

# The Voices of the Poor Oppressed and The Marginalized of the Other World

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## Abstract

Half of the world's almost 3 billion lives for under \$2 a day. They live in the pyramid's bottom and reflect mass expectations. Poor voices are a testimony to poor people's fights and hopes for a dignified life. Poverty is voicelessness. Poverty is powerlessness. Poor people on five continents claim insecurity and humiliation. Poor people do not believe that new economic prospects should be taken advantage of. The poor are more vulnerable and volatile than ever as they operate mainly in the informal sector. This is related to unreliable and low wage jobs, loss of traditional livelihoods, a deterioration of traditional social solidarities, lack of access to justice and lack of adequate healthcare and educational possibilities. It is important to acknowledge that their goals are spatial. It is therefore important, in developing space applications, to enable these aspirations to express themselves. When used as a strategy in synergy with other poverty alleviation technologies, space technology has been catalytic, activated and critical. Space technology has found itself to dramatically improve and broaden the overall processes of poverty alleviation – in the fields of literacy, education, health, inclusion and capacity building – with economies of scale and capacity to overcome conventional barriers. Natural resources, climate and catastrophe are also areas that impact the vulnerable and are effectively covered by space applications. Although the "best practises" from developing countries show how much space technology has contributed to the expectations of the poor, their widespread functioning to respond to the voice of the poor remains a challenge. The paper aims at explaining the study and providing insight into how much room has been able to respond to the voice of the poor by drawing lessons of global initiatives such as UNISPACE, MDG's, WSSD, WSIS and HFA; regional initiatives like UN-ESCAP RESAP, as well as the experiences of some development countries.

**Keywords:** *Voices, Poor Oppressed, Marginalised, World, People-Lives, Poverty, Opportunity.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The bad are the real poor. "How can voices and their experiences, goals, thoughts and recommendations be found in the development processes, the World Bank published the 2001 World Development Report? "At the Poor's consultations. The study has captured the voices of over sixty thousand marginalised women and men from 60 nations using participatory and open-ended listening techniques. There is a striking trend of performance. In consultations, the vast majority of the poor complain they're getting worse, have less economic prospects, and live with more poverty than they had before. Poor people's interactions with government institutions are overwhelmingly negative – even though government programmes, such as in education, healthcare, administration, or in poverty alleviation programmes and initiatives, have been rated as significant. In general, NGO contributions are well-recognized. The poor find themselves most reliable with their own institutions. The transition from gender to violence against women is always troubled. The consultations concentrate on five cross-cutting issues, which have illustrated the suffering and evil life of poor people: corruption, crime, impotence, impotence and livelihood. The largest discussion of poverty alleviation in the millennium more or less represented poor voices. The urgencies of poverty alleviation have fallen from all the international summits, including the millennium development goals (MDGs), World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), World Info Society Summit (WSIS) and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). It is now clear that the alleviation of poverty is not only about raising aggregate income – it is also about the fundamental human right to decision-making, namely education, health and power, social and economic opportunities and the voice of the disadvantaged and the oppressed. The reduction of poverty, a dynamic, multi-dimensional challenge, is the convergence of economic development, human rights and environmental ethics. UNISPACE III and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (UNESCAP) have built the foundations for raising awareness of the global opinion by realising the genuine advantage space has in addressing various dimensions of poverty alleviation. However, room is not operationally used to minimise poverty; the first conditions are necessary - in the sense of structural structures and political leadership.

## **2. ADVANCES IN SPACE APPLICATIONS AND RELEVANCE FOR THE POOR**

The advancement in the field of spatial technology has led to a number of technologies, goods and services being operationalized. Electronic communications, e-government, television training, tele-health and videoconferencing are the source of significant opportunity while tele networks, mobile satellite television, internet backbone, VSAT applications and emergency communications emanate from satellite communication (SatCom). DTH/DBS TV, digital audio, interactive data, voice, video communications have recently affected consumer services, which include broadband IPs. Place location, search and rescue, mapping and aircraft assistance services based on GPS/Navigation are becoming increasingly common. Improved weather systems, extreme weather tracking are some of the latest applications in Meteorological Satellite (MetSat). Remote sensing has gone beyond the conventional maps of natural resources, climate, facilities and dangerous zoning to geospatial clarity because of the advancement of spatial and spectral resolution. Access to high-resolution data is focused on community-based remote sensing and leads to many applications of public good in nature, notably disaster tracking, weather and farm advisories. There are many best practises showing that Earth monitoring (EO), like remote sensing, has encouraged the involvement in natural resource management, infrastructure development, the EIA and disaster risk assessments. Convergence, broadband and global openness define the latest paradigms led by advancement in space technology applications.

In seeking major international summits and also in addressing the voices of the disadvantaged, the role of space applications was duly acknowledged. Many developing countries could exploit space applications in efforts to reduce poverty, environmentally sound sustainable growth, the development of information society and a disaster resilient community because of their economy size, strong institutional basis and policy emphasis. There were substantial limitations on the broader operation of space-based systems and services due to the shortcomings between national capacity and applications and applications. In the context of new paradigms of change in space technology applications and social wisdom in global economies, the problems surrounding a broad scale of space-enhancing applications in response to voices of the poor need to be revisited.

## **3. SATCOM, DIGITAL DIVIDES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATIONS**

### **Issues**

⇒ One of the very high correlates of poverty has been the digital divide. Rural, dryland & isolated areas, having the high incidence of poverty, are digitally marginalized. Investments in building the terrestrial infrastructures, especially in these areas, may not be cost effective and at the cost of other core priorities related to poverty alleviation.

⇒ Space based Information Communication Technology (ICT) enabled services have assumed valuable significance in terms of providing connectivity and basic human entitled services; opportunity for large scale empowerment, knowledge & better governance, and integration to the markets – especially in the era of integrated global economy.

⇒ Building space based ICTs infrastructure is just not enough. ‘Access’, ‘Affordability’ and ‘Usefulness’ are essential if ICTs have to reach out and benefit the poor.

⇒ Other issues include the policy and institutional framework taking into account “technology life cycle”, standards, modularity and interconnectivity, interoperability, technology transfer and human resources development.

### **Perspectives**

- Satcom transitioned to broadband, digital and convergence, and thus provides enhanced opportunity. - It also demonstrated the potentials to bridge the divides, reaches out and benefits the poor, if used innovatively.

- While satcom based VSATs, WLL services offered the cost effective & contextual solutions at community level by offering variety of the services, triggering large scale operationalization seems possible only by mainstream broadband satellite systems. - Broadband satellite based multi-purpose proof of the concept study

– synthesizing ‘access’, ‘affordability’ and ‘usefulness’ related issues in the context of poverty alleviation is of great operational value.

- Proto-type study is required towards (i) examining the operational viability, (ii) working out the different models of operationalisation viz., business model, community asset etc and (iii) developing the partnerships among the different players

– Government, Industry, NGOs, International Organizations – including the funding agencies, multi-national companies.

- Use of satellite broadband for multipurpose Community Tele-centre (CTC) is emerging concept; there are not demonstrative case studies. Such study will provide the insights on all the outstanding issues. With the contextual background, it is also important to examine the scope of possible services from satellite based broadband CTCs taking into account their ‘usefulness’ to meet the hierarchical needs of the poor

– Whether he/she lives in a city or a town or in a remote village. The proof of the concept has to be demonstrated in all these contextual variabilities.

- The changing domains of role-players necessitate seeking the support of private space agencies also to promote satellite broadband-based multi-purpose CTCs models.

- Ideally, CTCs could first be conceived in those developing countries - characterized by the worst of the digital divides and higher incidence of poverty. Detailed studies on the subject may provide further insights related to the proof-of-the-concept CTCs experiments using broadband satellites and the nature of the possible regional/sub-regional cooperative mechanisms.

#### **4. NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SPACE APPLICATIONS**

A combination of poor socio-economic conditions and catastrophes has brought about a vicious cycle of vulnerability and poverty. The most poor people have been homes in regions that are constantly susceptible to disasters worldwide. Poverty and marginalisation is more a cause of the insecurity caused by natural disasters under certain circumstances than of the disaster itself. So the connection between poverty and natural disaster vulnerability evolves locally. Over the years, these local relationships have been expanding to include much broader areas and many disadvantaged people. As seen, the statistics of global poverty are decreasing, while natural disaster risk continues to increase. Poverty is more cataclysmic in natural disasters. Poverty alleviation and disaster management are completely inseparable under such climatic, terrain and socio-cultural conditions. Consequently, community growth, which is immune to natural disasters, also contributes to the reduction of poverty.

##### **Issues**

⇒ The people worldwide, experiencing almost every conceivable hazard, have been living with the highest degree of vulnerability & risks to their lives and properties. Among the riskiest people, the largest segments are of the poor and marginalized.

⇒ While a close link between hazard vulnerability and poverty seems evident, the policies and programmes related to disaster management and poverty alleviation are still not in harmony with each other in most of the developing countries.

⇒ A new paradigm however has started with the focus on disaster management moving away from relief and response to risk management and vulnerability reduction. Putting this into the operational context is possible only if there are comprehensive and detailed information about the risks associated with the people, the different types of vulnerability viz., socioeconomic, terrain and climatic, and policies related.

⇒ The new focus that places more emphasis on community based bottom-up approach is bringing the overall approach of disaster management closer to poverty alleviation, and this trend needs to be encouraged worldwide. However, the institutions at various levels responsible for disaster management are yet to be empowered with appropriate tools and techniques, which enable them to be more effective.

⇒ There are serious institutional inadequacies - constraining the value of scientific information to be put to the use operationally, and thus widening the gaps between the institutional goals and its impact down the line to the disaster affected people.

⇒ Private space industries are also now supporting disaster management efforts, but there is a need for institutionalized partnership within the framework of cooperation & affordable business models which may lead the benefit larger cross section of the disaster affected population in the region.

### **Perspectives**

- Weather satellites have contributed greatly to the prediction of extreme weather threats – tropical cyclones, severe storms and flash floods. El Nino's projection was the real breakthrough in recent years. The local organisations would have a great benefit in disaster preparedness if they were improved to translate the generic weather data in useful decision support at the local level.

- Nearly all disasters mitigation challenges – vulnerability analysis and risk evaluation, disaster avoidance, construction of GIS databases and decision support implementation and disaster relief – rapid mapping and damage assessment – have been resolved through use of RS&GIS. The lessons learned are the organisational use and systemic processes from the success stories.

- Although its organisational dependence has been demonstrated, the use of low-cost emergency communication capacities depends on cooperation, suggesting the increased role of the private service providers in allowing for cutting-edge communications backbone during the time of crisis.

- 'Best practices' have been found (i) in using conjunctively satcom, RS & GIS and GPS – in an institutionalized framework with multi-sectoral linkages, (ii) identification of the regions having the highest amount of risks – emanating from multiple hazards and also the safest zones, for the policy formulation towards disaster reduction, and (iii) use of RS for rapid mapping of disaster event and satcom network to disseminate the information to the end-user on real time basis.

- Although there are quite a few international/regional efforts – including the several UN initiatives that could further be strengthened to cover some more regions, International Charter on space and major disaster provides a unique example of cooperative framework involving all the major space agencies to address disaster management needs.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

If used as a strategic field, space technologies may solve the previously unexploited and unattended "hard core poverty"; are particularly important in distant and unavailable areas where wired wireless and land-based networking is still unavailability due to economic or geographical constraints. Such applications can provide better governance, efficient management of natural resources, catastrophe reductions and faster growth in GDP. On the other hand, space applications in areas of education, health, empowerment and environmental sustainability have proven their operational reliability. The economic prospects for the poor and oppressed will rely on the acquisition and retaining of knowledge and skills, the development and protection of access to information, empowerment and a broader market within the framework of an evolving knowledge society in a global economy. Space technology allows multi-purpose CTCs, but it does sound promising in the direction of empowering the poor on a scalable and sustainable basis. However, these applications are threatened by the large-scale functioning of the poor and oppressed population.

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