HYDROPHILANTHROPY REEXAMINED – Differences Between Failure and Success (an allegorical approach)

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Talk Outline

– Scope of the problem
– Some Ways Well-Intentioned Folks can blow it
– Solutions - Changing People, Changing Policy

My Main Point – Changing the Paradigm
Shift in Goals from Number of Beneficiaries to Sustainability
Hydrophilanthropy

Philanthropy = a desire to help mankind, especially as shown by gifts to charitable or humanitarian institutions; benevolence (Webster’s New World Dictionary, 2nd Edition)

Definition

– Humanitarian actions which increase and sustain clean water in areas of need

A natural predisposition for geoscientists and engineers
Manual Well Drilling – Turkana, Kenya – 2007; University of Nevada students, Teaching the Local Men and Women How to Drill
Clean Water – The Challenge

- 748 million to 1.2 billion people don’t have access to clean drinking water
- 5,000,000 will die each year from lack of clean drinking water
- UN estimates 2.5 billion people worldwide do not have access to toilets or sanitary pit latrines
Increased Climate Variability – Drought and Famine

- Serious Problem
- Example – Sub Sahelian Africa
- 1968 -1975 Drought - 200,000 died
- millions of herd animals were dead
- many thousands of children were brain damaged from inadequate nutrition
- Economy of region (8 countries) devastated
- Large shifts in population
- Major Societal upheaval
There are Tens of Thousands of Organizations, and Millions of People Who Want to Help
Ways to Blow It (by Allegory)

- Antonie van Leeuwenhoek community view – Microscopic view
- No broad picture
Lack of Broad, Integrated Picture

- People forced to inhabit very limited areas.
- Shallow groundwater widely used.
- Inadequate protection of groundwater from onsite sanitation.

Photo Brent Usher
 Allegorical Ways to Blow It

• Antonie van Leeuwenhoek view - No on-the-ground pre-evaluation/ preparation

• Bernie Madoff approach - (depend on resources that aren’t there)
Allegorical Ways to Blow It

- Antonie van Leeuwenhoek view - No on-the-ground pre-evaluation/ preparation
- Bernie Madoff approach - (depend on resources that aren’t there)
- Neville Chamberlin approach – (depending on the idea that no bad things will happen)
Allegorical Ways to Blow It

• Antonie van Leeuwenhoek view - No on-the-ground pre-evaluation/ preparation
• Bernie Madoff approach - (depend on resources that aren’t there)
• Neville Chamberlin approach – (depend that no bad things will happen)
• Twerking the residents
Ways to Blow It

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• Bernie Madoff approach - (depend on resources that aren’t there)

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• Twerking the residents

• The Balrog got Gandalf approach – (No oversee or leadership)
Example - Engineering students implementing projects in developing countries, where they would never be allowed to implement an engineering project in their more affluent home country.
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- The Balrog got Gandalf approach – (No oversee or leadership)
- Crusader Approach – Drinking the Holy Water
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• Seal team six approach - (short term in and out) – no follow up
Changing the Seal Team Six Paradigm

Shift in Goals from Number of Beneficiaries to Sustainability

• 21 African nation survey reported that 36% of installed well pumps were non-functional (Rural Water Supply Network Work Plan, January 2009-December 2011)

• Menaca region of Mali, 80% of water points are “dysfunctional” The Institute for Environment and Development (IIED 2009)

• 58% are in need of repair in northern Ghana
Community Water Quality Training – Benin, Africa, Notre Dame University
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- Peter Pan “PlayPump People” - Inappropriate Technology
The PlayPump - harder work for the users, compared to a handpump or treadle pump.
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- Crusader Approach – Drinking the Holy Water
- Seal team six approach - (short term in and out) – no follow up
- Peter Pan “PlayPump People” - Inappropriate Technology
- Superman Syndrome – Let’s Do It All for the Community!
Conclusions

• On-the-ground pre-evaluation/ preparation
• Bring adequate resources
• Imagine long-term consequences
• Observe local customs, attire, practices
• Provide good oversight and leadership
• Plan ahead for sustainability
• Follow up
• Use appropriate technology
“What our society has today is a perfection of means and a confusion in goals”  Albert Einstein

Shift in Goals from Number of Beneficiaries to Sustainability