

Adaptation for Livelihood Security

Strategic Imperatives and Practical Solutions

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The Context

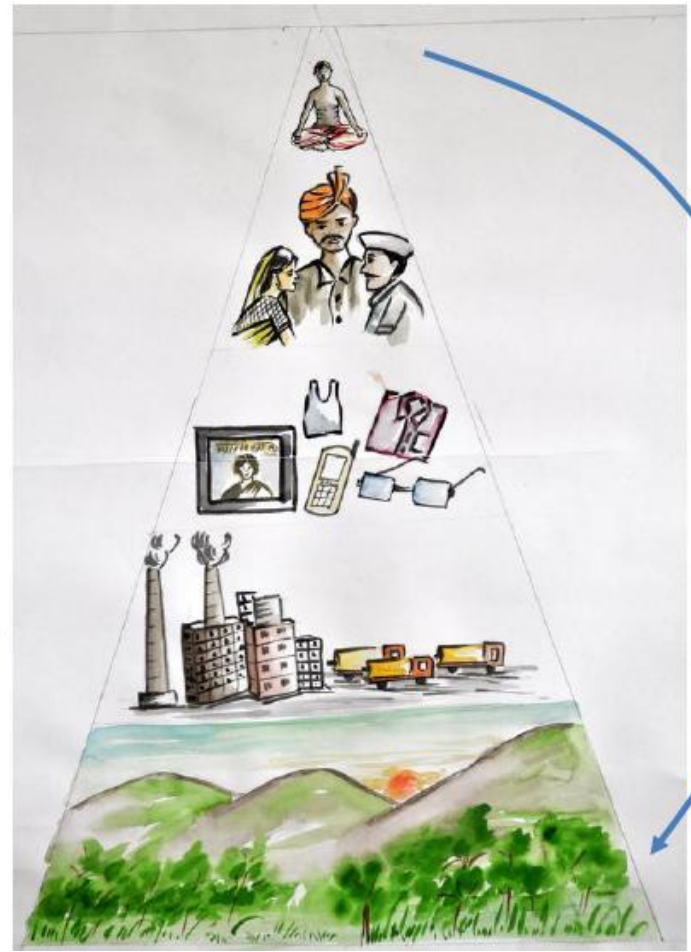
A Village Artist's Interpretation of Herman Daly's Triangle

Ultimate Ends

Intermediate Ends

Intermediate Means

Ultimate Means



Priceless: Its measurement is fraught with difficulties and vaguely perceived

Goals that governments promise, that economies are expected to deliver

Inputs to the Economy: Built and Human Capital

Priceless: Natural Capital - Our Heritage Supporting Everything

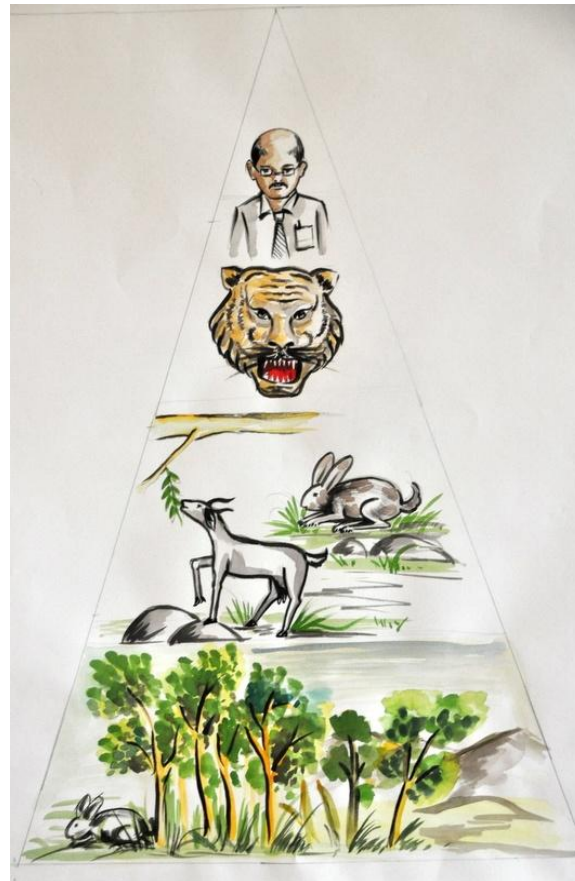
Ecological and Human Pyramids

Ecological Pyramid: Partial Truth
Distorting the Reality



Tiger at the top of the Pyramid

Revised Ecological Pyramid:
Shifting Paradigms



Human Being the Most Vulnerable

Human Ecological Pyramid:
Megacities dependent on Rural
Ecosystems and Forests



Under Threat from Climate Change and Resource Depletion

In Climate Variability and Change Scenarios

Human Ecological Pyramid



Megacities more vulnerable towards Climate Change. Substantially depends on the base of pyramid.
Response required: a Proactive Adaptation Approach.

Since Megacities are dependent on the base, Proactive Adaptation will come to a naught in absence of simultaneous reactive adaptation.

The Base is immediately vulnerable to Climate Variability. Its robustness directly depends on Natural Resources, which is fast getting eroded.

Response required: A reactive and serendipitous approach.

Blending Adaptation Approaches

Climate Variability

- Short Term Events
- Bottom of the pyramid most vulnerable - poor and marginal who live in agrarian landscape
- Sustainable Livelihood Strategy - an inescapable imperative
- Should aim at preventing erosion of Adaptive Capacity
- Reactive Adaptation

Climate Change

- Long Term Phenomenon
- Top of the pyramid more vulnerable - dependence on all the layers below
- Calls for Ecosystems based Sustainable Development
- All will be effected with varying degree of vulnerability. Should strengthen resource base.
- Proactive Adaptation

Livelihoods and Drivers of Change

Climate affected impacts are all about changes to
Resource Flows critical for livelihood security

- Climate Variability would create temporary changes in Resource Flows
- Climate Change would create permanent changes in Resource Flows
- Hence, livelihood security calls for measures to protect and diversify resources and their flows

Livelihoods and Drivers of Change

- Livelihoods is Key to Climate Change Adaptation approaches
- The Livelihood Strategy should look to create opportunity sets
- The approach should focus on building capabilities and assets base of the poor
- Taken together they determine how people will respond towards Climate Change impacts

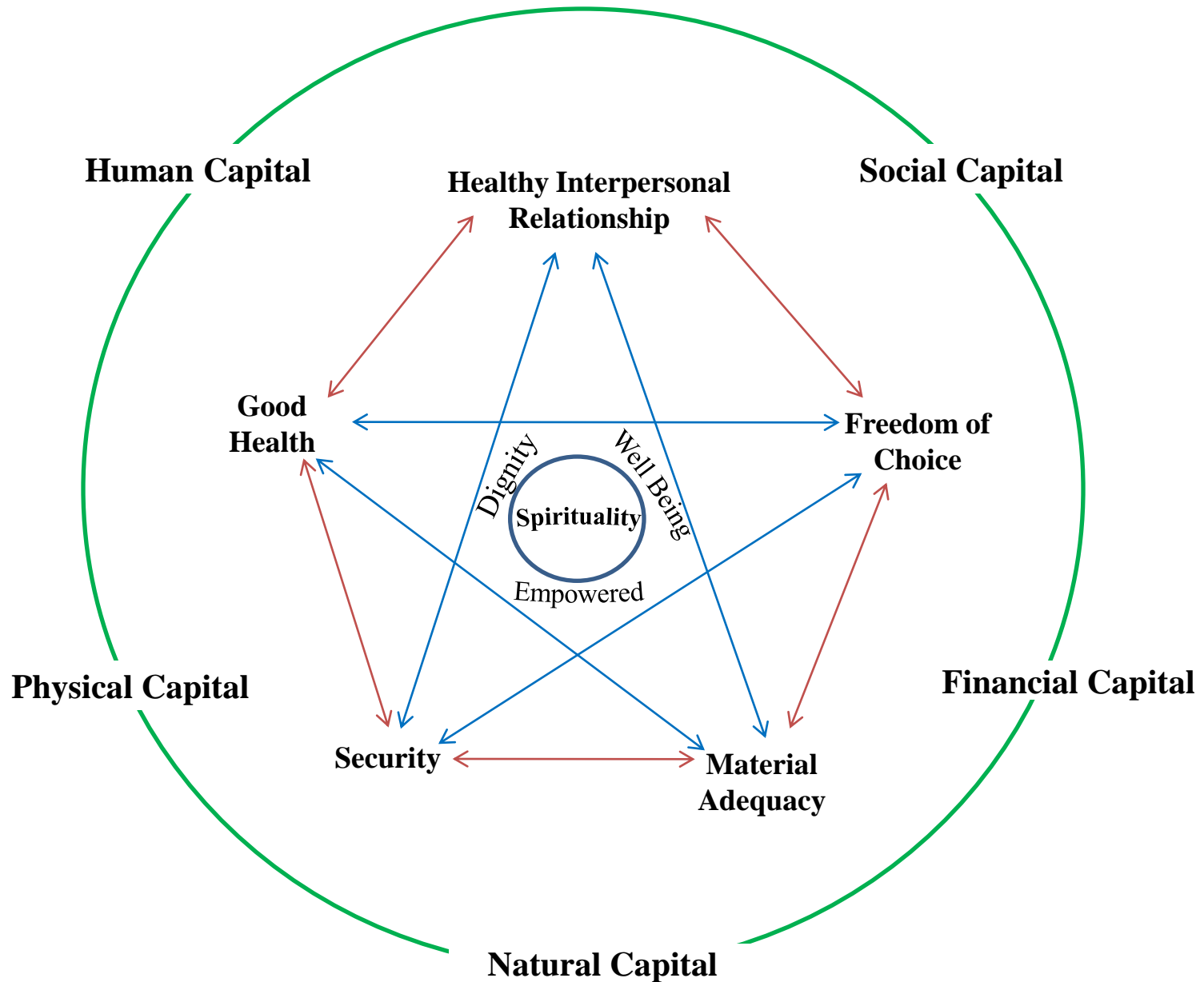
Key Livelihood Strategy

In a nut-shell

this should include:

- Ecosystem Restoration and Management
- Elements of reactive adaptation that serve immediate needs and bring immediate benefits
- That which contributes towards long term proactive adaptation – builds capacity for reducing future vulnerability and which deals with even greater threats from Climate Change

WOTR Engine for Adaptation



Policy Implications

- Natural resources are finite, hence enhancing the resource base rather than its exploitation is of urgent priority. Conserving a robust resource base will ensure sustainable livelihoods for our children.
- Resource regeneration and its sustainable management should be done by the local communities, which will in turn occasion livelihood opportunities. This will reduce the stress and violence in urban areas that come from distress migration.
- Policies and pre-conditions for funding, planning, implementation and monitoring must enable locale-specific actions.
- Bottom up 'all-stakeholders' processes for synergies, safe-fail approaches, sustainable livelihoods with flexibility, locale specific planning and implementation regimes could be a viable starting point.



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