

AWE

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Note of the presidency

By Sujit Kumar Paul, AWE Vice President

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a major compact initiated by the UN to fulfill the mandate for economic, social and sustainable development. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

The MDGs are eight goals which are to be achieved by 2015, and have become the most widely accepted yardstick of development efforts by Governments, donors and NGOs. The MDGs are a set of numerical and time-bound targets related to key achievements in human development.

We have four years remaining, and although we have made progress toward the goals, we are moving too slowly to achieve them by 2015. We are facing many crises - economic, social, cultural, environmental, and political - so now it is time to rethink and to accelerate progress on MDGs.

The global community, by strengthening global partnerships, can guide collective actions for achieving the goals, while international organizations, international funding agencies, and the countries

themselves attempt to mainstream the MDGs in national development strategies and programmes.

But the progress is not at par. Many of us are doing or trying to do MDG-related activities all over the world, but awareness of the broad context among communities, civil society organizations, and even governments is very limited. Thus, the implementation of various programmes related to the MDGs is often ad-hoc or routine.

What is needed is a rigorous and systematic approach in addressing the MDGs, in planning, formulating, implementing and refining MDG-related programmes at the micro and macro level. This requires a large-scale campaign, monitoring of various activities relate to the goals, building capacity to measure the goals, and developing multi-sector dialogue at various levels to achieve better results.

As a civil society organization, the Association for World Education is hoping to shed some light on the MDGs through the articles in this issue, which we hope will encourage the global community to achieve these targets.



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The Global Perspective

The UN Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2011

By Mary Schnackenberg Cattani

On July 7, 2011 in Geneva, the 2011 UN Millennium Development Goals Progress Report was presented, followed on Sept. 16, 2011, by the Gap Task Force report, focusing on MDG8, "The Global Partnership for Development."

Now with the updated information in hand, we can see, as the saying goes, that there is good news and bad news. With only four years to go before the agreed upon deadline of 2015, a new sense of urgency pervades the UN and its partner organizations and governments across the globe: keep up the momentum, redouble efforts in some areas, improve fulfillment of financial pledges, and begin making plans for beyond 2015. Failure to achieve these goals for humanity is not an option.

The good news

The most important point to reiterate continues to be that the MDGs are making a measurable difference to humanity.

By focusing attention on development issues, shining a spotlight on them, consolidating energy and funding, and coordinating efforts within nations around the world to influence national policies - the MDG's have made measurable improvements in peoples' lives in many ways and in many parts of the world.

Hundreds of millions have been lifted from poverty in the past ten years, have better access to education and health care, and to clean water because of the UN action in articulating these eight MDGs for humanity.

First and foremost, the UN is on track to achieve the level of poverty reduction it aimed for by 2015 - well ahead of the target.

Reduction or elimination of poverty is

considered to be the base goal upon which achievement of the others depends. Even when the studies factor in the huge impact on statistics of dramatic poverty reduction in a very populous country such as China, or in the BRICS nations together, there is still a measurable reduction of poverty in many parts of the globe.

This is to be taken as very good news, even while it must be noted that the poorest of the poor are being left behind, as we shall note. The numbers of those living in extreme poverty may be smaller, we hope, but the gap widens.

Child mortality has declined, malaria is less deadly, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment are showing strongly positive results. In 2010 came the dramatic news that the rate of new HIV infections had begun to decline for the first time. There is more good news on rates of tuberculosis infection, which are slowing, but while progress is good in these areas, achieving the targets by 2015 will take extra effort, renewed dedication and more funding.

The bad news

In several important areas progress lags, and all across the board, the poorest of the poor are being left behind.

Equity, inclusion, sustainability - all are areas in which progress is either slow or nonexistent, and worsening conditions are noted as bigger gaps between rich and poor develop, deforestation continues, desertification accelerates, and the poorest are left further behind.

High unemployment is a growing problem, the wealth gap is widening, school enrollment and gender parity in education are still beyond reach, and reform has slowed.

These problems are of course intertwined,

and as we know, girls from wealthy areas or families, as compared with the poor, experience very different kinds and levels of education, both within a single nation or culture, and across national borders.

Also interconnected with relative wealth and access to education is the state of maternal health where major differences in maternal health and survival rates between educated women and the uneducated persist, and measurable progress is hard to see.

Improvements in sanitation are lagging, as will be discussed below, and communicable and non-communicable diseases threaten.

In short, much more work needs to be done, more attention focused, national energy galvanized, and as Ban Ki-moon continues to emphasize, anything other than success is just not acceptable.

New Strategies, New Initiatives to 2015 and beyond

One strategy articulated by the Secretary-General in his July 7 address in Geneva, as the deadline for achieving the MDG's approaches, is to keep the energy up and the work focused by continuing to articulate new goals and new initiatives as 2015 approaches, goals lying beyond the MDG deadline, so as to maintain momentum toward these important achievements.

Education provides a good example of what is hoped for. The education MDG requires universal primary education by 2015, and progress has been made, especially in the poorest nations, although we are still far from the goal of 100% of children having access.

Looking beyond initial success, attention now needs to focus on education beyond the primary level, and on equity in education. While the poorest nations have achieved the most progress in the stated goal, girls and women are lagging behind. Two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate adults are women, and right now, in 2011, about 39 million adolescent girls are not being educated at all.

So while the world's poorest nations have made the greatest progress in education, special attention to equity in education for girls, as well, now needs to become a real emphasis.

In response to this need, a new global initiative led by UNESCO, "Better Life, Better Future," focuses on reaching illiterate or

semi-literate adolescent girls and expanding women's literacy programs.

The Secretary-General in promoting this new initiative has emphasized that investing in the education of women and girls anywhere in the world, brings huge returns for the greater benefit of society (See: http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/better_life_better_future_unesco_women_education).

As we know, the education MDG relates only to formal education, but it obviously also represents an important opportunity and potential expanded role for non-formal and adult educational programs, especially literacy programs.

Another place where progress has stalled, or is lagging furthest behind, is in improving access to adequate sanitation, and new initiatives are being introduced to help speed up progress here. 2.6 billion of the world's people do not have access to flush toilets - which amounts to 40% of the world's population.

The UN is launching a major drive called "Sanitation for all: The Drive to 2015," and Ban Ki-moon is asking for new attention to be given to this project on the most urgent kind of basis. This requires putting sanitation and access to proper toilets at the centre of development discussions.

An important new approach to fulfilling the MDG targets by 2015, is represented by the new initiative on UN procurement practices.

The UN itself, which spent \$14.5 billion in 2010, can use its own purchasing power as a force for good, an influence on policy, and by its own procurement practices, make a contribution toward achieving the MDGs.

From buying goods from female-owned businesses in post-war Afghanistan, for example, to influencing markets through environmental policies in China, thinking of the UN as a market force will become a new way of focusing its activities in the years ahead.

UN and WHO- led anti-malaria drive has already saved one million lives in a decade, largely due to the mosquito repellent-dipped nets that have been distributed throughout malaria zones, mostly in Africa.

April 25 is World Malaria Day, and on that day this year the Secretary-General said: "There is much to celebrate this year. But to reach the goal of near-0 deaths from malaria

by 2015, there needs to be an extraordinary intensification of effort and action.”

Some of these efforts are now underway.

Progress has been reported, as noted, in the area of maternal and child health, but more is needed if the goal is to save 16 million lives by 2015. Training health workers and midwives can save many women and children’s lives, but progress in these areas is lagging. As part of the Secretary-General’s “Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health,” the “Every Woman, Every Child” campaign to accelerate progress on MDG’s 4 and 5, reports some new partners and some new funding, but much remains to be done. 16 countries have announced new commitments to dramatically reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality.

MDG Gap Task Force Report 2011

MDG 8: The Global Partnership for Development: Time to Deliver

The MDG Gap Task Force was created by the Secretary-General in 2007 to improve the monitoring of the global commitments contained in the Millennium Development Goals. This report focuses on the gaps in progress of the “Global Partnership for Development, MDG 8:” trade, debt relief, access to new technologies and access to affordable medicines.

This is the MDG that has been most directly impacted by the years of financial crisis. It involves bringing developing nations into the worldwide system of trade and markets through an open, rule-based predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Debt burdens are to be eased and the special needs of the poorest countries taken into account.

At the same time, two special areas are addressed: pharmaceutical companies are to provide access to essential drugs in developing countries, and the private sector is to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies. The World Wide Web is still closed to the majority of the world’s people. A large gap separates those with high-speed Internet connections, mostly in developed nations, and dial-up users.

The gaps between targets and actual progress are troubling.

“Certainly the global economic outlook

remains sobering. But this cannot be an excuse not to deliver. We cannot afford to leave the poor even further behind,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at the launch of the Gap Task Force Report. But support from donor nations is falling short of agreed targets. The global financial crisis has negatively affected disbursements from donor governments to the degree that many countries now need to devote an additional 1.5 % of their annual gross domestic product if the MDG’s are to be achieved.

MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Unfortunately, the MDG reporting some of the worst news in 2011 is the environmental MDG. We continue on this path at our collective peril. The various points within this MDG are:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources. One progress result: the rate of deforestation appears to be decreasing but is still alarmingly high. The UN has announced the UN “Year of Forests” for 2012, hopefully to provide more attention, energy, effort and funding to this important goal.

- Achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss. The world missed this deadline with potentially grave results. Key habitats for threatened species are not being adequately protected or better protected than before, and the number of species facing extinction is growing day by day, especially in developing countries.

Better news: overexploitation of global fisheries has stabilized, although big challenges remain to insure sustainability.

- Halve the proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The world is on track to meet the drinking water target, but half the population of developing regions is without sanitation

- By 2020 to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Though there have been broad

improvements in living conditions in slums, they are failing to keep pace with the growing numbers of urban poor

AWE and MDG 7

The world needs global partnerships for environmental sustainability. A decisive worldwide response to climate change and environmental sustainability has yet to be articulated and is still urgently needed, and while there is concern that such may not ever be achieved, the success of an endeavor like the Montreal Protocol gives reason to hope that effective action on climate change is possible.

The most important step is to create educational tools and methodologies for world centric solutions to this global crisis. It will not happen without education to bring all world's peoples into the same conversation.

AWE has been and is actively engaged in education for sustainable environments as this issue of the AWE Journal of World Education shows.

AWE President Jakob Erle, with AWE and the International Academy for Education and Democracy, has developed the EduGame, an MDG version of which has just been made available. Relatedly, the Multilayered Democracy version of the Game guides discussion of the concept "multilayered democracy," encouraging "the emergence of global institutions to address the common challenges of mankind."

EduGame facilitates a dialogue among the players about creating the conditions for democratic global institutions and facing the world's major common challenges. It is, in short, a training tool for a sustainable world.

AWE has recently participated in numerous meetings and projects concerning sustainable communities, at consecutive AWE and ICAE meetings in June 2011, in Denmark and Sweden, for example. At ICAE, the location of the conference in Malmö, Sweden, one of the "greenest cities," itself became one focal point of discussion. At the UN NGO conference on volunteerism and sustainability in Bonn, Germany, in September, 2011, topics included the role of education in fostering change and training a new generation of activists.

AWE participation in the CONFINTEA VI Conference in Belem, Brazil, in 2009 also

rearticulated "a conceptual framework and an organizing principle of all forms of education, based on inclusive, emancipating, humanistic and democratic values," (AWE Journal of World Education, V. 40, Nos 1&2, 2010, p. 8).

Based on the four pillars: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together, this is World Education for active engagement and social cohesion, themselves the pillars of sustainability.

The pedagogy project of AWE is also presently working toward development of pedagogical tools, a methodology, a philosophy of "world centric" learning and enlightenment adequate to the new challenges of the new century.

A citizen of a "developed" country such as the US, has only to spend a short time in a developing country talking about the environment to rediscover the real tensions between the environmental perspective of "developed" nations and developing ones.

Bringing these together in a world centric point of view, to create world centric policies flowing from it, is the issue, and environmental stability the first truly global challenge the world has faced.

It will be solved by all people together, or not at all. Education for a sustainable environment is the most pressing need in the world today, and in the whole of human history, though it so often goes almost unnoticed in the clamor of the demands of daily life and international politics. Educational progressives must be there helping to lead the way to enlightenment on this crucial matter.

Progress and strategies in India

By Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) constitute the first-ever set of shared development goals at the international level, on which there is an unprecedented level of consensus. This unique, relatively simple, and wide-ranging framework of goals, targets and indicators has become a rallying point in the fight against world poverty and its different dimensions.

The Millennium Development Goals are the world's biggest promise - a global agreement to reduce poverty and human deprivation at historically unprecedented levels through collaborative action.

It is different from all other global promises for poverty reduction due to its comprehensive nature and the efforts taken to finance, implement and monitor them.

The Millennium Development Goals are eight international development goals that all 193 United Nations member states and international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. The aim is to reduce global poverty, improving the social and economic conditions of the poor and increasing the pace of development in a sustainable manner in the world's poorest countries.

The targets of Millennium Development Goals were derived from earlier international development targets and officially established in the Millennium Summit in 2000, where all the world leaders were present and the declaration made on these Millennium Development Goals.

The Declaration asserts that every individual has the right to dignity, equality, freedom, and a basic standard of living that includes freedom from hunger and violence, and better quality of life for poor people.

The time-bound goals were implemented by setting targets and indicators for

poverty reduction in order to achieve the goals which were declared. The focus has been made on bolstering human capital, improving infrastructure, and increasing social, economic and political rights, with the majority of the focus going towards increasing basic standards of living.

The goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration were intended to increase an individual's capabilities and improve the quality of life and standard of living of poor people in sustainable manner.

India

India has an important role to play in the achievement of the millennium Development Goals. Nearly one fourth of the world's poor reside in India, the highest rate of maternal and infant mortality, and one third of the world's undernourished children. On the other hand, India makes an important contribution to the global agenda in such areas as human dignity and international co-operation as outlined in the Millennium Declaration.

As the world's largest democracy, India has the obligation to ensure its own national development and to honor its historic contributions to the ideals of modern global society.

Progress towards MDGs in Indian context

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) play an important role in development policies today.

Table 1: Millennium Development goals and targets

Goal	Targets
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<p>1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.</p> <p>2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.</p>
Achieve universal primary education	<p>3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.</p>
Promote gender equality and empower women	<p>4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015.</p>
Reduce child mortality	<p>5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.</p>
Improve maternal health	<p>6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.</p>
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<p>7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.</p>
Ensure environmental sustainability	<p>9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.</p> <p>10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.</p> <p>11. By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.</p>
Develop a global partnership for development	<p>12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction -both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC's and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.</p> <p>14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the 22nd special session of the General Assembly).</p> <p>15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.</p> <p>17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.</p> <p>18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.</p>

Goal 1 - Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The proportion of people below the national poverty line (poverty Head count Ratio) estimated for 1990 was 37.2 percent. By the year 2004-5 the percentage was 27.5, whereas the target set by MDG is 18.6 percent by 2015.

Orissa has the highest rate of proportion of population below poverty line, i.e. 46.40 percent in 2004-5 declines from 52.38 percent in 1990. MDG target for Orissa regarding poverty line is 26.19 percent which is far away from its present status.

Jammu & Kashmir has the lowest rate of proportion of population below poverty line. The rate is come down to 5.4 percent in 2004-5 from about 22.92 percent in 1990 and the state already have crossed the target of 11.46 percent by the year 2015.

With the decline in poverty, the rural-urban gap in poverty has also declined. The average difference between rural and urban below poverty line ratios was 9.6 percentages in 1993-94, which came down to 3.9 percentages in 2004-5.

Table 2: Proportion of population below poverty line. Source of Data: Planning Commission, Government of India.

	1990	1993-94	2004-05	MDG Targets
Orissa	52.38	48.56	46.40	26.19
Jammu & Kashmir	22.92	25.17	5.40	11.46
India	37.20	35.97	27.50	18.60

Child undernourishment is a significant indicator of food insecurity. All over India the proportion of underweight children below three years of age is slowly declining. In the year 1992-93 the percentage was 51.5 percent, in the year 1998-99 the percentage come down to 42.7 percent and in 2005-6, 40.4 percent. The MDG target is 26 percent by 2015. This is likely to be met by 2015.

Goal 2 - Achieve Universal Primary Education

Education is basic human rights, vital to personal and societal development and well-being. Education enhances lives; it ends

generation cycle of poverty and disease and provides the means for sustainable development. A quality basic education will better equip girls and boys with knowledge and skills needed to adopt healthy lifestyle.

Net enrollment ratio is an important indicator to understand the enrollment trend in the country or state. A trend based on District Information System Education (DISE) data shows the country now well set to achieve 100% school enrollment for children in the primary school age of 6-10 years by 2015.

In the year 2007-8 the Net Enrollment Ratio was 95.9 percent whereas in the year 2009-10 it was 98.3 percent.

The report shows that Net Attendance Ratio was 84 percent in 2007-8 in primary level. The estimates are based on DISE data for the reference years.

Literacy rate in the age group 15+ years is 66 percent, of which male is 76.7 percent and female is 54.9 percent in 2007-8. The figures are taken from the Population Census of India, 2001; NFHS-III report 2005-06 and NSS Report 532: Participation and Expenditure on Education in India 2007-08.

Goal 3 - Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Despite the fact that women represent about half of the total population and one third of the total labor force in the world, they have remained at a disadvantage in securing paid jobs.

Wage differentials, occupational segregation, higher unemployment rates and their disproportionate representation in the informal and subsistence sectors limit women's economic advancement.

Socio-cultural attitudes, employment policies and a lack of options for balancing work and family responsibilities or for controlling the timing and spacing of births contribute further to inequality in the labour market. In the under development and developing nations these problems are more overt.

The target for eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary enrolment by 2005 has not been achieved in India as per the available data for the Gender Parity Index for Enrolment, in the sense that though almost perfect parity was attained in the

primary level, it was not the case in secondary level. By 2004-5, India had 0.95 enrolments in favour of girls and in the year 2007-8 it was 0.98 in primary level. In secondary level the enrolments are 0.79 in favour of girls in the year 2004-5 and 0.85 in the year 2007-8. And in higher education it is 0.71 in favour of girls in the year 2004-5 and 0.70 in the year 2007-8.

The gender ratio in the census data may also show the inequality:

Table 3: Sex ration in India. Sources: Census data, Government of India.

1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
946	941	930	934	927	933

In the year 1951, the gender ratio was 946, and until 1971, it gradually declined; in 1981 there is a slight positive change in the gender ratio, again in 1991 it declined to 927. In 2001 the ratio was 933 which is slight positive change compared to the immediate previous census.

Table 4: Representation of Women in Premier Services (1987-1997). Sources. Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of External Affairs; Department of Personnel, GOI, New Delhi.

Category	1987			1997		
	Total	♀	%	Total	♀	%
IAS	4204	339	7.5	4991	512	10.2
IPS	2418	21	0.9	3045	67	2.2
Total	6622	360	5.4	8036	579	7.2

In 1987 out of total 6622 IAS and IPS only 360 female were there. In 1997 out of 8036 IAS and IPS, 579 were female officers.

Table 5: Representation of women in Lok Sabha. Source: Election Commission of India.

1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
946	941	930	934	927	933

In 1952, only 22 women members were there at Lok Sabha, in 1980 it was 28 only, and in 1991 women members were 39. So, these are all the indicators of inequality of women participation in all sectors.

Goal 4 - Reduce Child Mortality

Table 6: Child Mortality. Source of Data: Report of NFHS I, II and III, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India; projected figures are derived for this report.

	1990	2005-6	2008	MDG targets	Projected achievements by 2015
Kerala	32.75	16.30	14.00	10.92	9.15
Madhya Pradesh	147.60	94.20	92.00	49.20	77.52
India	125.00	74.30	69.00	42.00	55.76

Child mortality is another indicator of under development. It is indeed disheartening to note that 10.5 million children died before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes. So, reducing child mortality is another important goal.

A report of the sample registration system and NFHS shows that, under-five mortality rates were decline to 69.00 per 1000 live births in the year 2008 from 125.00 per 1000 live births in 1990.

Kerala has the lowest rate of under-five mortality rate, reduced to 14.00 per 1000 live births in 2008 from 32.75 per 1000 live births in 1990. On the other hand Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate, declining to 92.00 per 1000 live births from 147.60 per 1000 live births.

Kerala is likely to achieve the target of MDG-10.92 per 1000 live births whereas Madhya Pradesh is far away from achieving the target. The Indian target is 42.00 per 1000 live births, but the country will probably reach only 55.76 per 1000 live births.

Goal 5 - Improve Maternal Health

Ratios of maternal mortality seem to have changed little in regions where most deaths occur (sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia). 200 million women who wish to space or limit their childbearing lack access to contraception.

Skilled attendants at delivery, backed up by referrals to timely emergency obstetric care, are critical factors for reducing deaths further, as a growing number of countries have demonstrated. Incidence of deaths to women in the reproductive age group 15-49 due to pregnancy related causes as measured

	1990	1997-98	1999-01	2004-6	MDG target 2015
Assam	544.19	568	398	480	412.11
Kerala	279.19	150	149	95	45.67
India	437.00	398	327	254	135.38

Table 7: Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 1000 live births). Source of Data: Report of „Sample Registration System, Office of the Registrar General of India, M/o Home Affairs, Govt. of India; projected figures are derived for this report.

by MMR.

The table shows that Assam has the highest MMR among all states that is 480.00 in the year 2004-6. In 1990 the ratio was 544.19. In case of Kerala the MMR in 2004-6 was 69.80 and in 1990 it was 279.19. Table shows that in 2004-6 India had the MMR 254, in 1990 it was 437.00. The target was given to India to reduce MMR to 109.25 by the year 2015.

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Several countries report success in reducing HIV infection rates, through interventions that promote behavior change. However, rates of infection overall are still growing.

Alarmingly, the number of people living with HIV has continued to rise, from 36.2 million in 2003 to 38.6 million in 2005 (nearly half of whom are women). The number of AIDS-related deaths also increased that year, to 2.8 million, despite greater access to antiretroviral treatment and improved care in some regions.

In India, transmission of HIV/AIDS is predominantly (in about 86% cases) due to sexual contact. It is natural therefore, that with steady rise in the level of awareness about the disease and in use of condoms among non-regular sex partners, the decline in the spread of AIDS through sexual contact tends to continue.

Estimated adult prevalence has come down to 0.31% in 2009 from about 0.34% in 2007 and 0.45% in 2002. Among pregnant women of 15-24 years, the prevalence has declined from 0.86% in 2004 to 0.49% in 2007. A drop by more than 50% has been recorded among pregnant women aged 25-49 years as well from 1.09% in 2004 to 0.52% in 2007. Proportion of people aged 15-49 having correct awareness about HIV/AIDS

has increased from 17.6 % in 2001 to 29.3% in 2006.

Condom use as percentage of all contraceptive methods is low, particularly in rural areas (3.3% in 2005-06). Total number of females living with HIV/AIDS has kept on declining from 1.07 million in 2002 to 0.97 million in 2006 and further to 0.95 million in 2007.

The incidence rate of malaria and death associated with malaria are on the decline.

The incidence among the people who were examined for the disease, was 1.67% in 2006 and has come down to 1.51% by 2009. The percentage of death of malaria patients thus diagnosed during 2006 to 2009 has declined from 0.10 and 0.07 per 100 cases.

In the malaria prone states like the North East States, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal, the number of deaths of malaria patients has consistently declined ever since the high of 2006.

India is the highest TB burdened country accounting for about 1/5 of global incidence. Prevalence of TB has steadily declined from as high as 338 per 100,000 populations in 1990 to 249 per 100,000 in 2009.

Goal 7 - Ensure Environmental Sustainability

In India, the area under forest and tree cover is increasing slowly. Around 33 percent, i.e. one third of the geographical area must be covered by forest in any country for a sustainable environment.

However, deforestation is increasing for various reasons. 20.99 of the Indian geographical area was forested in the year 2005, which is 690,171 km² of total area. By the year 2007, it was estimated that forest cover area would reach 690,899 km², which is 21.02 % of the geographical area of the

country.

So, there is an increase in forested area by 728 km² between 2005 and 2007. During this period, significant increase in forestation in Mizoram, Manipur, Jharkhand and Orissa is noted, while in the same period, there has been loss of forest cover in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland and Tripura (State of Forest Report 2009).

In case of scattered trees, the total estimated area covered was 91,663 km² in 2005. By the year 2007 scattered trees increased by 1106 km².

Safe drinking water is the basic right of any person, and yet, nearly, 60 percent of total disease in India is caused by polluted water. Poor people suffer most from disease caused by polluted water. Government, as the biggest institution of any country, has the responsibility to provide safe drinking water to its population. In terms of actual estimates from NFHS and DLHS, the coverage of households having access to improved water sources gives a clear trend in attaining of the MDG target.

Table 8: Proportion of Household without Sustainable access to improved drinking water (%)

	1992-93	2002-4	2007-8	MDG target by 2015
Rural	39.10	16.10	20.40	20.53
Urban	12.40	7.20	5.60	6.44
Total	31.80	13.30	15.60	16.82

MDG target for sustainable access to improved drinking water for rural areas is 20.53 percent but by the year 2007-08 India reached the target 20.40, in case of urban areas the target is 6.44 by the year 2015, but by the year 2007-08 the percentage of population beyond sustainable access to improved drinking water is 5.60, the target is

Table 9: Proportion of Households without Sustainable Access to Improved Sanitation (%)

	1992-93	2002-4	2007-8	MDG target by 2015
Rural	39.10	16.10	20.40	20.53
Urban	12.40	7.20	5.60	6.44
Total	31.80	13.30	15.60	16.82

already been achieved.

The MDG target for sustainable access to improved sanitation is 46.64 percent for rural areas. By the year 2007-8, 65.80 percent was achieved which is far away from the target. In the case of urban areas the target is 12.14 percent, and 19.20 percent by the year 2007-8. By the year 2007-8, India achieved 50.70 percent, while the target for India is 37.76 percent, far from the goal.

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development

The target of MDG 8, to create a global partnership for development, aims mainly to provide development assistance to under-developed and developing countries by the developed countries.

This goal makes available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications, India has made substantial progress in recent years.

The overall tele-density has remarkably increased from 0.67 per cent in 1991 to 36.98 per cent in 2009.

Use of Personal Computers has also increased from 5.4 million PCs in 2001 to 19.6 million in 2006 and there are 13.54 million internet subscribers as on March 2009. The internet subscriber base has increased to 14.63 million in 2009.

Strategies to achieve MDGs

The economic and financial crisis is the biggest problem facing India, inequality being another challenge. Inequalities based on income, gender, disability, ethnicity, are generally overt in the Indian context. Proper Education is another challenge for India.

India has the second highest population in the world with 1.2 billion people. It is very difficult for the government to incorporate the whole population in the rigid formal education system.

Controlling population growth is another of the biggest challenges for India. India is one of the first countries to have made a population policy, but so far population growth is not controlled, and this due to a number of factors, including religion.

According to the UN, India will be the most populated country by 2025. There are so many challenges facing India. Poverty

reduction, environmental sustainability, controlled of HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, sanitation and safe drinking water, and superstition are but some of them.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were framed to address the world's major development challenges. Despite India's economic growth and food surplus, India is still suffering from alarming hunger, poverty and health problems related to mortality, morbidity, plus various environmental factors contributing to poor health conditions.

Immediate action is needed by the government to eradicate poverty and save the lives of millions of people. In India, considerable progress has been made in the field of basic universal education, gender equality in education, and global economic growth. To achieve the other goals the government has implemented a wide array of programs, policies, and various schemes to combat these challenges.

Now, more efforts and redesigning of strategies are needed to achieve the progress towards MDGs. Government design and implement various schemes and programmes through five year plans to achieve national targets as well as MDGs.

Current efforts to achieve MDGs

To achieve the first goal a number of antipoverty programs have been launched in India, some intended exclusively to combat poverty in rural areas.

An employment generation program, "The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" (MGNREGA) provides 100 days of employment to rural people. "Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana" (SGSY), provides micro-loans to poor people through self-help groups. "Indira Awaas Yojana" (IAY), builds homes for the poor and destitute people.

Programs launched in urban areas include the "Integrated Housing and Slum Development Program", builds homes for the urban poor. The poorest of the poor families receive food grains under "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana", and Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) like "Antyodaya Anna Yojana".

All these programs were implemented to eradicate poverty and create the means for a sustainable livelihood for the poor people.

To reach the second goal, efforts made by the government to design various policies and programs continue. To achieve the goal of elementary education for all by 2010, the government launched "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" (SSA) in 2000 to campaign for education for all. In addition, the "Mid-Day Meal" program was started to provide nutritional food to school students, which in turn helps reduce the dropout rate.

Gender equality and empowerment of women is another important stressed area for the government. Several programs, policies and laws have been made to achieve this goal. A government amendment, the 73rd amendment to the constitution reserved one third of its elected posts for women, and earmarked 30 percent of budgetary allocation of all the departments for gender specific programs.

"Swa-shakti", "Swayamsiddha", "Swaslaban Programme", "SGSY" aims socio-economic development and empowerment of women. In addition, the government passed a domestic violence act 2006 to protect women from domestic violence.

The government is trying to reduce the child mortality through Reproductive and Child Health Programs (RCH). Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) was launched to find the causes of child mortality and on that basis, take protective measures.

In the 11th five-year plan, the target of IMR is 28/1000 live births. To achieve the target, accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are appointed to identify the aspects of neo-natal care and promoting optimal breastfeeding practice. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is another major program to deal with the children and pregnant women.

To achieve the fifth goal, the government implemented RCH II and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to promote maternal health. Janani Suraksha Yojana, (JSY) was implemented with the aim to aware and to empower the expected women regarding the importance of skilled birth attendant for safe delivery.

To achieve the sixth MDG, the government is implementing its programs through National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). India has taken an aggressive step

toward HIV/AIDS control by implementing the third phase of its National AIDS Control Programme.

Treatment of sexually transmitted infections, voluntary counseling and testing, and condom promotion are the main objectives of this program.

Moreover, NACO collaborated with UNICEF to implement the School Based Adolescence Programme to increase student awareness of HIV/AIDS, with the objective to reach out to some 33 million students.

In case of seventh goal, the Ministry of Nonconventional Energy Sources is implementing various programs to promote better systems for cooking and lighting mainly for rural people.

Joint Forest Management schemes are designed and implemented by women living below the poverty line, providing financial assistance for nurseries in forest areas. Moreover Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) were launched to provide safe drinking water to the rural people and promote sanitation in the rural areas respectively.

India achieved 8.5% GDP growth in 2006, 9.0% in 2007, and 7.3% in 2008, evidence of increasing participation with the global economy. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with other countries to extend help to each other. The overall telecom industries increased rapidly. The promotion of e-governance on a massive scale is one of the important areas of concern of the National Common Minimum Needs Programme of the Government.

Conclusion

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)' were designed to help people overcome extreme poverty and multiple deprivations. MDGs are set to be achieved by 2015 and are the most strategically designed, broadly supported, comprehensive and specific development goals the world has ever agreed upon.

In the Indian context, despite the existence and launching of various programs, policies, and laws to address achieving the goals, progress appears to be slow in most of the areas. Education and global economic progress are the exceptional case. To achieve the goals within the time line, more effort

and focus are needed, and integrated policies should be designed to fulfill the targets.

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Poverty and some non spoken issues

A philosophical approach

By Guido-Henri de Couvreur

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set targets related to key achievements in human development. They include reducing poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and gender equivalence, reducing infant and child-mortality etc.

There are some topics that are underexposed. In such a complex system as life, there is never a monocausal clarification possible. So we will look for more factors, although not exhaustive. Isn't it time to search an act more profound, to leave the shallow then repeating the past all the time.

But because there is no place in this article, there is chosen for one topic. A difficult one. The rest is to be seen in a book "Learning to See the World Anew".

But thereafter comes a silence

It is strange that many people are convinced that there is a problem with the permanent increase of the world population, as a demographic fact. Many say there is a problem, but then comes a silence.

Is that strange? It is and it is not. On the one hand from a biological point of view, it is evident there is something called 'the drive to live,' meaning that thousands of years ago, when there were only few people, while the species *Homo neanderthalensis* thrived, *Homo sapiens* wanted to survive, so had to procreate a lot. Many neonates did not survive, and many mothers died giving birth. This still is the case in today's poor countries.

And yet, most poor countries have more children. Look at Nigeria which has some 4.8 children per women. Niger has even 7.8. The consequences are tremendous. It seems that

the situation in rich countries is different, with an average of around 2 children, but that is deceptive because a child born in a rich country has an ecological footprint up to 8 times higher simply by being born.

If mankind continues like now, we are heading to 9 billion people in 100 years. A child is born every two (2) seconds, and that is increasing while I write this. According to Etienne Vermeersch, an eminent Flemish philosopher, we are gradually moving to a critical level: the world has rapidly shrinking water resources and available agricultural land is shrinking every day.

But when is too much "de trop"? He was impressed by the documentary "How Many People Can Live On Planet Earth" by filmmaker David Attenborough that presents a bleak prospect of water wars, widespread famine and devastating epidemics. That is what Etienne Vermeersch said already 50 years ago. Since 1955, he has been concerned about that problem of the world and told his novice master (he wanted to be a priest that time, later he became a freethinker): "The Catholic doctrine is untenable with regard to birth control policy. If we continue to breed, we will soon simply be cattle! Our planet cannot handle that."

In his lifetime the world population tripled from 2 billion to 7 billion. We would only be able to survive as the very poor peasants of China, including their - rather sparse - diet of rice and (few) vegetables. "If we all want to live like the average Westerner, the maximum inhabitants the earth can bear is one (1) billion," he says.

Our consumption is very focused on meat. Imagine that all Indians, Chinese and

Indonesians eat that much meat: our Earth cannot cope with that. There is simply not enough space. Where fish eating is concerned, if people continue as at present, in ten years the fish will be gone. And half a billion people suffer from hunger every day, and even have little access to potable water.

“In ten years the world will look like Haiti now” like in Port-Au-Prince. That country is completely overcrowded. Every woman has on average 3.8 children; the population grows each year by almost 2%. In about forty years, there will be twenty million people, and in about 80 years forty million. In addition, from long overuse, all fertile farmland will be exhausted.

If we continue to do as now, we are in about six or seven generations one trillion people on Earth. Of course we will never be one trillion people, because before that happens the earth will be hit by terrible famines, epidemics and wars.

Another example of being overcrowded is offered by Egypt. Across the country, 30.000 km² of farmland is available: two thin strips along the Nile and the entire delta. For thousands of years, quite a few million people have lived there, and today there are 80 million Egyptians, for a fertile area the size of Belgium. As the population keeps growing, there will be more and more poverty, and the need to import food, so money will be needed. With no money, no food.

People in some industrialised countries see that there are too few births, and not enough young people to support the social welfare system later on. (Isn't that a very egocentric motivation?)

In Belgium there are many people proclaiming that there are not enough children being born. Since 1965 there is a cumulative shortage of 270.000 births. If those had been born, then of 270.000, 70.000, roughly estimated, would have jobs at the moment. If they had been born, there would be 200.000 more unemployed who would not contribute to pensions. It does not look that more children are really a solution to aging.

Demographic load

Many are aware there is a problem with the on-going growth of population as we have seen in the formula:

Impact on nature = population size x consumption behaviour x applied techniques.

To give some figures, as given in the Arab Human Development Report, from the Arabic World: from 1980 to 2007, an increase from 150 million to 317 million, anticipated to grow to 395 million in 2015. Thus, in 2020 there would have to be 51 million new jobs, while in actual fact, industry has shrunk.

It is not only a problem of absolute increase of population, but of concentration of population. There seems to be a law in life: living or not living seems to be in most case a matter of concentration. A poison is only toxic if the concentration is high enough. Some gram of kitchen salt is not dangerous as such, but if one could take one kilogram at once, death is around the corner.

Another problem is surely that in many places there is also a change in how to manage the beginning of life and the end of life. In some countries, as many as 8% of the children are born premature.

For thousands of years these premature births wouldn't have survived because Mother Nature would have called them back to the Earth. Is that cruel? That means that the birth-rate, which includes the premature born, is increasing even more. Does that improve the quality of life of these children later? Not as such since many of these premature children have developmental problems. Isn't that a consequence of strong anthropocentrism?

At the present time, already half of the world population is living in huge cities with more than 10 million inhabitants, and the number is increasing. But these figures are not stable at all, but are changing day by day. Around 1960 there were 2 million inhabitants in Mumbai (Bombay) some 50 years later 20 million, in only in this short time.

Maybe it is not politically correct but it looks like those huge cities are something of a cancer in the biosphere. Why a cancer? Isn't the definition of a cancer: an 'unlimited cell proliferation'? Those who have ever seen a bulgy skin cancer know better what I mean. The surface of the earth is getting "skin cancer".

This is really a problem for all those who want make the world greener to counter climate change. Can there 'zero energy consumption' cities be created? Maybe in new

cities like the ones being built in China, but how about existing cities?

Children

All other living beings seem to stop procreating if there is not space enough, but not so with the Homo sapiens? So many people do believe in the ideology of procreating as much as possible, not taking into consideration several elements. Let us first look at some motivations why people want children. The often-stated motivations include:

- I want to live in my children also when I am dead.
- I want to have children, because what will others say if I have none?
- I want to have children to take care of me when I am old.
- I want to have children to have soldiers for our country.
- I want to have children because my biological clock is ticking.
- I want to have children because I want them.
- I want to have children as a deepest wish to have a child of my own.
- I want a child to save my relation.
- We need more children to pay our pensions with the aging of so many...
- I want children to have an income working forces.

This list is not exhaustive. Many are taught that children are there out of love. As we look closely at the above motivations, aren't most of them very egocentric? Or how can we call it otherwise? What would be the child's wish? Is a child asked to be born in poor country with not enough food, no schooling, and no income, in a desert where agriculture is barely possible anymore? Is giving birth to child in those circumstances a deed of love? And what if this place is also a place of war?

In ethical terms it seems that for so many people, children have an instrumental value, not an intrinsic value, so often a means to reach a goal. Is that respect for human beings? Isn't that the consequence of the anthropocentric worldview, where mankind acts like ancient Greek gods? But as seen above, to what is it leading?

Many are still believe that 2.1 children

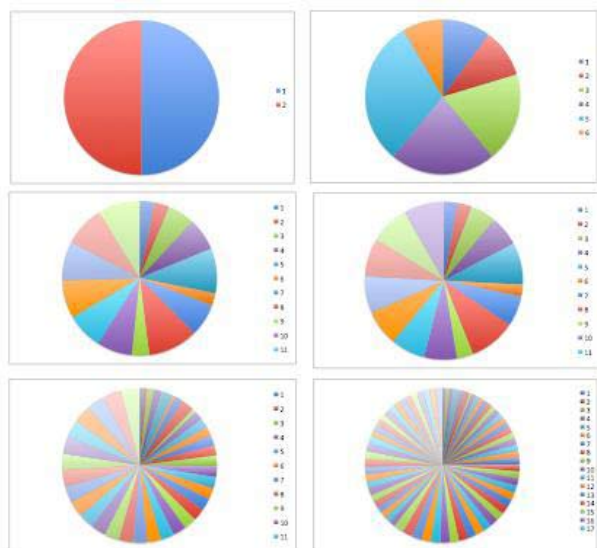
will mean a stable population size. Women seem to be breeding machines in this thinking that procreate as many 'soldiers' as possible, while the last wars have been fought more with fewer and fewer soldiers and more and more machines, like impersonal airplanes with remote controls. Isn't that breeding ideology a typical attitude from the time we humans numbered less than 100.000.000 individuals on Earth, and now we are heading to 9.000.000.000 in just a few years unless things change?

"New ideas and strategies will be needed to ensure that improved living conditions and opportunities for a growing population across the world can be reconciled with the conservation of a viable climate and of the fragile ecosystems on which all life depend."

This quote is coming from the conceptual framework of Club of Rome Int'l: A New Path for World Development. Is this not "turning the world upside down"? There are severe ethical repercussions to this point of view. If we consider the consequences, we may have to enlarge Planet Earth. Can we? Because behind this statement is the hidden vision that the technological economical system will be able to give a solution. At the time, it is obviously not the case. Let's take the example of automobiles. Even if we could make combustion engines 100% efficient, which is not possible in thermodynamic theory, this would give no relief. Suppose that India, China, Brazil and others would have as many cars per person as in Europe and USA, how long would we still drive cars with combustion engines? Some weeks? And then it's over? But meanwhile the pollution would be so great and we still have to calculate then if there would be enough air in the biosphere for all the combustion processes? Nevertheless if we would do what is suggested in the quotation, the rebound effect of the technical economical response is so high that: "improved living conditions and opportunities for a growing population" is de facto some contradiction. And this leads us to an important ethical question, as Bertrand Russell - also a philosopher and even living in the beginning of former century - already stated: "And what humane person would prefer, a large population living in poverty and decay over a smaller population with a happy and comfortable life?"

Not that many of our contemporary fellow

men have already come that far it seems. Are we still living in former centuries? It looks like new ethics are needed.



What does that mean? The figure is not a child's game cake. This cake is a metaphor for dividing "space", food, goods, comfort etc. for all the world citizens. If we are just two of us, we will each have a big piece of cake, and if we are 8, that is still a good-sized piece. But as we become more and more numerous, in the end, each will have such a small piece that nobody can survive with that piece. It is not only for humans but also for elephants, tigers, wolfs chimpanzees, but if they become too numerous, in next stage, procreating decreases. For predators and prey there is a kind of equilibrium: if there are enough prey the predator will live and more will come. If there are fewer prey the number of number of predators will decrease, more prey will come, and so on and on. No such mechanism with Homo sapiens. So new thinking is needed and new ethics.

The following is a kind of sentence that can be heard when people are not aware and do not live like the above insight, that procreating humans without restrictions in a confined space, in this case a country, can lead to protest:

"In the Algerian capital Algiers, riots came between young people and the police. The riots began after a demonstration against an increase in food prices and soaring unemployment in the Maghreb region."

But is there so much difference with pigs and chickens in a big barn of today's agro industry? Yes there is a real serious

difference: in such organized concentration camps of many hundreds of animals together, there is plenty of food (let us take aside for a moment antibiotics and hormones) so the animals will be fat as soon as possible. Or have more meet production. Not allowing them to move, so they do not loose energy and grow faster. By the way, in the Flanders regions of Belgium there are more pigs 'living' than people, although most people there never have seen a living pig.

New ethics concerning demographic issues

Suggestion: For thousands of years it was ethically good to beget more 'homo sapiens' to sustain the species. But hasn't the time come to reverse this principle? Since it looks like most of the world's problems have their roots in the boom of the world's population: climate change, poverty, pollution, decline of biodiversity, reduction of fishing grounds, depletion of natural resources etc. This would be the case even if the efficiency of all processes could increase. No matter how well engineers would do to strive for more efficiency, the increase of population would have a rebound effect. But by definition, efficiency can never be more than a hundred percent! In other words there are 'limits to growth'. Where have we heard that before?

Can anything other than constant increase happen? It looks like it can. An example. Kerala South India; one of the most crowded areas of India and the world: 819 persons per km². Literacy: 90-99%; special governments alternating since 1956, and well-educated people, with most households having only 2 children or less. This is a great contrast with the other Indian states where populations continue to grow.

It is clear that all efforts of mankind to control climate change, improve quality of life, decrease poverty, find less misery, fewer wars – all this will not come into effect until there is a limitation of births. But that will be explained in the book Learning to See the World Anew, (that will be published soon), since there is no place here to do so.

Shooting the Ball to the Millennium Development Goals

Roberto "Boi" Nicolasora

The Millennium Development Goals is like a game that a hundred ninety signatory nations decided to play. However, developing countries (that includes the Philippines) are largely monitored through the eight indicators defined by the United Nation member countries.

Apparently, the 2015 target is likely predictable at slow pace progress considering the given economic incapability of developing countries. On the other hand, the well-off nations are also predictably expected to assist as benefactor countries. Shooting the Ball to the Millennium Development Goals is just a symbolic phrase describing the efforts of governments and how they play the game on governance, political will and engaging the civil society as stakeholders at different levels to organize their action in a fairly playing field; that the greater number of warm bodies will reap and share the reward points on or after the 2015 target.

However, at the moment where we are now, looking forward to fully realize the target goals in the succeeding five years, seemingly it is far from reach. These MDG's might just turn out to be like Mona Lisa, a piece of art. Will the MDG's be realized in its fullness? Nat King Cole simply crooned our sentiments when he warbled these lines

"Are you warm, are you real Mona Lisa
Or just a cold and lonely lovely work of Art"

Introduction

The Philippines is one among the developing countries continuously exerting efforts in keeping track of the eight Millennium Development Goals targets. Posting significant economic growth, the Philippines GNP grew on the average by 5 percent during the period from 2000 to 2009 reaching a peak in 2007

when the economy grew at 7.5 percent and 6.2 percent in 2008, the year of unstable food and fuel prices increasing by 13.6 percent, higher than the food inflation rate of 3.3 percent in 2007. Fuel prices increased more than five times the fuel inflation rate of 3.3 percent in 2007. From July 2007, the global financial effects started to creep in the second half of 2008 and lingered to a slowdown in economic growth in 2009.

Despite the global crisis, OFW's remittances from abroad continued to increase although notably lower than the 13 percent growth posted in 2007 and 2008. This led to GNP growth by 3 percent while GDP only grew by 0.9 percent.

Recent data implies that the economy is on its way to recovery. Except for agriculture, GDP and GNP grew by 7.3 percent and 9.5 percent during the first quarter of 2010 with all sectors. This was triggered by the global economic recovery, continued remittances from OFWs and election related stimuli.

Concurrently, climate change manifestations are visibly felt. There are estimated significant decreases in the number of cold days and cool nights as well as increased frequency of hot days and warm nights from 1961 to 2003. The weather bureau is projecting more frequent and intensified El Niño and La Niña episodes stirring up more extreme weather events such as less predictable typhoons, floods, landslides, droughts, among others. Extreme weather events are experienced in recent years, including the devastating typhoons of Ondoy and Pepeng in 2000.

While there are success stories and noteworthy progress in some countries, there are also obstacles and challenges causing some developing countries to lag behind, specifically the Philippines. There is underperformance in the level of investment,

unproductive government policies, lack of commitment and the issue of graft and corruption among others. And these too are fired up by the economic, food and energy crisis. Natural calamities associated with climate change have made it more difficult to pursue the MDG targets, hence a slow pace in achieving the desired goal/s at certain period.

As early as the first quarter of 2011, flash floods and landslides have been wrecking havoc in a number of provincial villages. Roads, economic resources and human lives are greatly affected. On a more positive note, more organized civil societies and stakeholders are involved in various activities from advocacy to campaigns, legislative lobbying, budget tracking and financing and collaborative work between government agencies and among civil society networks both local and national and international levels.

The MDG Goals eradicating poverty and hunger

The most common reason for being poor in the Philippines is the inability to obtain an adequate return from one's labor services, which is the most important economic resource in the possession of the poor. A second major cause of poverty is the unequal distribution of wealth and access to resources. Third reason for why Filipinos are poor is due to their low labor productivity. A fourth major reason for poverty is the unresponsiveness of government to the needs of the poor that is often reinforced by the people's low expectations.

A major proportion of the population remained poor over the past two decades. In 2006, poverty incidence went up slightly primarily due to inflation. The aftereffects of the global financial and economic crisis reached the country in the latter part of 2008, followed by the destructive typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng in 2009, the El Nino phenomenon emerging in the same year worsened the poverty situation.

From 1991 to 2003 poverty incidence gradually declined. Credit goes to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Access to basic social services generally improved. However, income distribution across regions remains largely unequal, even worse than some of its Asian

neighbors.

Despite government efforts and pronouncements, the general feeling expressed among the vulnerable sectors is that access to poverty alleviation programs do not reach some areas where they are needed.

Achieve universal primary education

Rates of participation, group survival and completion at the elementary level improved in recent years, though at a very slow pace, due to government efforts providing free and compulsory elementary education and augmentation of budget for school resources. From 2004 to 2009, a total of 75,584 new classrooms were constructed, 52,536 new teachers created responding to the growing demand in the public school system. However, classrooms and teachers shortages still persist in many areas as evidenced by high pupil-classroom and pupil-teacher ratios, respectively.

Although education programs are implemented both government and non-government institutions, children in conflict areas are mostly affected. This implies that given its current resources, the education system is still is unprepared to welcome and maintain a higher number of students. In fact this year's government press releases confirm that 2015 education target is unlikely to be fulfilled.

Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Females consistently maintained higher group survival and completion rates than males from elementary to tertiary level since 1990s. Gender disparity in favor of females both secondary and tertiary education is indicative, although males have equal participation rates at the elementary level. Males normally drop out earlier to work as add-on to household income or had lower motivation going to school than females.

Recently women are more empowered through political and economic participation; visible leaders running for elective posts thus more involved in policy decision-making both at the local and national levels.

More female workers are deployed abroad working for family welfare, often accepting jobs not commensurate to their educational

attainment like domestic workers, caregivers, entertainers, clerical staffer or factory workers vulnerable to abuse.

Reduce child mortality

Over the past two decades, the country performed well reducing child mortality. From 57 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 25 in 2008 and under-five mortality rate declined from 80 in 1990 to 34 in 2008. A major factor is the effective and well-defined child health and related programs carried out by the Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with the local government units (LGUs). Programs adapted appropriate interventions at various life cycles from maternal to the newborn and integrated child health management like breastfeeding, complementary feeding, micro-nutrient supplementation, immunization of children and mothers, integrated management of sick children, child injury prevention, control to birth spacing and proper hygiene. Given these improvements though, child mortality is still relatively high in rural areas where wives and husbands have no or little education and/or poor income.

Improve maternal health

Maternal mortality rates declined over the past two decades from 209 per 100,000 live births in 1993 to 172 in 1998 to 162 in 2008. Consequently, the rate of change is still low. Meanwhile a significant proportion births are home births attended by traditional mid-wife practitioners called hilots a tradition still practiced especially in areas where health facilities and skilled services of health professionals are inaccessible. Contraceptive use rate remained at 50 percent in recent years. Access to reproductive health among women still faces more challenges including financial, political as well as cultural.

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

An increased number of new HIV/AIDS is reported even before 1990s up to 2009. Low contraceptive frequency rate, low intervention coverage, increased risky behavior and low level of awareness contribute to this trend. HIV frequency rate however remained below

one percent. Recently print and broadcasts reported increase of HIV affected persons at call centers, alarming the health department to look into.

Malaria mortality rates declined from 1990 to 2009; from 123 cases and 1.5 deaths per 100,000 populations to 22 and 0.02 respectively. Continued implementation of the Malaria Control Program by the DOH collaborating with the local government units, non-government organizations and communities are reasonably organized.

Targets for tuberculosis case detection and treatment success rate were achieved and sustained in 2004. But cure rate is still slightly below the 85 percent at the national target. Credit goes to the National Tuberculosis Control Program for the improvement adopting the DOTS 1996 strategy in achieving the targets.

Ensure environmental sustainability

Despite degradation in some of the country's natural resources such as coastal and marine ecosystem because of climate change and other factors, preventive measures are taken. Raise the number of protected wildlife species; drop in annual consumption of ozone-depleting substances; growing number of registered hazardous waste generators and solid waste disposal facilities; increase in the proportion of population having access to safe water and sanitary toilet facilities; actions taken to lessen the population ratio living in makeshift housing.

Apparently, informal settlers mainly in urban areas slightly rose from 1991 to 2006 and expected to rise further on threats of climate change, global financial and economic crisis creating an impact on properties, livelihood and urban population income. The government continuously implements programs and policies on informal settlements, water and sanitation and environmental sustainability.

Global partnership for development

The Philippines worked on liberalizing its trade system making the investment climate favorable to foreign investors. Apparently, the country needs to lower the volume of its loans, narrow its fiscal deficit and improve its fiscal system.

Improving access to the low-cost yet quality essential medicines to Filipino people, mainly the indigents, has improved for almost a decade. The government is proactive developing strategies toward implementation of laws and programs with support from private institutions, local communities and other sectors contributing to its progress. Along with these, information and communications technology (ICT) notably is achieved. Fixed telephone line, cellular mobile telephone and internet subscriptions grew over the past two decades. The challenge is the geographical reach of ICT services to the underserved and areas not yet served.

Conclusions

Challenges and recommendations emphasize the need for good governance to achieve the MDGs in the Philippines above all address the issue of graft and corruption. Taking in hand these challenges, the Government should not only commit generous funding for priority programs on job generation and poverty reduction but also monitor the implementation. These include: agribusiness and upland development; infrastructure spending; microeconomic reforms; hunger mitigation; and social development, mainly in education and health. Lost in the area of priorities is the human rights issue.

Other issues identified that needs attention: wide disparities across regions; high population growth rate; ensure strict enforcement of laws pertinent to the achievement of the MDG; bridge the financing gap; strengthen the capacity of Local Government Units carry basic services, manage programs and projects; ensure transparency and accountability in government transactions; address peace and security issues; public-private partnerships; improve targeting, data base and monitoring.

No doubt the Millennium Development Goals are a fairly acceptable measurement how nations deal with the entire gamut of issues affecting the existence of both the rich and developing countries. Within this co-existence are roles and responsibilities attached to it. While the output is determined and measured according to the goals, the execution and concrete action taken is equally valuable and must be highlighted in all venues of print and broadcasts information.

Unfortunately these millennium goals are never discussed widely in schools and establishments even within the corporate world of professionals, and even within the ranks of government workers, and down to the people in far flung villages. Ironically they are the ones affected and uninformed. Although their main concern is to get the next food on the table, a sense of awareness is a necessity. Sadly, only top level government administrators converse within the halls of their offices about these goals.

Concerned civil society groups see their roles as to get involved. They took initiatives to collaborate, inform and disseminate these goals in various processes and venues specifically in the areas of education, poverty, environmental sustainability and human rights. Summits, meetings, forum and conferences are explored to monitor progress and achievements. Consultations with government agencies, academe, research institutions and other civil society groups are encouraged to get involve together with other stakeholders through workshops.

2015 is almost within reach and most developing countries are unlikely to meet the target goals, as in the case of the Philippines, as recently confirmed publicly by the government. While it is a shot in the dark there are goodwill efforts to respond even at a slow pace. Measures will always be there, however the urgency and necessity for action is totally a different story. It entails a lot of resources and political will to deal with the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. Meanwhile, a lot of dribbling!

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Acknowledgment

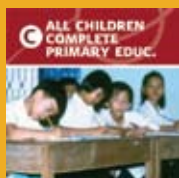
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- Medium Term Philippine Development Plan
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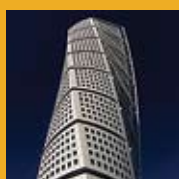
Erasmus-for-all swallows lifelong learning

The EU Commission's Erasmus-for-all program regulation leaves out lifelong learning. EU NGOs express doubt about the successor of previous education programs (11/12/22).



AWE releases Millenium Development Goals dialogue cards

Association for World Education (AWE) has released a new variety of the Multilayered Democracy Game. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cards are now on-line (11/08/30).



Association for World Education @ A World Worth Living In

Adult educators from 80 nations are gathering in Sweden at this very moment. The headline of their gathering is A World Worth Living In, and AWE is there to share (11/01/14).



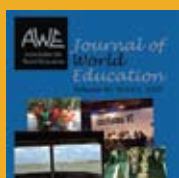
European's campaign for lifelong learning for all

European education stakeholders invite European Union (EU) leaders to make lifelong learning a reality for all EU's citizens. A major campaign has been launched (11/06/03).



Educators shall rediscover World Education

A large scale process within the AWE has been launched. AWE educators are going to reflect systematically on the relevance of World Education in the 21st century (11/04/14).



Journal of World Education revives CONFINTEA

In the new Journal of World Education the Association for World Education reports from CONFINTEA VI and FISC. The conferences took place in late 2009 in Belém do Pará, Brazil. (11/03/05).



Can the market place finance World Education?

Is the time right for coupling of World Education and the "market place", asks Director Alan Furth of the Cobscook Community Learning Center (CCLC)? (11/02/17).



Belém proved Hamburg to be an exception

The points are still the same, explains AWE president Jakob Erle, even if CONFINTEA VI in Belém meant back to normal compared to visionary Hamburg. Erle offers an overview in the new Journal of World Education. (11/02/02).



Egypt: The Sphinx and the People's Revolution

Broader socio-economic weaknesses throughout the Arab world is context, stresses Rene Wadlow in this analysis of Egypt's ongoing revolution (11/02/01).

China and the Millennium Development Goals

By Jørn Boye Nielsen

As the most populous country in the world with 22% of the world population it is important to be aware of China's performance in relations to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In its latest report "China's Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. 2010 Report", China's government has given a fairly concise and factual account of the situation as well as stating the challenges (problems) for each of goals.

Some examples of the MDG goals in relation to China are given below:

Goal 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

It is a huge task to eradicate poverty in China because so many factors are involved in raising the level of income: availability of jobs; development of agriculture, industry and services; government infrastructure.

China having 22% of the world's population but only 9% of the world's arable land and 6 % of the world's fresh water is confronted with huge challenges.

The goal of the Chinese government has been to halve the rural poor (the proportion of the population whose income is less than 1 dollar pr. day) from 1990 to 2015. This goal has been reached already. The rural poor fell from 9.6 % (85 million) in 1990 to 3.8% (35 million) in 2009.

In addition, the per capita in China in Yuan has increased from 1990: 1.644 to 2008: 22.698 - doubled several times.

But still, there is a gross disparity between rural and urban areas regarding income. In 2008 the average urban household

annual income was 15.781 (Yuan) compared to the average rural household income: 4.761 (Yuan). In the official China MDG report from 2010 it is frankly stated that the income gap continues to widen between urban and rural areas and among different regions. However, state policies to address this gap have been adopted, but it remains to be seen if they will have an effect.

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education.

Primary school enrolment is by now in China 99.4 (as compared to 95 % in 2000) - which is a fairly big improvement, and the MDG goal is thus reached. The level of high school attendance is 74% (2008); and of university attendance 23.3 (2008).

The official Chinese MGD report from 2010 says frankly about the challenges ahead: "However, at present, disparities still exist between urban and rural areas, between regions, and between people of different social classes, in terms of compulsory education enrolment rates, retention rates and education quality."

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women

China has made remarkable progress with regard to gender equality within the education system. Within higher education (university) the ratio of women in 2000 was 41,0 %, and males 59,0 %, but in 2008 the figure was female 49,9%; male 50,1 %. The same marked improvement has taken place for girls in high

schools – they now constitute 47, 8 % (2008).

With regard to women and politics there is room for improvement - in China's Parliament, NPC (National People's Congress), the % has not changed from 1978 until 2008 - it is still the same percentage - 21 % are women.

China has signed international conventions on women, and the state has promulgated: "The Program for the development for Chinese women (2001-2010)".

So far the biggest achievements have been reached within the educational sector.

The official report on MDG from 2010 says openly about the challenges ahead:

- Discrimination based on gender, age, and religion still exists in the labour market.
- The participation of women in public affairs and political life should be bolstered even further.
- Gender based violence has still serious consequences for women
- Rates of female suicide are high compared to those of men.
- China's sex ratio at birth remains unbalanced (due to traditional preference for boys).

Impression from a recent trip to China

One thing is measurable goals for development, but not all aspects of development can be measured. It is also necessary to judge from talking to the Chinese people and see what is going on in China. Recently (November 2010), I visited China and saw the development with my own eyes and talked to Chinese people.

For the Chinese authorities as well as for the people I met, the attitude is that it is important that China is recognized as an equal power and be reinstated as the power in the middle they had in earlier historic periods after 200 years of humiliation, occupation and exploitation.

This traumatic experience goes deep in the Chinese view of the past. Therefore, the choice of China to host the Olympic Games in 2008, the Asian sports Games in Guangzhou and World EXPO in Shanghai has meant a lot for the self-confidence of the Chinese.

It was also evident from my talks that China is putting high priority on the view that national sovereignty is an important principle

for China. The view is that nobody should intervene in the internal affairs of China. It is not accidental that it is in China that the Great Wall was built to keep foreigners out. Several of China's emperors had little contact with other countries, and it was not until the 20th century that China got its own foreign ministry.

I discussed with people how they saw China develop as a democratic nation. And I found that it is not an urgent matter for most Chinese. It is the material development - a higher living standard- and getting education and jobs and being treated fairly by the authorities which matters and is high on the agenda.

When I asked on their view on democracy within groups often they divided in two - one part which said that democracy with free elections and full human rights were necessary and desirable in the future - but added maybe not Western style, but Chinese style democracy.

Others said as long as the government delivers a high living standard and jobs and education, they prefer that it is the best educated and knowledgeable who led the country - an old Confucian way of thinking. And they said that in democratic nations there is too much populism, inefficiency and lack of competence in politics. They referred to the fact that the Chinese leadership is one of the best educated leaderships in the world.

My impression is that any democratization in China will come from inside China. The West and other nations will not, at all, be able to influence or enhance democratic developments in China. The sensitivity to foreign pressure is high, especially in a situation where China is growing strong. Nowadays you cooperate and negotiate with China, you don't dictate.

Report:

Hard talks on MDG tour 2010

By Gulli Jakobsen & Rex O. Schade

Why not 'hard talks' on Millennium Development Goals, MDG?

During our tour to Danish schools and institutions, 20 October - 6 November 2010, we were in fact met with the attitude that the contents of our tour programme really belonged to education, politics and the media: it is not any breaking news or hard news as such, rather a kind of good, positive information that we had the opportunity to deliver together with our MDG Agenda at a number of schools and institutions in Denmark - even at more than the twelve that we visited if we had had the time and the money!

At some folk high schools and youth boarding schools (continuation schools) they view their own task as focusing on hard talks or complicated, challenging issues in the public debate. They consider this their main goal and challenge. Some of them express the view that they want to push this in the forefront of their programme.

It was a little surprising to our global tour group; most schools are focusing on politics and social issues, on the European Union and questions and studies of the single super power, the USA, current power politics with a new area of multipolar systems etc. - rather than the MDGs and development politics, the developed world/second and third world.

So in this aspect we were in fact supplying the schools with "extra learning" and alternative questions to their agenda. And we think we succeeded in giving inspiration to their extra-curriculum subjects. If you will find these subjects on their programme at all.

Anyway! In the weekly "common lessons" at most of the 70 folk high schools in

Denmark and at many of the youth boarding schools (8-9-10 graders) they are focusing on a variety of current issues in the public debate. It may also be part of a journalist training programme or politics, and even at some youth boarding schools the MDG programme related to their basic curriculum as well instead of just being part of the "current issues" or a half-day theme.

At the Independent Teachers Training College they have an on-going process in educational curriculum thinking in order to include and learn from any global issue or hard question in civil society. One of the public enlightenment organisations AOF, (the labour movement's educational branch for adults) is considering including the MDG questions in "current issues" of the evening class programme.

Places visited

During our educational tour we visited the following places in Denmark:

Zealand: International People's College (IPC), Elsinore; Bosei Folk High School for Physical Education, Præstø; Flakkebjerg Youth Boarding School

Jutland: Løgumkloster Folk High School; Ry Folk High School

Funen: Independent Teacher Training College; National Research Centre of the Free Schools in Denmark, both in Ollerup; Eco-Net office and farm; Art School "Kragekær", AOF Educational Centre, Svendborg, The Folk High

School at Helnæs and finally Ryslinge Youth Boarding School.

Some observations

We want to give you these observations and comments from our visit to three of the places.

The students at the two youth boarding schools, Flakkebjerg and Ryslinge, were well prepared for our visit, especially Ryslinge.

At Flakkebjerg we met with students from two classes. After giving our presentations, the students were divided into groups and given a number of questions to discuss. Later they came back in plenary to present their replies. It turned out that these young people had worked very seriously with the questions, and many of their replies could be taken back to Ghana or the Philippines for further consideration.

At Ryslinge the whole school (110 persons) was present in the Assembly Hall. The teachers had prepared them very well, and they were actually impressed that people had come from far away to talk to and with them. After the two presentations the students were divided into groups to discuss some questions (different from Flakkebjerg). In plenary each group reported back. These reports resulted in some very good exchanges with the guest teachers, and there is no doubt that these students showed a high degree of maturity considering their age (average 16 and not yet in high school).

At these two places the young people answered in a very creative and bright way by not only being critical and demanding to the systems, such as EU import regulations, Denmark's development policy etc., but also by pointing at themselves to be active in changing habits, e.g. saving energy (CO₂ emission) and water.

There is no doubt that some of these youngsters are not only future tertiary students and voters, but also decision-makers, politicians and researchers.

As to the elderly at Løgumkloster we were lucky to be part of a jubilee programme with more than 150 elderly participants! We

were positively surprised in another way too: We had been warned that communicating in English may be a problem, but it was not. The participants were highly interested and showed quite some knowledge and life experience from many years of working and travelling to other parts of the world, and - not least - from reading about the subject and following discussions in the media. So, after the presentations we had a quite lively discussion with the twelve participants, and we could actually have spent more time with them than scheduled.

The Future

It was our intention and ambition to raise these important questions and points of view on millennium development goals at the agenda of twelve educational institutions. The mere fact that we really came and addressed these serious issues on their own turf fulfilled our ambition to open a debate and hopefully a continuous dialogue, not only among the participants and teachers we met, but also among the participants and their families and groups in civil society.

Hopefully, one result of our tour could be future actions towards the necessity of "hard talks" on MDG. Or, as we in the tour group would say, at least for as long as this may be necessary - up to 2015.

We could claim that current, almost daily talks and actions should be initiated everywhere as a co-creation-creative approach on behalf of AWE.

By doing so we are not twisting our "supply chain"; on the contrary we are rethinking and revitalising it. Our supply chain in this case, as a first step, is the visit to these twelve educational institutions.

The potential for education and change at these places, the results of our visit and our good intentions make it all worth the effort.

In fact, such a programme is a kind of action that could be taken a couple of times more up to 2015 if we, AWE, really want education and positive change of attitude towards sustainable solutions to eradicate poverty in the world.

Millennium Development bring World Education into the classroom

Rikke Schultz, AWE Denmark

“Millennium Development Goals are easy to understand, they are measurable and they tie the world together without reducing complexity,” wrap up AWE teachers.

Five schools in Vejle, Denmark, had visiting guest teachers from AWE in India and Tanzania this week. About 300 students in grades seven to nine had the opportunity to learn about the situation in India and Tanzania in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The AWE teachers are happily concluding that the MDGs are easily understood in the classrooms.

The guest teachers Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul and Livingstone Beykwaso were in Denmark due to an exchange program by Association for World Education (AWE).

Pupils introduced to third world living conditions

Through figures, pictures and dilemma stories the pupils were introduced to living

conditions in the third world and to programs that are meant to lead people out of extreme poverty and illiteracy. Better housing, better education and better health care among the poorest are important steps in this direction. Self help groups are now implemented in both countries.

MDG facts from Tanzania and India

Among the many Tanzanian and Indian facts and opinions presented by Livingstone Beykwaso and Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul were the following:

In Tanzania a great effort is being made to organize elderly people and to give them access to resources, so they can assist orphans that have lost their parents due to Aids/HIV.

In India women are supported to form self help groups. Women empowerment improves the economy of families, motivates sending children to school and helps to reduce domestic violence.

The only goal that both India and Tanzania are expecting to achieve before 2015

Goals

is goal number two concerning education. Both countries are very close to a situation where all children between six and 14 years will attend school.

One optimistic assessment is that the eight goals can be reached before 2025 if the right political decisions are made. To support sustainable development, it is important that resources from the developed world are distributed through local organizations. It is also important that national governments support local work. Both in India and Tanzania there should be more joint obligations between the government, the local administration and the NGOs to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

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