Rights*
- *Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Justice*
- *Media, Democracy and Public Sphere*
- *Sustainability and Intergenerationality*

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EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BIO-DIGESTER PROGRAM IN CAMBODIA

Mr Kreng Sam Ath* (Kampong Chhnang Department of Agriculture)

Dr Serey Mardy* (Svay Rieng University)

Abstract

Presently, the rise in fuel prices, along with those of the commodity, has adversely affected the income and the livelihood of farmers. The factor pushes the government, local NGOs, international NGOs and other agencies to seek other sources of energy for farmers to substitute the increasingly expensive fuel, and the sources are as follows: oil reserve exploration, cassava energy tapping, solar panel and bio-digester. Among these, bio-digester installation is a good method, which will be extended by a national program in order for the farmers to substitute the existing energy and to conserve the environment. The study on bio-digester in Cambodia is carried out to analyze the effectiveness of implementation of bio-digester program in Cambodia. The result showed that, Kampong Chhnang province's farmers did not participate in bio-digester install who got information of bio-digester installed had 83.33%, Kandal province 68.42%, Kampong Cham province 9.83% and Takeo province 97.26%. But the reason why farmers didn't want to participate the bio-digester install, because, they have no enough money to install, they have no enough animals (fresh dung), some farmers misunderstand about advantages of biogas using and they think , they have enough firewood for using in their whole families. So, it means that, most farmers got information of bio-digester extension, but they have no enough money to install.

Key words: Effectiveness, bio- digester, biogas, animal husbandry, Cambodia.

1. Introduction

Around 90% of Cambodian farmers use energy for cooking their food and water. Most of the energy they use comes from charcoal, wood, animal manure, and

plant waste. Anyway, animal raising is a traditional occupation for rural farmers. Waste from animal has not been used potentially and can affect to the environment and public health. Presently, the rise in fuel prices, along with those of the commodity, has adversely affected the income and the livelihood of farmers. By seeing these problems, the government, local NGOs, international NGOs and other agencies to seek other sources of energy for farmers to substitute the increasingly expensive fuel, and the sources are as following: oil reserve exploration, cassava energy tapping, solar panel and bio-digester. Among these, bio-digester installation is a good method, which will be extended by a national program in order for the farmers to substitute the existing energy and to conserve the environment.

The objective of the study is to analyze the effectiveness of implementation of bio-digester program in Cambodia.

A research question is: What is the result of implementation of bio-digester program compared to the master plan?

2. Research Methodology

Primary and secondary data are collected to be analyzed. For primary data, questionnaire has been designed and used in studied areas, and focus group discussion (FGD) is also applied with authority, department of agriculture, office of agriculture in each districts and NGO staff. Four provinces of Cambodia (Kampong Chhnang, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Takeo) are selected as studied areas. By using Yamane formula (Yamane, 1967) with $e=7%$, the calculated sample size is as follows:

Table 1: Number of samples which were selected to interview

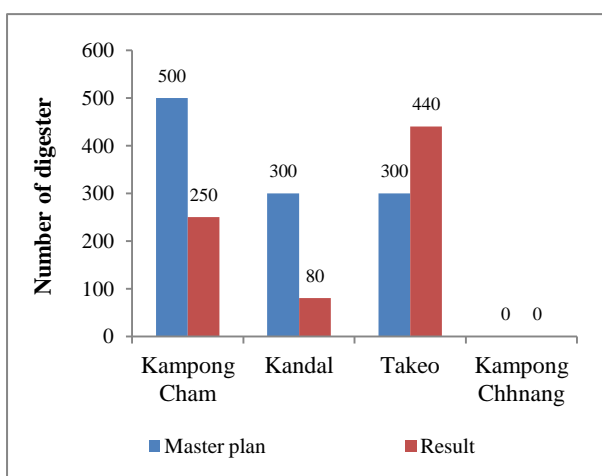
No	Name of province	Number of farmers who built bio-digester (March, 2010)		Year of implementation
		Number of family in total	Number of family to be interviewed	
1	Kampong Chhnang	430	22	2008-2010
2	Kandal	450	23	2006-2010
3	Kampong Cham	1,397	71	2006-2010
4	Takeo	1,745	88	2006-2010
Total		4,022	204	

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Result of implementation of bio-digester compared to the master plan in 2007

National Bio-digester Program (NBP) has launched in 2006. In that time, the whole program didn't have the master plan for all provinces yet and there were only 229 digesters. From the year 2007, NBP has set up the master plan and encouraged all Provincial Department of Agriculture to implement this program. This plan is a measurable tool to monitor the bio-digester program, to encourage digester building and to reform the method and strategy of national budget use.

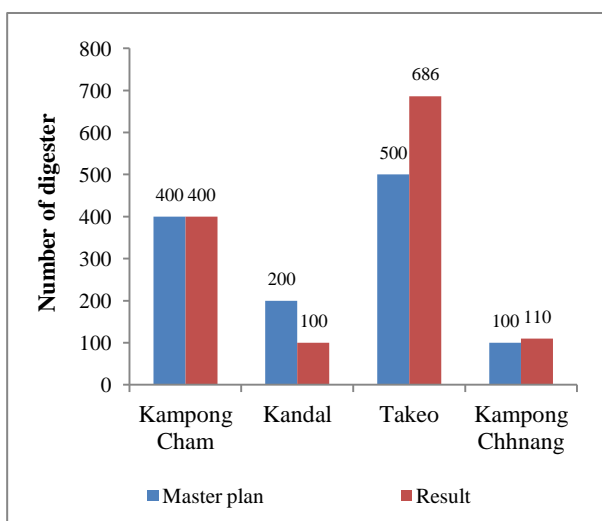
Graph 1: Result and Master plan 2007



Graph 1 indicates the result of digester building in 2007. We can see that 440 digesters were built in Takeo province as well as 150% (300 digesters) compared to the master plan. Kandal province has built 81 digesters as well as 27% compared to the master plan. This province has built digesters less than the other province. Anyway, Kampong Chhnang didn't yet participate with the program in that time.

3.2. Result of implementation of bio-digester compared to the master plan in 2008

Graph 2: Result and Master plan 2008

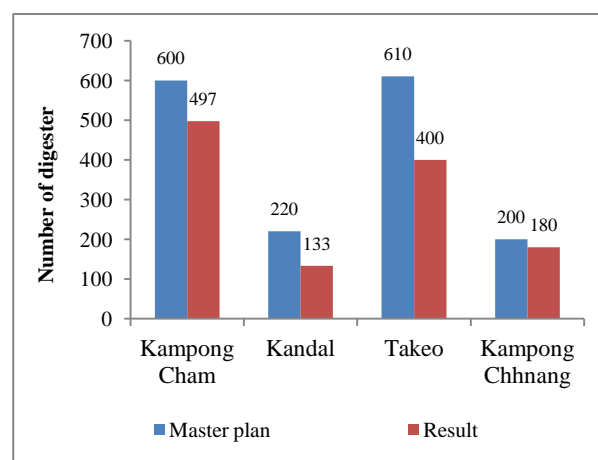


Graph 2 showed that Takeo province has built 686 digesters as well as 135% of 500 digesters compared to the master plan. This province has achieved more digesters than the other provinces. Kandal province has also built 100 digesters as well as 50% of 200 digesters compared to the master plan.

3.3. Result of implementation of bio-digester compared to the master plan in 2009

Graph 3 showed that Kampong Cham province has built 497 digesters as well as 83% of 600 digesters compared to the master plan. This province has achieved more digesters than the other provinces. Kandal province has also built 133 digesters as well as 60% of 220 digesters compared to the master plan.

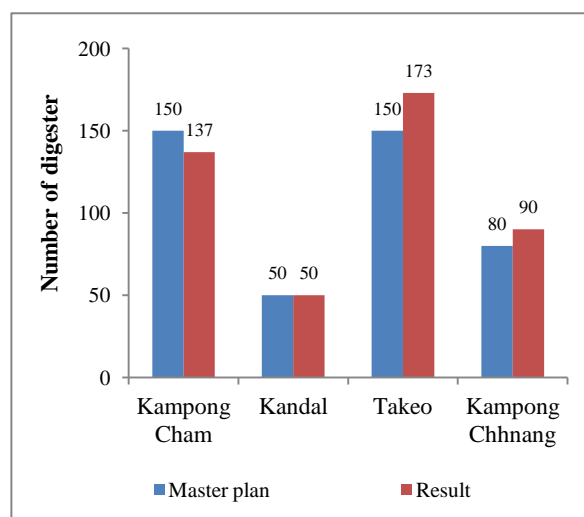
Graph 3: Result and Master plan 2009



3.4. Result of implementation of bio-digester compared to the master plan in 2010

Until March, 2010, graph 4 showed that Takeo province has built 173 digesters as well as 115% of 150 digesters compared to the master plan. This province has achieved more digesters than the other provinces. Kampong Cham province has also built 137 digesters as well as 91% of 150 digesters compared to the master plan.

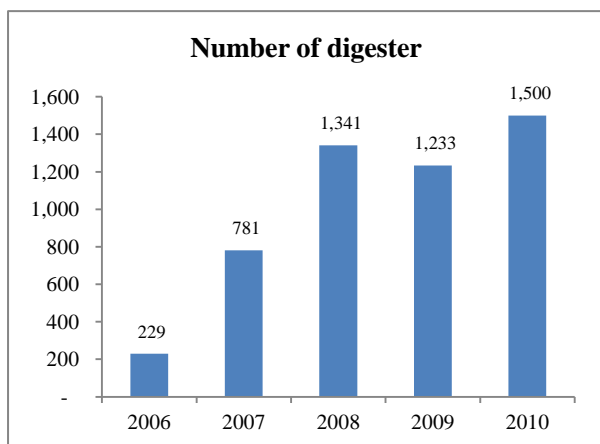
Graph 4: Result and Master plan 2010



3.5. Result of bio-digester building from 2006 to 2010

Graph 5 indicates the number of digester building from 2006 to 2010. It showed that the number of digester has increased significantly from 2006 to 2008 and decreased slightly in 2009 and continued to increase in late March, 2010. There were only 229 digesters in 2006, 781 digesters in 2007, and 1,341 digesters in 2008. This number has decreased to 1,233 digesters in 2009 and it has still increased to 1,500 digesters in 2010.

Graph 5: Result of bio-digester building from 2006 to 2010



4. Conclusion

Bio-digester installation is a good method, which will be extended by a national program in order for the farmers to substitute the existing energy and to conserve the environment. After implementing of bio-digester program in four provinces of Cambodia from 2006 to March 2010, we can conclude that the number of digester has increased significantly from 2006 to 2008 and decreased slightly in 2009 and continued to increase in late March, 2010. The National Bio-digester Program has to encourage all Provincial Department of Agriculture to implement this program and encourage the farmers to involve in their digester building, explain farmers to well understand about advantages of biogas using in their livelihoods.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor (Professor Dr Bruce Duncan),

Re: Creation and Evolution

I attended your lecture at the recent Dubai Leadership Summit. Your eyes rolled when I stated that it took six days to create the world. I assumed that you had not expected that kind of answer from me. So, let me explain.

- Anything created needs a creator.
- However, sometimes things just evolve.

For example, a group of pre-1901 Australian colonial leaders *created* the Commonwealth of Australia, a self-governing Federation of autonomous British colonies on the continent of Australia. The body they created was very much a part of the British Empire.

Nobody now disputes Australia that is an independent sovereign nation; a founding member of the United Nations and so on.

Sometime between 1901 and the end of the Second World War, Australia *evolved* into an independent nation.

The year, 2015, heralded the 20th anniversary of St Clements University. I started thinking about St Clements University's *creation* and *evolution*.

During February 1995, the registration of St Clements University (E 14905) took place. I vividly remember looking at the signatures of the Government Registrar and the Governor. Thus from my point of view, the *creation* of St Clements University took five to six weeks – from sending the application to receiving the authorized approval. However, the signing of the documents could have taken less than one day.

- St Clements University has been *evolving* for 20-years.
- The prior setting up process (*creation*) took 10 – 15 years before the actual registration took place
- Thus, the *evolution* of St Clements University has been a twenty to thirty-five-year process – and it continues to grow.

Therefore, how long it took to *create* something is a different question to the subsequent *evolutionary* process.

Dr David Le Cornu
President
St Clements Education Group

Editors Reply:

Dr David Le Cornu
President
St Clements Education Group

Dear Dr Le Cornu,

Frustratingly, I cannot recall the incident cited in your letter – the temporal lobes controlling my memory lag behind the challenges of retention – another reality of my evolution and the ubiquitous Product Life Cycle!

I have cited web-sourced information to make it easier for individuals wishing to check my references. I would be more than happy to provide hardcopy sources if requested.

Firstly, I will explain my understanding of the words “create”, “day” and “evolve”. My riposte relates to your “six days to create the world” phraseology. It might be that we agree, and the nuances of meaning might reflect interpretations and the validity of source material.

Your description of my “rolling eyes” response reflects my view that there are two different creation stories in the Bible (Genesis Chapter 1 and Genesis Chapter 2). Each are the mythical contributions of the unknown writers (Wells, 2012). Therefore, the six-day creation belief belongs to The International Compendium of Myths, Fables and Creative Imagination – not to illustrate and explain the birth and growth of the St Clements Group. The appeal to the tattered logic of outdated ancestral thinking is unnecessary and an academic paradox.

Humankind’s primitive religious need reflects in numerous ancestral writings. The hide-bound and vellum records, devoid of fact but embellished with imaginative fiction reflect an evolving pyramid of fantasy – albeit a fascinating journey into the minds of those who needed to build on unsubstantiated theories. However, “when I was a child, I thought as a child but ... (I Corinthians 13). Therefore, I draw back from the analogous link with the debatable Genesis accounts to the viable St Clements Group!

Furthermore, archeology and science prove that creation is an evolutionary process – the Black Hole might provide further information about a first cause. The sticks and bones of verified discoveries build effective tombs over the many “comfort zone beliefs” initially conjured up in the minds of sincere, primitive people. Happily, Jean Baptiste Lamarck and Charles Darwin opened credible doors through which humankind glimpse the creation story as a journey – an evolution of “adapt or die”.

Bluntly, stated, the Genesis accounts of creation are fables that equate with some differing 22-creation stories from other cultures (Univ 2000). I cannot align my thinking to place the creation and evolution of the St Clements Group alongside puerile fiction.

Therefore, to connect the dynamic St Clements University Group with a myth is a contradiction and does not do justice to the unique creative genius of its founder. Furthermore, the Group’s subsequent evolution, enabled by the founder’s gracious wife and others flowed from a vision – a creative spark from its creator. There is no need to drag in fairytales to blur the picture.

Secondly, let us understand the accepted Christian/Jewish/Arabic religious traditions and their use of the Hebrew word, “bara” - create.

The English verb, “create”, is translated from the Hebrew בָּרָא (bara') meaning “choose”. The meaning is *shape, fashion, create*, always of divine activity, with accusative of thing (The Bible Hub citing Strong, 2013). The Old Testament writers use the word (in different forms) in fifty-five places. The word “bara” used in conjunction with the word asah (עָשָׂה) features in Genesis. However, readers might care to refer to the pedantic intricacies of word usage by the unknown Genesis authors (Mortenson, 2007). The St Clements Group might properly illustrate the usage of both “bara” and “asah”. An act followed by a process.

By default, some religions offer a presumed divinity assumed as creator. Primitive society needed a reason for the realities of nature and circumstance. This desire then created a personified deity. Religions reflect the different personalities of the creators of the divinity. In brief, people created the creator. Each group assigned attributes from within its psyche. However, I see the St Clements Group as being the opposite. The set vision of the founder (creator) took form in its mission (character of purpose) and evolved. Not, as the result of the projected needs and understanding of its followers. There is no distinction between the beginning and the subsequent process.

Thirdly, the English word, “day”, translates the Hebrew word *yôm* יוֹם (Deem,2005, citing Strong's H3117). Briefly, and bypassing pedantic arguments, the word can mean a time span of 24 hours or a period. Bible believing Christians remain divided over the varieties of interpretations.

In summary, some theists believe that the planet on which we live took just six (twenty-four hour days) to create. Others interpret the word to mean a period. Using the “days” argument is to drag controversy into what is otherwise a simple understanding of the calendar.

I cannot align the transformational effect of St Clements with the disproved view of creationists or a belief in an unsubstantiated deity who is unable to control, develop and guide a creation. The St Clements Group cannot sit cheek by jowl with myth and superstition. As an academic institution, it evolves because of proved facts and human endeavour.

In conclusion, to equate the St Clements Group with a flawed, disproved religious concept is illogical.

Professor Dr Bruce Duncan

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The editors at ‘Veritas’ welcome and encourage any responses to the articles in this publication by way of the LETTERS TO THE EDITOR forum.

St Clements Education Group – E-Journal *Veritas*

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- Short articles and essays 1500 - 2500 words*
- Research Reports
- Notes
- Letters to the Editor re published articles
- Book Reviews

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- Reference to work listed directly preceding: *ibid*, p.20
- Newspapers: *The Star*, 3 September 1986
- Report: Australian Bushfire Commission Annual Report, 1997, p.71
- Unpublished thesis: M.Broad, "The Utility of Cross Referencing", M.Ed. Thesis, St Clements University 1999

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