



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

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I will use technology no higher than that which is available to my students. The following are characteristics of technology particularly in development settings.

1. Requires low capital. Affordable.
2. Uses local materials whenever possible.
3. Creates jobs. Utilizes local skills and local labor. In much of the world the issue is not efficiency--it is survival. In fact, efficiency as a mode of development could cost jobs, create dependency and threaten survival.
4. Technology is maintained and controlled by villagers without a high level of western education.
5. Encourages collective working together of people and group decision-making.
6. Involves renewable resources such as wind, solar power, pedal power.
7. Technology that does not allow people to mystify it. Avoid leaving artifacts as a memorial. Even something left as a gift can become memorialized long past its usefulness. Technology that is not understandable will not be used once the user leaves.
8. Flexible—so it can adapt to changing situations.
9. Helps people develop, find and serve their own markets. Who will use it, how will it be marketed?

Inappropriate Technology

Technology that requires resources that are needed for other basic purposes, and or technology that produces a new dependency while solving one problem.

Appropriate Technology

The absolute criteria for appropriate technology: Can it be sustained? Can it be repaired in terms of the skills and supplies available? People should not be made subject to machines.

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