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Economic growth and human needs satisfaction across socio-economic groups in Peru. An illustration using the Human Scale Development Approach

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Overview

- Three pillars of the HSD proposal

  – Needs and satisfiers

  – Environmental sustainability

- HSD in practice

- Illustration: Workshops in 5 Peruvian districts

- Concluding remarks

Three pillars of the HSD proposal

- Increasing levels of self-reliance
- Organic articulation between people, nature and technologies
- Actualisation of fundamental human needs

+ participation

Human needs and satisfiers (1)

- Participatory tool

- Classification of fundamental human needs based on axiological (valued) categories

- Crosses this needs with existential categories of Being, Having, Doing and Interacting

- This results in a matrix with empty boxes that have to be filled by participants with *satisfiers*: attitudes, behaviours, actions, social practices, values, forms of organisation and political models

Matrix of human needs and satisfiers

	BEING	HAVING	DOING	INTERAC-TING
SUBSISTENCE				
PROTECTION				
AFFECTION				
UNDERSTANDING				
PARTICIPATION				
IDLENESS				
CREATION				
IDENTITY				
FREEDOM				

Human needs and satisfiers (2)

Classification of satisfiers:

- **Synergic satisfiers:** they satisfy simultaneously different kind of needs.

- **Singular satisfiers:** they satisfy the need they are meant to satisfy

- **Inhibiting satisfiers:** they over-satisfy a given need so they curtail the possibility of satisfying other needs

- **Pseudo-satisfiers**: they give a false sense of satisfaction of a given need

- **Violators or destroyers**: they annihilate the satisfaction over time of the need they aim at and they impair the satisfaction of other needs

HSD and environmental sustainability

- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment des not depend (only) on moral judgements
- *Synergic satisfiers* cannot be truly synergic if they produce irreversible harm on the environment as interdependence between human and biological systems implies that fundamental human needs will be also harmed

HSD in practice

Study in three phases in five Peruvian districts (October-November 2011):

Phase 1. Participants identify satisfiers that at the time were impeding needs satisfaction (negative matrix)

Phase 2. Participants agree on the satisfiers that would allow for an optimal actualisation of needs in the community (matrix of the utopia)

Phase 3. Participants reach a consensus on the *synergic satisfiers* or strategies that would enable a transition from the negative to the utopian scenario

Five Peruvian districts (1)

Table 1 Participant households' socio-economic indicators by district

	Lima			Central Highlands	
	Miraflores	Breña	Huaycan	Huancayo	Acostambo
University education	66	49	21	56	14
Material of floor in house[a]					
- **Earth/sand**	-	2	9	12	81
- **Cement**	9	37	73	47	15
- **Parquet**	60	33	-	16	1
Ownership of three or more electric appliances (computer, fridge, washing machine, radio, color TV)	96	89	67	80	14
People in 4th and 5th income quintiles in the total sample	85	42	21	40	4
Sample size	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Percentages do not add to 100 as there are other floor materials not included in the Table
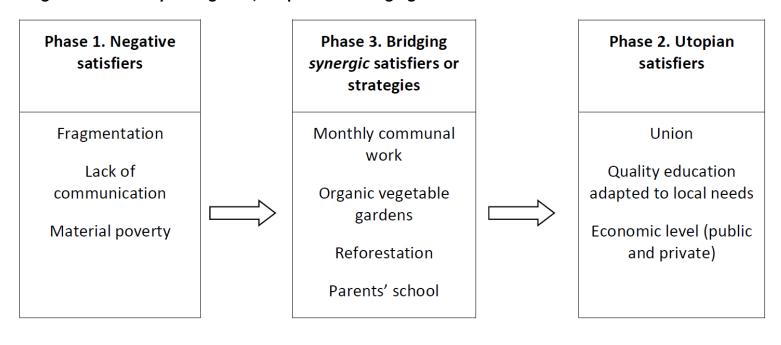
Five Peruvian districts (2)

3 workshops by district

- Recruiting participants
  - Invited through the questionnaire on values and subjective wellbeing
  - No monetary incentives given but small presents (ex. Chocolate box) as token of gratitude
- Workshop dynamics
  - Three 3-hour workshops by district following the 3 phases described
  - Average of 6 participants. Huaycan and Acostambo the most well attended

Example: 3 workshops in Acostambo

Figure 1. Summary of negative, utopian and bridging satisfiers in Acostambo

Phase 1. Negative satisfiers	Phase 3. Bridging *synergic* satisfiers or strategies	Phase 2. Utopian satisfiers
Fragmentation Lack of communication Material poverty	Monthly communal work Organic vegetable gardens Reforestation Parents' school	Union Quality education adapted to local needs Economic level (public and private)

Bridging *synergic satisfiers* (sustainable development strategies) in the 5 districts

LIMA

ANDEAN

Miraflores
- Institutional reforms (against corruption, nepotism, etc.)
- *Psycho-social work to increase self-esteem*
- Increased interaction across socio-economic and ethnic groups

Breña
- *Reducing infrastructural urban-rural divide*
- Increased citizens' institutional participation
- Congressmen to experience everyday life of rural people

Huaycan
- *Campaign to increase number residents*
- Jobs instead of social assistance
- *Reactivate neighborhood libraries*
- Universal elections in local governing body

Huancayo
- *Training civil servants (Quechua)*
- Training/education instead of social assistance
- Cooperation school-parents researchers
- *Better health care centers and hospitals*

HIGHLANDS

Acostambo
- *Organic vegetable gardens*
- *Parents' school*
- Communal work or 'faenas'
- *Reforestation programmes*

Concluding remarks

- Institutionalised interaction and cooperation across socio-economic groups, citizens' participation at all governance levels, promoting intrinsic (non-materialistic) values are strategies for needs satisfaction identified across economic groups

- It is questionable whether these strategies require economic growth. Most require institutional reforms, restructuring public spending and probably implementing progressive taxation

- Currently, there is no support for increased taxation among the middle and higher income groups in Peru