

\$100 laptop debate

You are at a town hall style meeting, where the government is debating whether they should partake in the OLPC \$100 Laptop program. This is a meeting in Lima, Peru.

You have 5-7 minutes to present your viewpoints from the perspective of different stakeholders in this process. You don't know whether you will be asked to speak PRO or CON the idea, so must prepare both. There will also be a rebuttal after the initial presentations

Stakeholders:

1. Teacher in a typical school
2. Local IT entrepreneur
3. Parent
4. National government representative



Debate Team Assignments

- **Teachers**
 - Kristina Rohlin
 - Vinithra Varadharajan
- **Government representatives**
 - Stacey T. Hoang
 - James Wilson
- **Entrepreneurs**
 - Rama Munukur
 - Jeremy Stolarz
- **Parents**
 - Joshua Kunin-Goldsmith
 - Madhu Prabaker





The Faces of Poverty

Technology for Developing Communities
Professors Joe Mertz and Bernardine Dias
Fall 2006

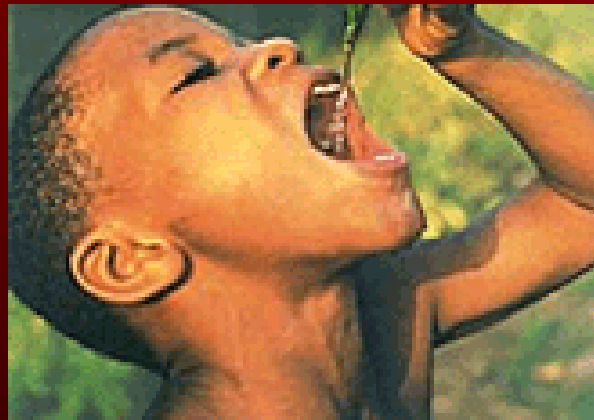
Carnegie Mellon





Experiencing Poverty

How can we truly understand it?



Why experience poverty?

- To be able to respond compassionately
 - [Quotes from Purves, *The Search for Compassion*, ISBN 0664250653]
- To find appropriate and accurate assumptions in our models / analyses / designs

How can we experience poverty?

- Personal experience
- Peace Corps or similar program
 - United Nations Volunteers Program
 - Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
- Faith-based organization-sponsored programs
 - American Friends Service Committee
 - Mercy Corps
- “Hybrids” or cultural translators
 - (e.g. Muhammad Yunus)
- Documentaries, movies
- Novels, travel literature
- Simulations and virtual reality
- Communicating with people living in poverty



Movie

- Does this match your view of living in poverty?
- How are the relationships depicted in the film. Are they believable?
- Are the relationships similar or different than you would expect?
- What are the challenges the family has in the film?
- Are these challenges unique to living in poverty? Unique to living in Tehran?
- Is the film far from reality? A romanticization of a poor community?
- What aspects, if any, about the community in the movie surprised you?



Reading - Yunus

- What did Yunus do to *listen to* people in Jobra?
- How did he gain the trust of the people of Jobra?
- How did he then make himself valuable to the people of Jobra?
 - What role(s) did he play?
 - What resource(s) did he bring?
- What lessons did you learn from Yunus?



Personal experiences

- Have you experienced poverty?
- Have you at some point
 - sat on someone's mourning bench
 - or spent time and energy in a Jobra?
 - What did you learn?
- Have you had an experience where you could feel the frustration and powerlessness?
- Have you felt personally appalled, confounded, or determined like Yunus?
- Did you have an opportunity to do anything about it?



Experiencing poverty exercise

- Divide into 4 groups
- The TDC Fund has a Request for Proposals (RFP) to evaluate the needs of the community depicted in the movie.
- Your group thinks you could do this best.
- Propose to the TDC Fund how you would evaluate those needs.
- Include a rough timeline and budget
- You have 10 minutes for this exercise.



Experiencing poverty exercise

- The TDC Fund uses a committee from the target community to chose the winning proposal to fund.
- Stay in the same groups
- Swap proposals
- Put yourselves, as best as you can, in the role of a members of the community.
 - I.e. the characters in the movie
- Assess the proposal.
- You have 10 minutes for this exercise



Experiencing poverty exercise

- What critiques do you have of the proposals?
- If funded, would they have gotten to the authentic needs of the community?
- What aspects of the community did you feel you were unable to represent?
- What changes would you have made for a similar proposal in a developing community you have personally experienced?
- What changes would you have made for a similar evaluation in Pittsburgh?



Next week...

- History and politics of development
- Development homework
- Webpage will be updated every Thursday night

