



Criteria for Appropriate Institutions: *Outline for a Seminar*¹

Ted Ward

Appropriate institutions need to fit into the local society to be properly responsive to the realities of the local situation. Inappropriate institutions don't aid development. One can't be simply morally concerned about an issue in isolation from other issues; we have to be aware of the ecology of issues and the danger of creating dependency. A basis for planning and evaluating with local people is needed.

Criteria

1. Low cost construction in building, equipment, and maintenance.
2. The use of local, available, readily trainable skills. Before beginning a school for example, train the faculty.
3. Institutions should be developed so they can be controlled and maintained by local people.
4. Institutions that can be understood in the local situation and meet needs in ways that are acceptable to the people.
5. Appropriate institutions encourage cooperation, encourage working together, and encourage a sense of ownership in the local situation.
6. Appropriate institutions use organizational and leadership models that are characteristic of the culture.
7. Appropriate institutions are capable of adapting to changing situations.
8. The output and social impact of appropriate institutions are valuable to the society without destroying the good in the old ways. Appropriate institutions don't indiscriminately destroy the old ways.
9. Appropriate institutions minimize non-functional, impractical symbols and standards and honors.

¹ Ted Ward. Criteria for Appropriate Institutions. The Church and Development Seminar. Wheaton, July 1981