

ABSTRACT

Development philosophy like “what serve the rich serve the poor” failed; so did development aids, rural-oriented, man-mattered, gradual development, prioritizing the poor, poverty treatment, and the local involvement in development decision-making and planning. Social and economic ills are then necessarily calling for the intermediate technology to address them particularly in the non-modern sectors. This dissertation is to critically evaluate intermediate technology, to demonstrate its philosophical presuppositions and how it can become a way of life for millions of people who need to be saved together with the earth.

The model is philosophical and normative in addressing the social and economic malaises, but fails if practitioners are strangers, non-supportive and less cooperative. It is backed by events and great ideas which highlight the fact that man endeavors to conquer nature but senselessly devastates it. The human wellbeing in this model is inspired by the Sermon on the Mount (in its ethical sense), modernity, sensible and responsible use of natural resources, organization and ownership. Humans, for their existence, need moderate ways otherwise they may hasten death of their societies and civilizations. The model has popularly and extensively been hybridized and mutated since 1987 until today.

To recommend, it is necessary to revisit development philosophies, theories and approaches in order to alleviate poverty and to renovate education, organization and discipline which are indispensable to the creation of wealth. Politicians, economists, social leaders and members, educationists, technocrats, media persons and ecologists who direct societies must be re-educated to avoid distorting normative philosophies and suffering humanity.