



RUTH S. AMMON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Dolapo Adeniji-Neill, Ph.D.

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# Promoting Capacity Through Cooperation between Urban and Rural Women



# Definition of Rural

- in, relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town: remote-rural areas.
- (<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/rural>)

# Rural

- "Rural" - just away from the city, or lacking in amenities, infrastructure, education, information, proper health care...

# Urban/Urbanite

- Urban: in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city: the urban population (Oxford dictionary).
- Urbanite: someone who live in the city or similar urban areas or a demographic class of young, socially conscious urban professionals.

# Urbanites





Panorama of Dar es Salaam city a few minutes before dusk. Photo by Benjamin William Mkapa



# Research on the Urban Life

## “Ten Great Expectations”

- Expecting to live a meaningful and experience-rich urban life
  - Expecting to succeed in multiple areas of life (not just career)
  - Expecting to get substantial fulfilment from work (not just cash)
  - Expecting to be at the hub of a large friendship network
  - Expecting the traditional ideal of “true love” in the modern world
  - Expecting to have to “make time” in order to have and enjoy time
  - Expecting to avoid the use of debt to have what they need or would want
  - Expecting to have a progressive government that delivers
  - Expecting to live in a pleasant “urban village” area of their city
  - Expecting to live a responsible life as a consumer
- (From the British commuter newspaper “Metro”’s qualitative research, 2001; <http://urbanite.askdefine.com/?>)



# Enabling Rural Women's Capacity"

- What objective does this assume/capacity to do what?:
- Self-sustaining?
- Independent-minded?
- Active participants in the making of policy and life choices?

# What do rural African Women and Urban African Women have in Common?

- Village of birth or have grand parents and other family members who still live in the village
- Other suggestions?

# What are the differences that are obstacles to their cooperation?

- Western education
- Distance
- Prejudice
- Class
- Others obstacles?

# How to overcome obstacles to their cooperation

- Use the same 4 rules of networking:
- Level 1 – Acquaintance (go and visit-casual)
- Level 2 – Associate (Spend time, become working partners)
- Level 3 – Advocate (Become friends- share resources, give service, demonstrate integrity and competence)
- Level 4 – Ally (ultimate level of relationship- collaborators and teammates)

Adapted from **The Urban Professional: Investing in Social Capital** **By Michael Rice**

# Fostering Interaction

- Religious institutions
- Village/"tribal" associations
- Ask professional associations to start projects with rural women

Who can facilitate the co-operation  
between rural and urban Women?

How?

- Urban Women
- Government
- International agencies
- Embassies in the country
- Businesses
- Religious institution
- cultural associations



“Educate a woman, you educate a nation.” (Anne Mungai)

- Education is the key:
- Adult literacy (not only reading and writing)
- Without literacy it is impossible to move forward

# How to promote the capacity of Rural Women

- Projects that will generate resources
- Access to funding
- Grants and loans for rural women projects such as
  - irrigation
  - Clean water
  - primary health care
  - literacy classes
  - Etc.

# How could urban professional women help?

- Cooperation
- Dialogue
- Listen
- Point the way to where the funds are and help get them
- Educate with respect

# How could urban women help?

- Co-construct solutions to issues of:
- Self sufficiency
- Illiteracy
- Health problems such as HIV/Aids education
- Maternal and Child health and educational care
- Find access to solutions and implement with the help of all stakeholders

# How could urban women help?

- Educate for democracy
- Pay Back!!!!
- Reach back
- Remember...







# How Could Urban Women Help?

- Become allies (An ally is not a bystander, she is there with her rural sisters)
- working together with rural women in a mutually beneficial relationship
- Become collaborators, partners and teammates
- Speak for/as ally-advocates of rural women where they could not be present (urban/local institutions)
- Explain how things work and how to be effective + recognize sisterhood
- Listen.

“To whom much is given, much is expected.” Luke 12:48



# “A mad woman.” Said: Kenyan President Arap Moi of Wangari Maathai!

- In 1997 she started the Green Belt Movement that engaged rural women in planting of 45 million trees.
- In 2004, she became the first African Woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.

# We need more mad urban women!

- Questions and suggestions?

- Thank you!