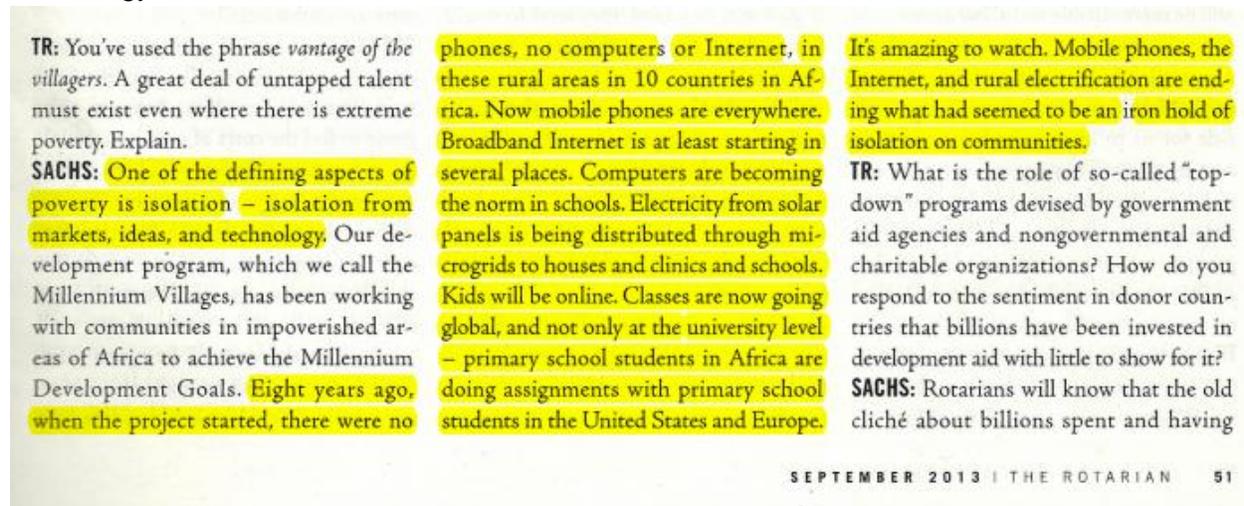


Internet Cafe project proposal

Problem:

According to Jeffrey Sachs (special adviser to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals and director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network), one of the defining aspects of poverty is **isolation** – isolation from markets, ideas and technology.



TR: You've used the phrase *vantage of the villagers*. A great deal of untapped talent must exist even where there is extreme poverty. Explain.

SACHS: One of the defining aspects of poverty is isolation – isolation from markets, ideas, and technology. Our development program, which we call the Millennium Villages, has been working with communities in impoverished areas of Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Eight years ago, when the project started, there were no phones, no computers or Internet, in these rural areas in 10 countries in Africa. Now mobile phones are everywhere. Broadband Internet is at least starting in several places. Computers are becoming the norm in schools. Electricity from solar panels is being distributed through microgrids to houses and clinics and schools. Kids will be online. Classes are now going global, and not only at the university level – primary school students in Africa are doing assignments with primary school students in the United States and Europe.

It's amazing to watch. Mobile phones, the Internet, and rural electrification are ending what had seemed to be an iron hold of isolation on communities.

TR: What is the role of so-called "top-down" programs devised by government aid agencies and nongovernmental and charitable organizations? How do you respond to the sentiment in donor countries that billions have been invested in development aid with little to show for it?

SACHS: Rotarians will know that the old cliché about billions spent and having

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This is certainly the case with the Itezhi-tezhi district, which is isolated in many ways: It is only accessible by bad roads and it is not on the way to any place that would bring high volumes of traffic. Electricity is just starting to be available to the community and the supply of it is still intermittent. The closest public library would be in Lusaka, a six-hour trip per bus. Similarly, there is no public facility providing internet access to the public. The only access to regular communications are through cell phones.

Solution:

Establish an Internet Café on the premises of Itezhi-tezhi church to provide opportunities for the whole community. It creates a conduit or portal to the outside world with all its opportunities:

- It will greatly improve the communication between different groups such as International Teams Canada partners, with mutual benefits.

- A local Internet cafe providing connections to the world wide web provides local businesses with the opportunity to grow their business
- Computer literacy training will provide people with marketable skills and opportunities to get a job or to create business for themselves and therefore provide for their families.
- Internet access will provide opportunities for teachers for research in order to upgrade themselves since this is now the government policy that you must upgrade from certificate to diploma or degree. As teachers become better qualified they will provide better education for students and also encourage the use of technology to students.
- Church leadership can access and research information e.g. bible.com; bible.org and Timothy Leadership Institute and many others. Pastors will be able to grow materially, spiritually, socially and in knowledge.

The goal will be for New Life Tabernacle to generate some income to ensure a sustainable business and cover for computer repairs, maintenance and allowance for two employees.

Description of the Internet Cafe



The plan is to house the Internet Cafe in the office block of New Life Tabernacle. It is centrally located in the town of Itezhi-tezhi. Roy Campbell, who is a ShareTech Team Leader at International Teams of Canada, will be helping New Life Tabernacle to set up the Internet Cafe to achieve the most value from the available funds. ShareTech is a project that is “Using Technology to help Churches help the Poor.”

Once it is set up, local people will be identified to run the day to day operations of the Internet cafe on business principles.

Budget and timeline

It is foreseen that the costs to implement the Internet Cafe will be \$19,900. It includes the basic internet set with computers and the travel costs for Roy to Zambia.

The facility that is earmarked for the Internet Cafe is currently still occupied by Escosa school while their building is being completed. As soon as there is a roof on that building, the Internet Cafe can be installed. The anticipated target date is May 2014.



Funding plan

This project, along with the Training centre and Roofing projects, are the main focus areas for Impact Zambia's fundraising efforts.

Roy Campbell through the Share Tech team of International Teams Canada, will be approaching possible donors from their network to contribute to this project.

Contact information

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