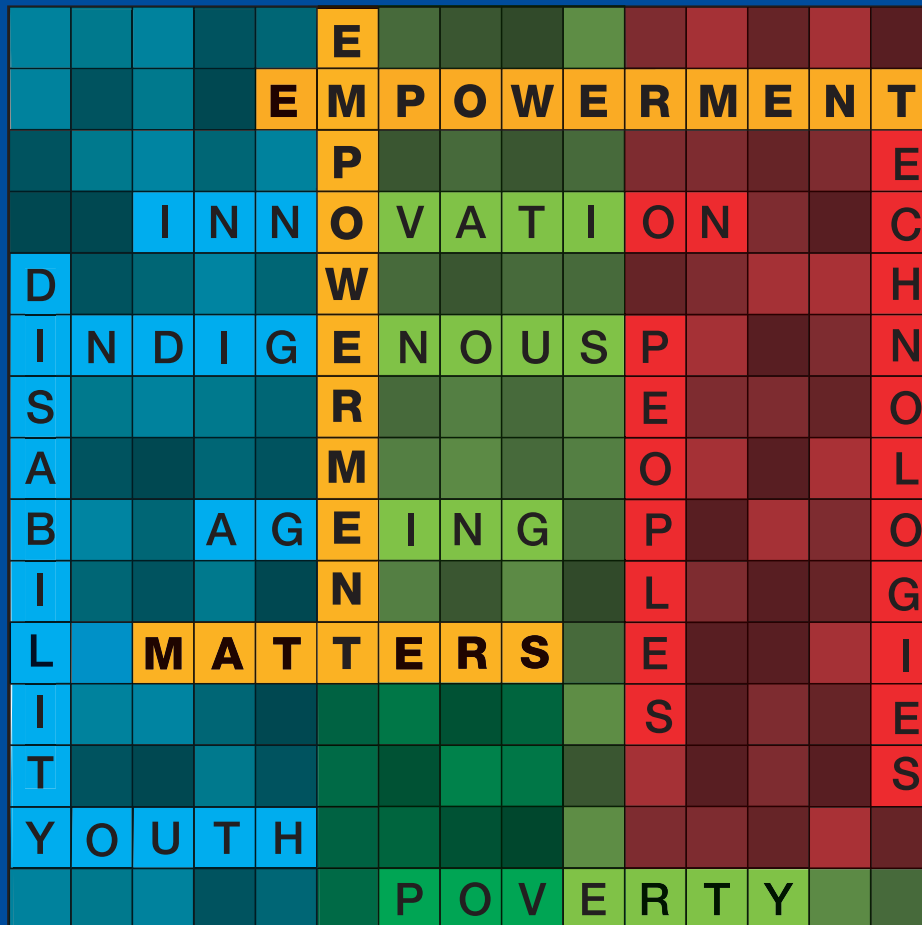# Promoting Empowerment of People
in achieving poverty eradication,
social integration and full employment
integration and full employment
and decent work for all.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which Member States of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy principles developed at United Nations conferences and summits into programmatic frameworks at the country level and; through technical assistance, it helps build national capacities.

DSPD

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) is part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat. The Division seeks to strengthen international cooperation for social development, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication, productive employment and decent work and the social inclusion of older persons, youth, family, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, persons in situations of conflict and other groups or persons marginalized from society and development.

Note

The views expressed in the present report are those of the authors and do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations, particularly concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The term "country" as used in the text of this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas. Mention of the names of firms and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

Acknowledgment

The responses collected from the online survey on people's empowerment contained in this report represent a collaborative effort, made possible by the answers received from people across the world on the theme of Empowerment. Their invaluable contributions were essential for the preparation of this report.

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) was glad to receive tens and tens of responses from young individuals; persons with disabilities, older persons and people working for various institutions and organizations committed to social development issues. Their keen interest on Empowerment reminded us about the growing importance of this topic in our society.

All the responses were precious; they provided a unique overview of how Empowerment can help achieve poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for people with different origins, cultures and languages.

The Division for Social Policy and Development is grateful for the many contributions received, which enabled readers of the Empowerment survey, to share and learn from their experiences and beliefs.

Thank you to all of you for making this possible!

Introduction

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), from 8 August to 5 September 2012, conducted a global online survey to gather inputs for consideration by the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), which took place from 6 to 15 February 2013.

The survey enabled the public worldwide to respond to a set of questions that were related to the priority theme of CSocD on "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all".

The responses collected and selected from the first question "Empowerment: What does it mean to you?" was published in a separate booklet.

The ten questions were the following:

1. When you hear the term "empowerment" what does it mean to you?
2. How would empowering people help achieve poverty eradication?
3. How would empowering people improve social integration, especially of people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples?
4. How could empowering people help achieve full employment and decent work?
5. What do you consider would be main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous people?
6. Do you have any examples of successful empowerment of people, including specific social groups? Please indicate them.
7. What policies do you consider would further promote social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people, including social groups?
8. Do you consider that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), especially the Internet has an impact on empowerment? Can you give some examples?
9. How is empowerment related to inequality in societies?
10. Please provide any additional comments.

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How would empowering people help achieve poverty eradication?

+ Certain liberties exercised by the state and other ruling elites (private sector/commercial interests), that have an exploitation impact would be curtailed when decision-making regarding use of local resources is owned at the local level. This in turn would mean that leverage or negotiation power is equalized and thus resource sharing equalized. Hence poverty reduction would hopefully ensue.

+ Empowering people by giving them a good education that will prepare them to have a carrier and to hold a job that will make them more confident, give them the chance to learn from others, allow them to earn a good living to help their children to live a better life.

+ We had a few years back a symposium in India where we asked experts whether poverty was eradicable in India. The answer: "Very much eradicable. We could have eradicated it long time back. We had the resources." What then was missing? The answer by them: the political will. What was to be this political will? It is supposed to be power-linked determination. The crux of the problem: those who have (political) power do not have hunger and those who have hunger do not have power. Hence poverty gets a backseat as a problem to address urgently. If power comes to those who have hunger, poverty eradication will be on war footing basis. And what is power? We gave our own simple description: to have power is to have an effective say and to have a say we need forums. Hence empowerment and poverty eradication will not happen unless adequate steps are taken to ensure that the required inclusive, small-sized, neighborhood-based multi-tiered forums as mentioned above are in place.

+ Giving more power through education, information, coaching and counseling, and amplify the possibilities to get or create a job or business, trough micro-credits, access to ICT networks is the best way to achieve poverty eradication. Empowering have to also mean give the

primary needs to someone: water, food, house, communications, energy, job, health.

♣ Education as an empowering tool might help people to change the conditions of their lives by taking action while having knowledge and skills of a trade that will make them competitive in the particular productive field. Empowering dominant culture in taking action to do something about poverty as their own concern, as well.

♣ ELISAN believes that it is fundamental to empower people through a wider number of public services in different fields of "social policies", as listed below:

- Poverty eradication through empowerment based on knowledge/education. In the field of education, lifelong learning is crucial in order to eradicate poverty: in some cases, families that live just over the poverty line (and apparently are not poor) turn suddenly into poverty for the crisis effects (loss of jobs). This fact leads to a situation in which they become poor and aged at the same time. For this reason, lifelong learning is the only tool to enable the "new poor" to find other solutions in order to avoid poverty and to "empower themselves". In general terms, a good and sound educational system represents the first step to a good and satisfying job; people can have the chance to achieve a better life through a better education system, that gives them the knowledge they want and/or need to have, and a better job system, that gives them the means to find the place of work that better fits to their studies or abilities. Anyway, people living in poverty (with no or limited access to basic services), can be empowered only with the joint contribution of private and public institutions.
- Poverty eradication among migrants through empowerment based on more integration and accessibility. Poverty is a situation that hits migrants in particular. In this case, empowering migrants means to ensure them a balanced access to services, in particular the ones available to all other citizens (health, care, insurance, jobs, etc…). In other words, it means to simplify and accelerate the process of citizenship acquisition (where possible and in the framework of the EU legislation), by removing hurdles or administrative burdens. Better access to services for migrants could easily lead to poverty eradication in this social group.
- Poverty eradication through empowerment based on energy savings solutions. Energy poverty is also becoming a pressing problem in society, due to the increasing costs of oil and renewable sources, still not widespread. Empower people with the knowledge of measures to save both money and energy would help who is facing this situation. In this field the exchange of good practices, experiences and tools could be extremely useful: that's why in 2011 ELISAN, GDF SUEZ and UNCCAS have promoted a European award, entitled "ENERGY POVERTY in Europe: how to get out?", to reward four awareness and animations projects, dedicated to fight against energy poverty and to help vulnerable people to consume less energy on a daily basis through prevention activities, creation of specific tools, set-up of trainings and so on.
- Poverty eradication through empowerment based on access to food. Even if Europe is

considered a "rich area", there is a great number of people suffering "food scarcity". This is the reason why, in July 2011, ELISAN published a position about its concerns on the "European program on distribution of food products to the most deprived people in the Union", in particular on the budget cuts planned by the European Commission.

- Poverty eradication by means of an empowerment of families. The Veneto Region chooses the family as a starting point to overcome poverty, specifically child poverty, that's why we have created a useful tool like Family networks in order to recreate micro and mutual solidarity among families and create a network of supportive families. These networks have enabled the development of several projects of solidarity in the neighborhoods, support in the daily life, foster care and a Community in Veneto keen to care for the minors and their families. In addition, the eradication of child and family poverty is possible by avoiding the loss of job following maternity, with more flexible employment schemes and innovative sharing solutions between work and family life (part time, home-work, distance-work, etc…), not only for women, but also for fathers.

♣ Empowering people can help eradicate poverty because those who have been empower will become self-reliance from their skills that they have learn, they can have jobs which they will use to take of their family. If there is no one in the family could afford to take care of the children and other relatives the poverty will increase, so by empowering one person you have safe many lives.

♣ Poverty is an essential part of many social settings. Unfortunately but apparently it is one source of the growth of national economies as we see it today, which can be best observed in BRIC countries. Empowering people could be a strategy to improve the income status at the bottom line by making people aware of their rights, sometimes there real productivity, their power as the stand united, etc. This may have consequences counteracting growth to some extent, which is not a reason to skip empowerment, but maybe stop the fixation on GDP growth.

♣ Empowering people is critical for achieving poverty eradication. They need to be made aware of their rights and entitlements, equipped with skills to make informed choice and negotiate for their rights and have access to resources for their development.

♣ Empowering people to have the control and ownership of their lives, requires an array of opportunities to choose and decide. These empowering people are the actors of their own development.

⚜ Empowering implies the recognition that anyone can make the difference in his/her life and other people's lives. In many countries of the world, governments do not/cannot allocate sufficient resources/capacities to efficiently support programmes aiming at poverty reduction. In this context, civil society organizations, including a wide range of organizations, may take over this responsibility and promote/support self-help institutions, volunteer organizations, groups of interest, in order to fight poverty eradication. Depending on the level of organization and capacity to articulate needs to address them, the civil society can play a critical role in achieving poverty eradication. However, the civil society cannot operate in a vacuum or in isolation. There has to be a network and connection with both government institutions, private sector, international organizations, etc..

⚜ When people are empowered they are equipped with skills and knowledge with which they will be able to earn a living. In this way, they will both be able to get paid employment or start up a business and earn an income. Earning income is the first step towards poverty eradication.

⚜ Empowering people to achieve poverty eradication implies developing clearer and more consistent coverage polices that appropriately address the unique needs of individuals with disabilities. Enabling persons with disabilities to live independently and participating in all aspect of life and ensure them access to transportation, information communication technologies and other public facilities and services and eliminating obstacles and barriers to accessibility. To empower their mental capacity, education is the main key to eradicate poverty, therefore the key is ensuring an inclusive education system at all levels and long learning. Empowering persons with disability to develop their talents, creativity, mental and physical abilities, in other words their fullest potential.

⚜ Helping marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, aboriginal people, elderly people, etc. to develop income-generation activities is probably a starting point, but efforts should go beyond economic considerations to explore sound mechanisms for increased and inclusive participation, including monitoring accountability of decision-makers. Poverty reduction is a complex undertaking because of the multifaceted nature of poverty, one of them being the unequal access to wealth and basic services and commodities in several societies or countries, which point to some roots causes of inequalities. Reducing poverty therefore also means addressing governance issues by challenging the adequacy of policy-making and accountability mechanisms existing institutions.

♣	Using an example, four years ago we began the fruit mango grows abundantly in our country, use as a table dish or desert. Mostly they fall off the tree and rot. In 2009 we were challenged by our members lack of income and unemployment in the rural communities. With little resources, we hosted the first mango festival encouraging the women to produce items made from mangoes. Since it was new and unique, all items were sold out by 2p.m., although it rained all day. This encouraged us to arrange some training courses using mangoes, and aimed for a second one in 2010. Our effort attracted the University of the West Indies who wrote us asking to be involved, and we rapidly accepted. In 2011 we saw more growth, more women participated and more innovative products. In 2012 the government joined us by giving much needed funding for a bigger and brighter festival, and we added the first Mango Conference. Some products included, condiments, jellies, jams, cakes, breads, juices, handmade paper (from which we made gifts bags), gift boxes, desk caddies, printing paper, jewellery, body creams, hand crafted soaps and the list goes on and on. The rural women now have an income from mango and other fruits and they feel empowered.

♣	Empowered people can help to achieve a sustained economic growth and sustainable development, through education, health care and employment. They, also, have the potential to integrate economic, cultural and social policies to achieve a better life for all.

♣	Empowerment makes people powerful, able and active to participate. Then they will get the power and the ability to work for poverty eradication.

♣	In the cooperative movement we believe that through the support of the dignity of the individual and the support of the group as a whole, much more can be achieved in poverty reduction. Often the strength in numbers achieved through a cooperative effort can spell the difference between a farmer unable to sell his/her products or being able to compete in the market place by having financial, and group support for purchasing needed equipment, getting goods and services to market. Cooperatives are the ultimate form of "empowerment" through the use of a values based business model.

♣	By empowering people living in poverty to be part of the solution, we could move from abstract thought into real action by providing individuals, families, and communities with what they need to succeed. The decision for a person living in sub-Saharan Africa may be drastically different than that of a person living in South America, but, by allowing access to the decision making process, the persons affected by policy and action would have an ability to have an input into what is needed.

⚜   If you empower people it means you are helping them achieve some things such as the required education to gain employment or get the require capital to start business of your own.

⚜   It would help using people's experience and knowledge, tapping and channeling their energy, intelligence and capacity positively. Empowerment can come through community mobilization and volunteer efforts that are based on bottom up efforts, allowing communities to identify and formulate their priorities. Empowerment starts from the individual who needs to trust in his/her capacities. People, who have not gone through formal education, often totally underestimate how much they know, just because they don't speak the sophisticated language and can't write it down in the same way as the ones with an academic background. People, who have contributed to identifying problems and developing priorities, feel more responsible for the delivery and sustainability of the solutions developed. Empowerment leads to ownership and increases accountability as people are more interested in the delivery of results that they have themselves contributed to identifying.

⚜   Empowering people means enabling their access to the structures and knowledge which support a minimum income and standard of living. Many women do not have access to the value of their care giving work: ensuring financial supports for caregivers would help to eradicate poverty of women and men caregivers.

⚜   To maintain control over the financial aspect of their lives, skills acquisition remains the basis for poverty eradication. A level above skills acquisition, there should be a tutorials classes on how to covert learnt skills to a marketable one and a source of income generation. At the tip of their empowerment cycle, a course on financial literacy should be taught to them. This will mark the pinnacle of their empowerment. Creating a system where empowered people also feel the need to empower others will lead to poverty eradication subsequently.

⚜   In my view, education is the best way to eradicate poverty. Educated people are able to achieve their goals in a much better way and that is usually the way in which the poverty cycle can be broken.

⚜   Empowering individuals and communities is necessary to attain equal distribution of available resources so that a few do not benefit from the labor of many. Each human has the right to share natural resources and participate in gainful work; however, these rights are not honored in all Nations. Laws, policies and practices have restricted fair access to resources needed to sustain families, reserving opportunities for a privileged few. Empowering people means

engaging all persons in economic activity.

🔱 Everyone has God given gifts and if all can tap into their gifts and are given the resources/opportunities to use and share them for the common good, all will have what's needed, not necessarily wanted.

🔱 The continuance of poverty and the growing inequality that we experience today has much to do with power relations between individual and groups in society – those who have and those who don't have. Empowering people through human rights training, the implementation of human rights based policies and programmes – e.g. implementation of the social protection floor at national level guaranteeing basic services and minimum income by right, closing the gap between the haves and the have not respecting persons as persons and upholding human rights could contribute much to poverty eradication. While empowering people is absolutely essential, we much acknowledge and recognize that poverty eradication will take place by focusing only on the persons living in poverty, but rather change of mindset, perception attitudes and actions of all people towards poverty eradication will change the structures and systems that perpetuate poverty. Every person must be 'empowered' to eradicate poverty.

🔱 As a religious organization, our main approach is a spiritual aspect of poverty. At the same time we educate people to learn and practice love and compassion to help one another.

🔱 If people who live in poverty were empowered through education and training, they could take charge of their journey out of poverty and inspire others to do the same.

🔱 People would take action by themselves and be an active part of the change, not just a subject of help.

🔱 To make people realize their strength and potentials to solve their problems, improve their life style by increasing their income. Through training for the income generating activities, orient them to take advantages and profit from Government schemes and resource mobilization. Make use of Natural resources available in the area and at the same time protect the environment.

🔱 With education poverty can be eradicated. Giving people power to go to school and learn how to read and write, learn how to care for the family, how to grow food; then people will be empowered so that they can care for themselves and their family. Example: if a person can grow

food and have a surplus, he/she can feed his/her family and sell some to other families or exchange the food for things needed by the family. If people in high poverty areas are educated they will be able to climb out of poverty.

🞦   I am not sure if it is possible to eradicate economic poverty, but I believe one could help to eradicate ethical poverty through respect and kindness.

🞦   Teaching people to use their own knowledge and abilities will always be the best remedy for problems relating to poverty or any other condition. Just like the old adage "teach someone to fish, and he will have food for a lifetime".

🞦   Poverty means inequality in resources, opportunities and services. When poor people are empowered through resources and services, they can be productive through tacit knowledge. This way they will become contributor and productive citizens and they will be economically empowered. For poverty eradication, "bottom to up" approach will be effective and people with disabilities are the poorest among poor people. Everyone knows about vicious cycle of poverty and disability. This cycle should be broken and poverty eradication should start from the poorest and most marginalized communities. When a person with disability is not empowered, it effects the whole family (i.e. one family member is not productive, some family resources are used on that family member. Some family members take care of the family members with disabilities. This way that person's productivity is reduced). If a person with disability is empowered, it means that he/she will be productive and he/she wills support the whole family members, who will be productive as well. The empowerment of a person with disability will bring more benefit to the community in fighting poverty eradication.

🞦   Motivating governments, NGOs, private and public organizations to recognize that eradicating poverty is not as easy as simply dipping into the pockets of the "haves" of the world. To specifically target attitudes and cultural nuances to recognize that teaching the poor that a "handout" may solve the immediate problem but to have long term success educating and training the poor to build logistics and infrastructure to solve poverty on their local level is most important - not just providing the "fish" but teaching "how to fish" and market their subsequent skills. That in essence takes more in terms of individual involvement than it does millions of dollars in cash.

🞦   When people get to know their skills, energy and abilities and put it in the right place, they can improve their standard of living. They can rely on themselves to find jobs that suite their abilities. This will open opportunities for them and for others to utilize their skills and

capabilities.

🔸 Many people in poverty are so focused on daily survival that they do have neither the time nor the energy to dream. Without a dream or a vision of how life could be different, it is very difficult for people to escape poverty. Disempowered people lack the self-belief that change is possible, they lack the confidence that they have the skills or opportunities needed to escape poverty or that they have the potential to develop them. They are often trapped in the cycle of dependency, disempowerment and poverty. Helping people to develop their sense of self-worth, getting them to value themselves and recognize their strengths and resources, and getting them to envisage a life where they are not living in poverty, is the first step in achieving sustainable poverty reduction. Once people take ownership of their own development they can be co-facilitators in a process that, with appropriate initial support, ultimately leads to them realizing their own potential. This is a more sustainable solution to poverty reduction than merely providing resources, as even if provided with resources, disempowered people without vision are often unable to use them to their maximum effect. E.g., you can provide a community a borehole but unless they are empowered to ensure it is maintained, within a short space of time the resources provided will be unproductive. Empowerment therefore equates to more sustainable poverty reduction and better use of resources. Empowered people are able to utilize their skills to gain employment and access their rights, but they are also able to help mobilize others in their community to lobby to hold the government to account or call for structural change that can lead to more sustainable poverty reduction. For excluded groups, such as people affected by leprosy and disabled people, being empowered is closely linked with social inclusion. An empowered person has the strength and drive to stand up against stigma and injustice, they can break down the barriers that prevent them from being included in the development process. Empowered people are able to see the resources available within their community and utilize them to achieve their dreams, i.e. various aspects of poverty eradication.

🔸 Education helps provide people with choices and gives them the ability to improve themselves and their surrounding society.

🔸 The empowerment process promotes greater social and economic participation by the disadvantaged and marginalized. People who are empowered are more adept at identifying and seizing opportunities for self-employment and fuller employment. The seizing of these opportunities creates additional income streams for households. This increased income flow to households helps persons to meet their basic needs thereby helping to achieve poverty eradication. In addition, persons who are empowered make better decisions in the deployment of their individual and collective assets.

Creating the conditions in all cultures and societies so that all human rights are respected (including the rights to participate in the decisions that affect your life, to healthcare, to be registered when you are born, to the highest quality of education possible, right to a decent job and rights at work, right to decent housing, to a healthy environment, to have access to culture and art, right to information, etc.) will eradicate poverty.

It is a very effective and sustainable way to focus on the real needs of individuals and families affected by poverty, hunger and unemployment from the perspective of the basic and fundamental units of society and economy not only in the developing, but even in the developed countries. Education in home economics skills, like resource management, including time management and household finances, in combination with psychosocial stabilization of the family leads to productive and regenerative capacity of the otherwise disenfranchised. The wellbeing and the regeneration in the private area at home is a basic social goal for a full use of one's potential for education and paid work. In developing countries home economics education improves knowledge in food production, house gardening, nutrition skills and health. Home Economics Education does not only lead to the self-sufficiency of the individuals, families and communities, but also to income generating opportunities. By selling the excess food produced in the family setting from a sustainable income generation activity, opportunity is opened for families and individuals. In combination with this availability of food, nutritional and health skills lead to an adequate nutrition of young and adolescent children which enables them physically and mentally to use educational opportunities that are available to them.

When someone feels empowered, he/she has the desire to remove obstacles to enhancing life - thus eventually eradicating poverty. Networking increases communication, ideas, dreams hopes, and eventually goals. Goals are accomplished through employment and work. With that kind of support people will desire to work harder.

By means of establishing people's own institutions, such as co-operatives which can be owned and administered by themselves. Cooperation with each other at the local level is one of the good ways to get rid of the poverty hazard.

Poverty eradication is a very complex process that needs concerted effort. This calls for all players to be involved in facilitating this process. With reference to the definition of empowerment, people's capacities will be increased to be able to become players in the development process. What is needed is that in order to fight poverty, no one should be passive and relaxed. However, many people due to the situation they are in that renders them vulnerable, are unable to access resources that could help them produce; left alone they are unable to get employment. Empowering the prospective of producers and entrepreneurs, would help create

jobs and would also increase productivity meaning individual food and financial security will be enhanced. This will result in families better able to access health, education and other basic necessities while contributing also to national development.

🔸   The issue of poverty cannot be separated from the issue of unequally distributed power and wealth. By empowering those in poverty and giving them more control and say over what happens to resources and wealth; the obvious effect will be at least some redistribution and retaining of resources and wealth.

🔸   Empowerment will increase participation in all developmental activities; it will be helpful to increase the purchasing power in the market, it will enable to enjoy basic services, to enhance livelihood opportunities and to foster the dignity that goes with the social and economic status. Ultimately, this will help to alleviate poverty.

🔸   I feel education is the key to poverty eradication. However, other basic needs have to be addressed. People living in situations of armed conflict or enslaved in any way cannot take advantage of education. Also food, basic shelter and medical needs must be addressed. We must create partnerships with others who can work together with people who are leaders of their communities to find out what they think is the right way to approach poverty in their community. How can they learn skills that will help them find ways to support their families and respect their environment?. Also try to call forth and pressure governments and corporations to respond to the needs of the people as it is in their long term best interest.

🔸   I believe that people who feel that they have power and choice over the smallest decisions feel better about their lives. When people feel disempowered by their life circumstances, they often get depressed. The ability to take control over small things provides the confidence to build on - and once that process starts, it enables a person to be willing to take a risk on bigger decisions. People who feel a sense of success can build on that success. Often the low-income clients I have worked with have been sent the message by society at large that they are not capable of doing things. However, these clients have managed to support their families, maintain housing, and live their lives every day on a meager income - and that is a huge challenge; there is no reward and acknowledgement of their success for being able to do that. Acknowledging the skills takes for people to survive the challenges they do might provide the encouragement people living in poverty need - and show society at large that they need to do more to help - and in that way we might be able to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty.

⚜   If people believe that they can make a change for themselves and others, they can produce a positive outlook and achieve their goals.

⚜   Empowering people involves increasing the strength of people in terms of spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, or economic strength. Empowering the poor, weaker sections like tribal communities and women, should involve provision of education, making them aware of their rights as citizens of a Nation, building their vocational capacities, providing job opportunities and equal distribution of assets from the side of the Government. These steps can make them self sufficient to sustain themselves and their families and thus achieve poverty eradication.

⚜   We need everyone to contribute to constructive solutions.

⚜   Recognizing our own self worth and abilities leads to creativity and/or capacity to organize themselves and others to solve economic, social and governance problems, even over the long term. While more and more governments are repressing their people, there also are many persons who believe in themselves and others enough to work for human and civil rights, despite death threats.

⚜   By empowering people, all would be able to reach their full potential. In order to be empowered, however, governments and civil society must help those who are living in poverty. They must be granted all the rights as stated in the International Declaration of Human Rights. They must be educated and/or trained so that they may seek gainful employment. Both men and women should have the right to own and cultivate land if that is their choice. If the children living in poverty receive the education they deserve, they will not continue the cycle of poverty. There is strength in education for both children and adults.

⚜   I will encourage people to start their own self-help group so that they just not get eradicated from their poverty, but generate job opportunities for others .Secondly, there are several schemes of government at all levels about which people are not aware of. I shall not just provide them with that information but will also help them get that help.

⚜   It would help people imagine and implement steps to provide for themselves.

⚜   If people affected by severe poverty had the tools, knew how to use those tools and no impediments to their use to help achieve financial solvency, they could eliminate their own

poverty. However, war/violence, governments that are corrupted on the local, state or national level, lack of education and second class status of women, all contribute to keeping generations chained to poverty. If we truly want to eliminate poverty, we must do a better job enabling mothers to train their sons to be honest, peaceful and empathetic to the needs of the poor.

🔱 Empowering people is the main way to eradicate poverty. Poverty eradication requires motivation and resources to come out of poverty. People living in poverty often do not have the means or know-how to come out of poverty. Providing resources and knowledge are essential in this process of empowerment and I believe that is the role of facilitators.

🔱 By providing people with the possibility to achieve full employment under decent working conditions, way to reduction of poverty would become more sustainable and would more effectively lead to poverty eradication.

🔱 Empowered people have the resources (whether these are funds, knowledge, connections, tools or other things) to improve their own situations. They are able to customize these resources to what they know of their own needs and abilities, which after all is more than any external party knows. They can apply the resources most efficiently to address their most pressing needs, which for the impoverished generally relates to poverty.

🔱 When people are empowered, they team up and mobilize to solve problems that affect them. They use their collective voice to demand for services from government, they develop coping mechanisms, they demand for accountability, they share the skills, they have to solve challenges, they form groups which act as social support cycles and together they engage in income generating projects.

🔱 1. Deliberative tools allowing normal people to influence in public decisions. 2. Enhancing volunteer and self initiative.

🔱 Access to decent wages, social and financial security provides opportunities for good health and quality of life.

🔱 Education and training will enable individuals to earn and provide for their family. In addition to just earning, an individual will also get motivation and purpose of life, while providing them with basic needs could have ever given them. After a person can get over his own personal sufferings, only then he/she will be able to contribute for the development of the

rest of the society. Basically, it will have a triggering effect, for instance, a person who has the right education might start a business at his community that will employ a few more people. The efforts of few will have impact on many.

- Empowering people to make their own choices would mean they are involved within their own community. It is better for participants to engage and become part of the solution rather than be told what the solution is.

- Whenever people have a voice and participate in the making of decisions, that affect their lives, and make their commitment and investment stronger in making the decisions a reality. That means that people are working together to achieve a better life, thus moving together out of poverty, if that is their present condition.

- Every person would be able to take responsibility for making the most of the ideas and physical facilities that are in the community and in the world, and would do this in an unselfish way to make optimum use of resources and cooperative abilities.

- It should target at the potentials in the individuals and their environments with an encouragement from an external forces.

- a) it will boost the local / national economy
b) it will reduce crime, thus ensure security of lives and properties
c) security brings investment locally and nationally
d) boosting tourism in fragile states and also destination locations
e) give a powerful incentive and voice to the less privileged, the disadvantaged and the marginalized
f) give awareness and sense of responsibility to the citizen to stay healthy and live productive lives
g) generate skill acquisition and income for poor/rural homes and livelihoods
h) sustainable livelihoods guaranteed to the poor, guarantees democracy and the rule of law.

- Poverty reduction policies should make explicit reference to the need for coupling the empowerment approach with gender mainstreaming of initiatives. Take the risk of repression into account and therefore address the norms and attitudes against women's empowerment and human development. Initiatives for women's empowerment should also make sure to provide the necessary protection from repression such as violence, e.g. by involving men, older women and other key actors in the community. Poverty reduction initiatives should intensify the dialogue and co-operation between governments, development agencies and civil society on concrete and

successful methods for changing attitudes and norms and for facilitating empowerment of women. Governments and development agencies should strengthen the initiatives for women's empowerment of civil society in general and of women's who work for NGOs in particular. They should facilitate the sharing of successful methods between NGOs and other actors. Implementation of poverty reduction initiatives should also make sure not to add on to the often very large work load of women and thereby putting obstacles in the way of their empowerment.

- It helps a great deal. Empowered people can now trade their skills to solve problems which in turns reward them momentarily, grow the economy and create broader platforms to deliver values.

- It would allow them to participate in the democratic process and thereby develop economic and cultural opportunities for themselves.

- People who understand themselves and the world around them see new and innovative ways to be productive. New ideas generate commerce.

- Empowering people to be self sufficient. This could be done through education, training for work, micro loans to enable them to start a sustainable business. Access to health care also empowers people. Having a reliable source of food and clean water work towards empowerment of people. Through these means poverty could be eradicated.

- One of the most important aspects of having one's voice heard is that one can say how a certain action will help or not help achieve a goal. It is, for instance, hearing what kind of conditions the earth that a particular person has before providing that person with appropriate seeds for that condition.

- Empowered individuals are by nature more proactive; they know that it is up to them and their capabilities to better their situation in life. An empowered person is more likely to go out of his/her way to find and create opportunities to improve his/her life. From my professional experience I know that programs aimed at achieving poverty eradication work best when the beneficiaries are empowered. They are more likely to follow through with the program and are likely to show more "ownership".

✠	Poverty eradication must be about people living in poverty owning their own capacity to be agents of change. Any policies or mechanisms that allow people to improve their capacity to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs of poverty eradication would be empowering.

✠	Despite having large numbers of poor people, Mozambique is not a poor country, but it has to overcome a framework of social injustice and inequality. Social inequalities are present throughout the country, which is reflected in an intermediate position occupied by Mozambique in the ranking of countries in the Human Development Index (HDI). This means that there are still many difficulties to be overcome in the areas of education, welfare, health, employment and income distribution. Poverty reduction and the fight against social inequalities are the main priorities of social development. Practices is an advanced and strategic approach, based on advance knowledge and research in the social sciences, with the purpose of assisting in the formulation of public policies and strengthen capacity building and training of human resources skills.

✠	People become active agents by themselves and act towards the fight of poverty. Since empowerment is enabling, it is luring enough to get people actively shaping their economic situation. An empowered individual is not passive, waiting to receive, but grabs the opportunity and uses the available means to dent a socio-economic ill like poverty.

✠	When I encourage Youth to do volunteer work they get experience and feel much more worthy. At the same time they can learn how to grow food and a lot of other things.

✠	By having them see that another world is possible, that poverty, like slavery and apartheid, is not natural and it is man-made and it can be dismantled through empowerment.

✠	Empowering people would help achieve poverty eradication since it would provide a basic incentive for people to support themselves and work for the common good of all, a basic proviso in a democratic society.

✠	Through community mobilization, awareness programmes, workshops, IEC /Mid Media activities, etc..

⚜   By learning self-esteem through education.

⚜   I believe that much of the poverty that we see around us can be eradicated through education. By education I mean that once a person has an education; once they are literate; once they are skilled/have a marketable skill; there will be choices to make in life that would help lead toward economic security for themselves and their families. Having an education is a type of empowerment.

⚜   First, it gives people a sense of their own worth and dignity. Then it provides them with the opportunities to express their real needs, desires, hopes, as well as their frustrations and anger even at the way they have not been allowed to participate in shaping their own lives. It then brings them into partnership in future planning and some control of resources to realize their hopes. Poverty is simply not just material lack: it is at its worst when the human spirit is depressed by a sense of having no worth or say in how life is lived.

⚜   Poverty is a vicious circle that crops from generation to generation. Once people are empowered, they will be able to make independent decisions and thus break away from the cycle. Empowerment has a multiplier effect in a society in which an empowered individual acts as a benchmark to people and others can model his/her behavior and thus we have an empowered community.

⚜   Empowering People can work as torchlight for the rural and urban people to achieve poverty line.

⚜   Enabling often includes some king of training - with that as a start, a sense of worth follows and some kind of work. Enabling others include education and training leading to work and eventual eradication of poverty. Empowering usually includes education or training which will lead to work and the eradication of poverty.

⚜   1. Helping people to learn about and utilize the political and social processes. 2. Helping them to achieve a degree of control over their own destiny with positive steps forward. 3. Providing opportunities for the families to get involved in their neighborhood, school, church, etc., - any institution that can assist them; to put pressure on the institutions to respond to their needs.

- They would have the means to provide for themselves.

- People will be empowered to help reduce their poverty; they would feel that they have the power to change their personal or societal situation or that of a particular group, if that is what they want.

- Much of an individual's drive for economic independence is dependent on having some hope of achieving your own economic freedom. If you empower an individual and others in a community to have a voice in forming their future, their personal drive to improve their life is enhanced significantly. To some extent it is as simple as allowing an individual or a community to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Giving them "the boots, the straps" and a hope that by pulling together they can improve their lives.

- To give a person the confidence and learn the skills they need to succeed in the job market/business. To foster belief in themselves so that they can do and become all they are meant to be. To eliminate modern day slavery like trafficking.

- People would determine their greatest needs and desires and be helped to connect with possible solutions.

- Poverty can be eradicated, albeit in slow and limited ways, if individuals are motivated to improve their education and develop self-confidence to pursue their dreams. Empowerment can energize the individual to pursue a better way of life, seek a job, become better educated and take some risks.

- Empowering others would give them confidence to see other options, to seek the support needed to move forward, to carry through on commitments made. It would be like providing the person with a 'social platform' needed to change.

- More education and global communication help you find new and creative solutions, alternative ways to resolve old problems.

- Au fin d'éradiquer la pauvreté il faut responsabiliser les gens. Pour les responsabiliser il faut une sensibilisation des gens, une éducation (alphabétisation par example) surtout l'éducation des jeunes et une formation professionnelle et artisanale.

♣   Everyone takes responsibilities, everyone has a share, and no one gets left out.

♣   Empowerment would give agency to the people who are experiencing the problems themselves, and make them a part of their own solution. This would make a great alternative to some types of charity that only serve to create co-dependence or put a band-aid on a problem without solving it and getting at the root of it.

♣   Effective empowerment to eradicate poverty can only be effective if poverty is not simply viewed as overcoming material deprivation, but as a lack of basic human rights, such as equal access to education, land ownership, livelihood and cultural expression. Empowerment measures must help people to effectively overcome barriers to justice and equality by asserting their rights and holding accountable those who exercise power over them.

♣   A society without poverty would be where people have an enabling environment that ensures that they are: well informed, motivated with values and goals, have 'a say' in decisions that affect their lives, have participatory forum to be able to speak and to be heard, have a democratic good and participatory governance free of corruption, have basic necessities of life, have means of livelihood, have opportunities for a qualitative life, have their human rights respected, exercise their responsibilities, community oriented, and respected and protected. The above are elements of empowerment that will help achieve poverty eradication.

♣   We would need to ask the person themselves! My insight will be education, community development and economic justice.

♣   Human capital development, investment in new green housing that develops equity, increase in tourism and international trade, charity, sustainable GDP.

♣   Through education, opportunities to receive health care, dignified work and housing

♣   Education provides the critical thinking, networking and making friends and contacts, sharing ideas and solutions, and creating home grown solutions to fight poverty.

♣   Empowering people will help achieve poverty eradication as they will be given rightful information with suitable education, technology, alternatives, resources needed to lead a happy and content life for themselves and for their community.

When people are empowered, they would be able to break out of poverty because they have the ability and skills to earn a better income, provide for their family, get a good education, pursue their dreams, and influence others in their community. Poverty eradication can then be achieved.

There has been, and never will be a sustainable system to fully look after all in need, without an education policy of 'empowerment'. The core of every person and community, craves to be given the power of self-attainment more than the current enforced learnt dependency. Giving to the needy is obviously urgent, but after a set point, more giving although seemingly great, actually destroys their empowerment. It contracts their ability to receive. This creates learnt dependency, humiliation and loss of humanity. A tragic irony within the world of giving. But so changeable.

If people are not held back by limitations imposed by poverty (for example, if they do not have spend all their time and energy in a desperate search for the bare essentials of life) they have the time and energy to be creative, to experiment with solutions that benefit themselves and their families. They can test their entrepreneurial skills to develop better ways of supporting themselves and even contributing to society. They have time to learn to do new things. They are able to volunteer to help others in their family or village, thus increasing the level of prosperity all around. It is a tide that lifts all boats. To empower them with food means their children's brains will develop normally, and that they can focus on getting ahead rather than scratching for the minimum caloric requirements. To empower them with formal education means that new doors can open to them, in terms of credentials.

Empowering people would help achieve poverty eradication, assuming individuals have choices, for the following reasons: 1. Individuals choose for themselves; 2. Self respect and esteem are increased in personal choice; 3. Greater self respect and self esteem leads to less illness, suicide and more resilience.

By giving them the means to earn a wage that enables them to support themselves and their family.

Empowerment involves gaining the resources, skills, and health needed for full participation in the production, culture, economy and governance of the communities, state, and world in which they live.

If you empower others, it allows them to feel good about their accomplishments and increase their desire to continue excelling. People will then be able to take matters into their own hands and take necessary skills back to their communities and then empower others to be successful.

How would empowering people improve social integration, especially of people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples?

✦ If people are educated or capacitated - whether poor, young, old, disabled etc., it lessens social gaps, at least a bit.

✦ When people are empowered, their self esteem is higher, and when they are happier they will be more ready to bring people together, to understand others, and to want to share each others experiences and lives.

✦ Nobody is more interested in inclusion than the excluded themselves. The excluded will ensure that they are included if only they have power. To have power is to have an effective or decisive say. To have a say, the minimum requirement is to have a forum. A talking forum which when translated means a parliament. The bigger a forum becomes, the more the small voices go unheard. The present parliaments available to the excluded, i.e. the electing constituencies, are too big. Hence the small, the not-rich, become voiceless, powerless and helpless. Hence, it is always the game of the rich and powerful in the name of the small. The parliaments have to be handle-able by the poor. Hence the call for small-sized parliaments.

✦ Empowering people to get out from poverty improves social integration, because poverty and social integration is often related. Older persons may be able to meet their counterparts or their family if ever empowered and be able to work and integrate themselves as young people. Empowered persons with disabilities enhance their capability to integrate better in a society. Indigenous Peoples may be able to choose how they are integrated.

✦ Empowering all people, not only those who are poor, young, elderly, with disabilities, or Indigenous, but those in power as well, that All human beings should have a seat at the table and should be heard and employed. How can we have empowerment of girls without the empowerment of boys in acknowledging the differences and powerlessness of girls? The boys

are powerless also, because they do not know how to change the structure of the system that perpetuated the status of girls and boys.

🔱 Social integration can be achieved when people feel that they can easily access to public services; in particular, social services are fundamental in order to keep a sufficient healthy and quality lifestyle (they enable people and their relatives to be helped, assisted and cared, with a time-saving benefit able to give them the possibility to work). The Veneto Region has developed (experimentation) an integration policy consisting in a unique and integrated point of access to services to which all the questions are channeled and where people are directed to the services they need. Empowering people according to the needs of their age or situation also means to be able to identify these needs in a proper way. The only way that private and public institutions have to do this is to develop bottom-up approaches in order to meet these requests and to set up a constant statistical monitoring (in the Veneto Region, a Regional Observatory for Social Policies and a Regional Observatory on Labor Policies, exist).

Empowering people by means of the promotion of the "Design for All – Universal Design" approach leads to a better social integration of disadvantaged people, older and disabled people in particular. Design for all is an approach aiming at pushing for more accessibility, both in architectural and urban spaces, in public services and means of transportation, in order to reduce the hurdles and constraints to the participation of people with disabilities (and older people with difficulties of movement) in the society as a whole. This goal can be reached through a wider involvement of all the relevant stakeholders: University and Research Centers, Public Authorities, NGOs and Associations, Business and Firms must cooperate together in order to give people with disability or older people the opportunity to live "like the others", in a world designed not only for "normal people" but for all. This approach is crucial in order to reduce social exclusion and promote participation of disadvantaged people. Older People: one of the most effective means to eradicate poverty among seniors (in particular for people aged between 50 and 65) is to promote better employability and participation of senior in the labor market, or in civil society in general. In the Veneto Region, and in particular in Treviso Province, some interesting EU project had been developed on this field:

a) AGEING project: a Central Europe Programme funded project, lasted from 2009 until 2012 and focused on the improvement of Urban services for seniors (mobility, employment, voluntariness over 60, assistance & care, etc…);
b) SENIOR CAPITAL project: a Central Europe Programme funded project, recently approved (September 2012) as the follow up of the Ageing project and focused more on employability of seniors (elaboration and testing of innovative education, training and employment path for seniors, also senior entrepreneurship). Veneto Region is an "Associated Partner";
c) SILVER CITY project: a South East Europe Programme funded project, recently approved

(October 2012) and focused on the same issues of the previous one elaboration and testing of innovative education, training and employment path for seniors, also senior entrepreneurship, but also on the involvement of over 60 people on "public utility services and jobs".

- Empowering people improves social integration, because when almost 90 percent of the population is empowered and everyone can make a living and plan for the future, in this type of setting, there will be social integration among all people, youth, older person, person with disabilities and also Indigenous Peoples. Everyone can help each other to move the society forward.

- Empowering people makes them integrate themselves by taking their position in society.

- Empowerment makes people realize that they can change their own situation - it addresses marginalization and exclusion. Once people living in poverty realize their rights and entitlements (they are simply unaware) and are provided access to requisite services, they take action to change their situation. Empowered youths take steps to prevent violation of their rights. We have worked with youths to make them aware of trafficking under the cover of child marriage and child labor and risk of HIV/AIDS, and the process led to movements against child marriage, peer led communication to reduce spread of HIV/AIDS, use of condoms etc. Empowerment makes the youth question social norms and dispel social sanctions.

- Empowering is about an enabling environment, but also about recognition. Social integration requires a level of awareness/sensitization among the society of issues such as poverty and marginalization and who is affected. This can only be achieved through information sharing, sensitization campaigns. However, this sensitization should be seen as a positive/affirmative action, meaning that the dissemination of information needs to focus not only on the issues at stake but also on the contributions of marginalized people to their own society. In my opinion, the best way to combat exclusion is by demonstrating that each and everyone in a given society can make a difference and contribute to others. In all human societies, in all countries, there are countless individuals/groups that are committed to improve social integration. These groups are often constituted by the victims of exclusion themselves who join efforts to raise awareness of their situation, and identify possible solutions to address social exclusion. In addition, there has to be a set of legislation/socio-economic programmes that support the systematic inclusion of marginalized groups.

- Education, either technical or academic, is supposed to develop also interpersonal and other social skills. Thus the person acquires self-confidence and ability to be integrated in the

social system. In the case of persons with disabilities, if they are provided with a means of living they become independent – or at least less dependent, depending on the degree of the disability - and are more appreciated in the society. It is important that employers care for giving adequate employment to some persons with disability. The Para Olympics taking place in 2012 in London are a wonderful example of achievement of persons with disabilities.

- Empowering people to improve social Integration, takes part on an equal basis with others in all part of life including, access to cultural life, access to enjoy cultural and religious activities, access to recreational and sport places and events. Ensuring persons with disabilities to have an opportunity to organize develop and participate on equal basis with other without discrimination. Facilitating and supporting capacity buildings including through the exchange and sharing information, sharing experiences, training programs and best practices.

- By fostering participation and making traditionally marginalized groups to feel heard, valued and included, empowerment policies or strategies contribute to national cohesion and social integration.

- Our age range is from 9 - 77, and persons with disabilities as we have taken the skills training to schools, and seniors homes, this year we are having an exchange with Suriname to learn skills from the Indigenous Peoples and teach our skills, we will be going into the interior - and on a plantation as we look forward to creating a mango industry in the Caribbean.

- Empowering people can improve social integration by supporting the progress and security for the people and communities; by enabling them to satisfy their basic human rights and needs; and by realizing their personal dignity, safety and creativity.

- Empowering people is a basic step/action which enables them to better the conditions like Social integration, etc..

- Cooperatives as one of their key principle among seven principles, seek to give back to the community. When a cooperative thrives, it assists the community to thrive. For example, a coffee cooperative in East Timor proved to be so successful that it was able to establish (without government funds) a range of health care clinics. This is an example of how empowering strengthens the social fabric of a community.

✦   Perhaps we should be looking at the completion of empowerment rather than the act of empowering. Until empowerment is reached, social integration may in fact be difficult. When inequality exists, integration, though necessary.

✦   It will help because all of these people when empowered will contribute their quotas to national development and stand on their own.

✦   People who trust in their capacity to play a role, become more self confident. People who contribute to determining solutions to problems can be more active and vocal about what's needed. Whoever was involved in such a process will be less shy to defend the interests of the community. People, who play a more active role in determining the issues of their concern, are naturally more engaged and more ready to play a more public role, filling spaces where they are less present.

✦   Creating a society where everyone is valued for their talents and skills, everyone can be creative and participate, and elders are honored and seen as contributors. Youth the ages of 12 to 14, can be empowered through Junior Youth Empowerment and unleash their need to improve the world and contribute in the spirit of service. The unique values of Indigenous Peoples need to be taught and honored, so that society as a whole can benefit from that outlook, instead of trying to eradicate traditional values and culture and to force people to fit into a monoculture whole. Let the whole benefit from the diversity of the parts, rather than eradicating differences. Unity in diversity.

✦   Empowerment must have a practical and not just a theoretical meaning: it must include access to the institutions, both formal and informal, of society. Positive practices should attract support from all actors and the human rights of marginalized people need to be mainstreamed.

✦   When empowered people learn that other people are the greatest and strongest link to eradicate poverty in their lives, people skills will come natural to them. They will also realize that in order for them to expand their market, social diversity is of essence to them!

✦   If we help people to get the education they deserve and achieve their goals, social integration will also be a consequence of it.

🜨 One outcome of successful empowerment programs is challenging the status quo when normative structures maintain inequality. Providing access to communication channels may initially strain apparent order as was seen in the recent "Arab Spring" movements. The next steps are ensuring community needs are addressed through social change, listening to calls for change, and replacing antiquated and oppressive systems with responsive leadership. We cannot tolerate historic ignorance of the needs of groups defined by age, gender, poverty or abilities. This is not a call to become a "Robin Hood state," rather formal systems must examine intentional and unintentional practices that restrict full participation by all.

🜨 To improve on a large scale and reduce poverty, governments and private enterprises must work together on large scale projects, such as education, providing jobs, building industries. If we mean people from all classes working together and sharing the available resources than elevating the poor and reducing the influence of the rich. If the poor were able to overcome poverty the rich would be less antagonistic towards poor people.

🜨 It would ensure equal opportunities for the well being of each person, the resources and ability to discover their gifts/talents, no matter their origin. Each person would have a sense of belonging and being interconnected with their fellow brothers and sisters.

🜨 The goal of social integration is to create "a more stable, safe and just society for all", in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Such an inclusive society must be based on the principles of embracing – not coercing or forcing – diversity and using participatory processes that involve all stakeholders in the decision-making that affects their lives. Empowering people would enable person to participate in their local community and at higher levels - from a base of knowing their dignity as persons, their right to participate and contributing to polices from their particular perspective be that a cultural, age related, or particular personal experience. Trust between people is a major factor in empowerment.

🜨 Social integration requires more and more people participating in the decision making process of the governments. An on line survey from time to time would perhaps help in putting forward the grievance of the youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples. The changes and reforms they expect from their respective governments should be undertaken. Persons who are allotted with the field survey should try and reach out to as many as possible, and then make a database of all the necessary reforms which the people would like expect out of their own government's and put those issues in the political session of Governments. This is how a consensus would be reached and necessary steps would be taken. This is how people falling under various categories would have a say in the decision making

process and stay integrated.

✦ Empowering would enable people of all descriptions to recognize that we are all equal members of the Earth Community and share a common home, for which we each have a responsibility. This would lead to better social integration as we would all be engaged in a common project.

✦ Understanding that we are all the same, all living on a same limited planet would make it clear that we all must share resources, help and understanding with each other.

✦ Empowering people would improve social integration, especially people living in poverty, youth, children, older persons and differently able persons (persons with disabilities). When every individual, irrespective of his/her life situation, age and physical challenges, are respected, recognized and involved in decision making process of the community, get opportunity for personal and common development.

✦ Education would improve communication and lead to social integration. When the empowered, specifically social welfare organizations, send groups to teach and share knowledge with people of any age living in the poverty areas, the teaching and open discussions at schools and community meetings, with the youth in backward areas, lead to action to improve standard of living. Education on caring for the disable and elderly, and encouragement and enlightening are the keys.

I quote and paraphrase from blogs my cousin who is a relief worker sent by Israel to Haiti to help the poor and poverty stricken people. "Empowerment is watching an old woman's exuberant celebration when she writes her name for the first time. Empowerment is a Haitian farmer who, 6 months ago, could barely grow a tomato or a head of lettuce. Now he sells his new and beautifully grown produce to a five star hotel. Empowerment is watching our freshly trained youth groups spread the message of STD, Cholera and Malaria prevention. Empowerment is that sense of pride when you see one of your trainees design a business plan for an internet café or chicken coup in order to financially sustain his community. Empowerment is those 320 people a week who are, for the first time, able to receive medication in our brand new pharmacy. Empowerment is working with the UN to open a community and educational facility for little children and educational facility for little children and young adults who cannot afford to attend school."

♣ People living in poverty need to be listened to. What are their needs? What are their dreams? How can we help to fulfill their dreams? How can they help each other to fulfill their dreams? Is money the only answer?

♣ Each person need to know their own value and worth, both to themselves and to society. Each person needs validation from someone - whether that is family or friend or society in general. They can then use this self esteem and strengthening of their character to build on and go forward and to face the difficulties they face in life. As people begin this process and feel validated, they, in turn, pass it on to others.

♣ An empowered person has his/her own voice and let me give you an example from Pakistan rural area where I am based. Sanghar gymkhana club is considered a club for elite class. There we observed all above kind of people socially integrated because they were empowered. Like, the youth and son of a poor waiter learned sports skills he was treated as equal member and was playing sports with elite class, One older person continued his practice in law was a dignified member, I myself became member as empowered person with disability and a person from Indigenous and minority group (from untouchable community) empowered as Doctor and he was member of that club. This is a living example of practical life on empowerment and social integration.

♣ Empowerment educates those involved to realize that the sense of community is the glue that allows them to bring success to their local needs. "Community" not wars or demanding money or handouts will survive the test of time. Each person within a community must take their role as leaders to share knowledge, passion and work within the collective. Those within the community who are unable to contribute in a physical way due to age or disability/health still, have an opportunity to contribute in other ways. Respect for each person's contribution physical or mental can serve to increase the understanding of the collective that there is no easy way to solve problems, just work, understanding and respect of the contribution. Youth tends toward passionate actions but misdirected actions harm the community as a whole. The elderly have much to contribute in terms of their knowledge of the past and the culture along with the personal small 'p' politics within their community. Those with disabilities have the ability to serve the community in ways that make them feel like a respected contributor not just a "taker".

♣ Empowerment affects all sectors of the society: poor, young, elderly, Indigenous Peoples or persons with disabilities, and others, by knowing their duties and rights. Becoming an empowered person regardless of status, will surely accelerate integration and development in the community, and this needs the presence of all sectors without any exception. This lead to civil

peace because individuals feel: Self-valued, respected, genuine partner in development and their roles balance and complement each other.

- Along with misconceptions, lack of knowledge and cultural norms, social exclusion of people affected by leprosy, disability and other marginalized groups is often caused by a lack of self-belief, poor self-esteem and self stigma. Even if community awareness results in a reduction in stigma, previously excluded people often lack the confidence or platform to voice their opinions. They often perceive that they are stigmatized or discriminated against even after attitudes and behavior within a community have changed. Their fear of discrimination often overcomes rational thought and they may deliberately avoid social interactions as a protection mechanism, because they have been hurt in the past. Therefore tackling social inclusion without tackling empowerment is usually ineffective. For social inclusion to happen, marginalized people need counseling and support to help them recognize their own value and worth. They need to be encouraged to envision what social inclusion and community integration looks like and work together to achieve it. Thus empowerment must be a component of all programmes aimed at social integration.

- There is strength in unity - education helps people understand that working together in an inclusive environment will benefit all. Education "opens" eyes in recognizing what other cultures have contributed to overall society.

- The sociological empowerment of marginalized groups, such as the elderly, disabled and poor, would significantly improve social interaction. People who feel powerless and marginalized tend to have low self-confidence and this leads them to withdraw and avoid social interaction for fear of rejection. When empowered, they become more confident and self-assured and this would contribute to enhance social interaction among the various social groups. With the communication barriers removed/reduced social integration is more easily achieved.

- Empowering people means respecting people's dignity and rights. For people that are excluded and marginalized it can be a long process that should start with creating the conditions for their meaningful participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the policies and programs that affect their lives. The conditions to assure this participation: Firstly, stakeholders must be aware that policies and programs implemented until now have failed to reach the most vulnerable and excluded people, and must be fully desirous and willing to change the social, economic, and cultural realities that perpetuate extreme poverty and exclusion. Secondly, each person must be recognized as possessing a unique knowledge to contribute. This includes people living in poverty who have been traditionally defined by what they lack or need rather than their valuable insight gained from life experience. Thirdly, people living in poverty

should not be isolated. They should have secure links to others living in similar circumstances as well as the space and time to discuss and reflect as a group. Lastly, each person must feel that they are an equal participant of the consultative team, and be able to play an active role in all aspects of the consultative process.

Participation must be part of an ongoing process where people living in extreme poverty have other possibilities to exercise their right to participate as citizens in their communities. Consultation themes have to take into account the priorities of people living in extreme poverty, and must be relevant to people's lives. The participation process has to contribute to building personal skills, add meaning to people's lives, strengthen existing relationships within the community as well as build new relationships within and outside of the community. The participation process must be accountable and transparent. Participants in the consultation have to receive feedback from the organizers about the outcomes of the consultation. Information should include how participants' words are being used as well as the impact of participants' statements. Any reports or other outputs that will be produced should be shared with consultation participants. Effective participation is only possible if the process is structured so that all participants trust and feel safe with one another and the framework in which discussions occur.

Those living in extreme poverty make themselves vulnerable or put themselves at risk by sharing experiences that are often emotionally charged. Rules and/or a contract governing the strict confidentiality of all that is said or written, are important for ensuring the protection of participants and to give participants confidence in the consultative process. An ethical consultative framework must also encourage considerate dialogue including active listening by all participants, respect for each contribution, a willingness to be self-critical about one's own ideas, and the acknowledgement that learning is always an ongoing and incomplete process. Creativity and flexibility are essential when designing participatory processes in order to allow knowledge-exchange to take place at a level of equality. The life situation of people living in extreme poverty and social exclusion put them at an immediate disadvantage during formal consultations. Ensuring that participants are not dependent on one another (e.g. donor and aid-recipient) can safeguard against interpersonal power imbalances and encourage free discussion. Paying attention to the language and translation needs of all involved also contributes the creation of an equal playing field. When necessary, people living in poverty should be supported in order to express themselves in their own words. Meanwhile, academics and professionals must refrain from using jargon and wording that is unfamiliar to those outside of these circles. The role of the consultation facilitator should be to guarantee that clear communication and effective dialogue take place. Thinking outside the box and developing informal means of exchange can encourage the expression of knowledge and be more comfortable for individuals who are unaccustomed to participating in formal meetings.

The time and rhythm needed for the participation of people living in extreme poverty has to be

respected. Throughout the discussions all participants need to see that their particular way of understanding and expressing themselves is being respected. Periods of silence have to be respected, people have to be allowed to say all that they want to say, and everybody has to be given the time and support needed to understand all the words that are being used.

People living in poverty need to be involved before and after consultations for a full participatory process. Considerable preparation should be done with all participants prior to consultation. A thorough explanation of the objectives of the consultation and its intended outcomes, as well as background information on invited stakeholders, should be explained to participants. Participants need to be given time to interact with each other and develop a productive, trusting relationship prior to and following the consultative period. When people living in poverty are not included in all aspects of decision-making processes, their participation risks becoming an "add-on," and the people themselves becoming objects of study rather than actors in the fight for change.

🔱   Empowering and enabling individuals to develop competencies, to generate income, to improve the wellbeing of the family members is crucial for social integration. It allows the family members to participate at activities on community level, in schools. Participation in social activities improves skills and competencies. Empowering people means to start the improvement of wellbeing, social integration, especially of people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

🔱   Empowering people will improve social integration. Having diverse cultural techniques and practices also empower people and it can reduce the level of dependents in a family hereby improving their livelihood which can automatically have a direct impact/effect on the growth/development of a community. Concerning the Older people, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, empowerment programmes can make them less dependent thereby creating an avenue for sustainable growth in the society.

🔱   Firstly, it is important to find the good and relevant means/ways that can bring people together. Social integration demands sharing same culture, habits, languages, religion and interest. Especially people living poverty can be empowered when they get the possibility to maintain and develop what they have in common at the local level. Additionally providing people of all ages and origins to participate in decision-making process of their institutions.

🔱   Social Integration can be defined as a dynamic and principled process where all members of society participate in dialogue to achieve and maintain peaceful social relations. This does not entail that there has to be forced participation or intimidation, but individual willingness.

People's willingness to the facilitation of social integration, especially vulnerable people, goes with the levels of empowerment they possess and their perceived credibility in the perspectives of the leaders and other social groupings. It is in this regard that empowering people with information and various resources that help them to move out of poverty would greatly influence social integration. Without knowing ones rights, one cannot participate in matters of community and nationwide benefit. This goes also to the lack of financial and institutional support that renders people unable to embark on economic activities, hence refrain from social engagements that are development oriented, since their preoccupation is to meet their immediate needs.

⚜ If we look at empowerment as involving action and involvement, then marginalized people have an improvement in their social capacity immediately just by virtue of being involved, engaged and being heard.

⚜ Through empowerment people will be satisfied with their basic needs, they will get mental peace and this will bring social peace, integration and cohesion.

⚜ People who have a sense of dignity and feel they have some control over their lives, feel more a part of a group, a family, a community. They feel they have something to offer others. When they are called on to contribute to the common good of whatever group, they not only make that community stronger, they continue to learn about themselves and practice the skills they have developed. Everyone has something to contribute and that reduces isolation.

⚜ I think that often people who feel disempowered (youth, people living in poverty, older people, and persons with disabilities) tend to isolate themselves from the community at large, because they have had negative experiences from bureaucracies, family members, or people in general. Sometimes this isolation may be more purposeful and intentional (in the case of younger people) - and sometimes it happens because people "fall through the cracks" (in the case of persons with disabilities and the elderly). However, if people are empowered, they may feel more comfortable dealing with bureaucracies and society.

⚜ If people can value their lives and those that are around them, they can feel worthy of a better situation and conduct change for their neighborhood.

⚜ Bringing the disadvantaged people on an equal plane with others by pro-social steps from the side of the Government in collaboration with NGOs and community, can greatly help in the social integration of people living in poverty, elderly, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples. The most important tools for these people are education and awareness about laws

provided for them in the Indian Constitution. Economic empowerment is equally important for social integration. As globalization has it, the information boom available worldwide should be properly channelized and steps should be taken to ensure that the information reaches marginalized sections of the society.

🞧 If everyone has a share in decision making, each has dignity as a person, each share in our common value as human persons and a sense of solidarity may be fostered.

🞧 Empowerment efforts in the context of the global community are inclusive. There are many organizations throughout the world whose leaders have learned to be inclusive, to work in conjunction with others on goals and objectives that put grant monies to good, sustainable use for the communities they work with.

🞧 Many of those who are not living in poverty tend to blame the poverty on those who are living in it. All the people mentioned should have access to social programs to help them to rise out of poverty. That can be done through empowering them both financially and politically. If they have no say in the laws that rule them and the programs that can help them, the cycle will never be broken.

🞧 We can improve social integration amongst all the section of the society by giving them examples from their own society, letting people meet them, so that their mind set changes that if they can, so we can.

🞧 I believe that anyone who feels disempowered tends to withdraw from society and sometimes may fall into dangerous isolation -- what sociologists refer to as anomie. Empowerment brings people in contact with each other, keeps them connected, and thus facilitates social integration.

🞧 Education and integration of education services (i.e. combining boys and girls in the same classroom, including those with disabilities) give children the skill set to work together. Integration comes when people are comfortable with each other and it must starts with children & education. When kids are segregated, they are more afraid of others that aren't the same as they are. This fear can carry into adulthood.

- Empowerment in other words is the owning up of one's inner resources and that requires a basic sense of achievement. When one is in utter poverty her/his self esteem is very low and feel they are good for nothing, inferior to all and that's a block to social integration. Once they are able to earn, their self esteem grows and becoming part of the society is easier. Moreover our current society is not open to differences.

- Increased "self esteem and will", "knowledge and skills", networking and chances to associate with people will improve social integration.

- People living in poverty, youth and other affected groups of people, once empowered, will have much more opportunities to achieve full social integration. By this, they would be at the same time in a better chance to have an opportunity to participate in decision making processes that affect their specific group interests. It would make them being able to take an active role in their societies, by making contributions to creation and implementation of policies that will improve their social and economical conditions.

- Empowering people makes it easier for them to participate in society. This participation could take political forms, such as voting or attending government meetings. It could be cultural, such as visiting museums and attending performances. It could be interpersonal, such as taking part in community sports events and simply being able to leave the house more. This type of empowerment is practical, as it frees up time for the impoverished and provides tangible tools to people with special needs, as well as more abstract, as in the encouragement of greater confidence.

- Empowerment improves social integration and equal opportunity to all groups of people. It brings together people with different backgrounds, skills, experiences, who are able to analyze issues that affect them differently. Equal representation.

- 1. Fairer and more distributive decisions 2. More solidarity between people.

- Equality among people eliminates the chance for some to exclude others.

- By empowering people, a previously marginalized group will come in par with the rest of the society. They will get the opportunity to participate actively in the economy and the

development of the society. This will help raise their social esteem and reduce chances of any conflicts or clash of ideas with other groups.

➕ It is especially important to engage those people who live in poverty - as with some small amount of directions, these people often succeed beyond expectations. For example teaching better cooking techniques by others who were once poor is far more valuable than a person teaching from a different socio-economic group. Youth need guidance to understand their role in society is only temporary and their decisions last a life time. It is important to help youth make decisions, not tell them what to do. Decision making starts when children are young and it is important for a life time. Persons with disabilities are varied. But regardless of the disability, if they are engaged in the decision-making they are also engaged in the solutions. This is more productive than telling others what is good for them. Indigenous Peoples need to be engaged with the society to ensure their longevity as a people and to enhance their lives. Keeping segregated has as many problems as integrating and the Indigenous Peoples need to participate to get the best of both. In all these situations, it is important to remember that empowering one group doesn't mean taking all the power away from another groups. Empowering also means understanding the needs of all aspects of social integration.

➕ Again, the term 'social integration' can have some negative connotations which imply some inequalities whereas our goals are to emphasize equality and equal human rights and human dignity of all members of society. Full participation by all members of society in the social, cultural, economic, financial and political life of the community in which they live means that they contribute to the development of their society and that they share in the benefit of development. Power and responsibility are shared by all. In most societies, there are varying degrees of participation which implies an unequal distribution of power. Thus, it is important to work towards the greatest degree of participation which leads to the greatest degree of equality.

➕ If people with the least would raise themselves up, this would be even more valuable than expecting people with extensive resources to do so.

➕ It will give them voice and it will be a pathfinder toward being recognized and decision-making, they will be at pal with others.

⚜   It will give these people a voice as they wont have to be dependent on stipends or government for a living so the marginalized will have alternative sources of livelihoods and thus a say in their governance and collective wellbeing.

⚜   This can work through promotion of social innovation relates to new responses to pressing social demands by means which affect the process of social interactions. It covers wide fields which range from new models of childcare to web-based social networks, from the provision of domestic healthcare to new ways of encouraging people to exchange cars for bicycles in cities, and the development of global fair-trade chains. In its recent usage, the social innovation approach is understood to mean not only a new governance mode working across traditional fields of responsibilities with an active involvement of citizens, which is effective in addressing the challenges of climate mitigation, social justice, ageing, etc., but also the culture of trust and risk-taking which is needed to promote scientific and technological innovations.

⚜   Empowering people creates an opportunity for people to network for common goals. Each skill attracts a new set of complementing skills from others of different culture and background to work as a team trading knowledge and assisting in projects. Each business or project has behind its profit the mission to create value. Value creation is a tool for social integration as the results not only gives a sense of fulfillment, but makes the society a healthy place to leave in.

⚜   It would reduce the gap between rich and poor by allowing everyone to participate in decision-making and in resource allocation.

⚜   People who are secure knowing themselves and having some measure of economic stability generally reach out to others to help them along.

⚜   Integration into main stream society allows them access to the advantages that "middleclass" individuals have. If you are educated, if you have a sustainable work, food, and health care, you can be empowered.

🔸 Two way conversations is a necessary step for social integration. That conversation is too often absent between the haves and the have not, those who are well and those who have disabilities, etc.

🔸 Social integration only truly occurs within at least a minimal level of trust, belief and respect for human dignity and the rights of all for a meaningful life. The real belief that a meaningful life for "person A" does not mean a less meaningful life for "person B."

🔸 By empowering people, they will be more interested and active in forming partnerships. They know that more can be achieved when there is unity and common purpose. Vulnerable groups will be likely to fight more actively for their rights when they are empowered.

🔸 An important aspect of this process would be helping people living in poverty, youth, older persons, those with disabilities and indigenous peoples to see their participation is valued and of vital importance to the success of poverty eradication programs. Social integration means that all feel included and no one feels subordinate to others in the process.

🔸 The best way to empower youth in our country and promoting sustainability programs, is creating self-employment as well as coverage of new jobs. The young deficient need an acquisition and promotion of the rights and the same should you feel self empowered so that they can compete equally in the market, being offered the same opportunities.

🔸 The "fault lines" that threatens social cohesion and integration runs along and in between these social groupings such as people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples. Empowerment can provide alternative avenues for these groups to work towards effectively narrowing the disparities engendered by these divisions. Since these social groups are evident correlates to much of the socio-economic ills, empowerment will enable to diffuse this unfortunate relationship and thus improve social integration.

🔸 That's the logical (and beautiful) consequence of volunteering; to improve social integration.

⚜   By increasing dialogue and understanding, and giving them the power to change things in their community.

⚜   Empowering people would enhance the dignity of all persons, and reduce stereotypical images of the poor, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

⚜   Advocacy and linkages with Governments.

⚜   By helping them understand their personhood, dignity and relation to others.

⚜   I go back to the need for education once again. Education can be the great equalizer. Education opens doors. Education allows for a greater understanding among all peoples. Education acts as a catalyst so that there is a cross-generational connectedness benefiting everyone.

⚜   Empowerment implies you bring people together. With appropriate facilitation that leads to social cohesion. It enables people of all kinds to relate and then work together towards definite goals. This creates true community.

⚜   Empowerment brings a sense of belongingness to people in a society and it also helps build the esteem of people. This will give them a high risk taking propensity and will help them be innovative to come up with solutions to problems facing the society.

⚜   Empowering People have many options to improve social integration, like as: 1. Awareness program; 2.Group meetings; 3.Team conversations; 4.Training Sessions; 5.Video presentations; 6.Practical project presentations in the rural and urban level.

⚜   With empowerment comes a sense of worth, not only of the individual, but of those with whom she lives and works. The strengthening of one person helps build community where all, despite, age or infirmities, are welcomed and respected.

- If people feel accepted and valued by society, the consequences are far reaching.

- When a person is able to achieve on their own they find ways to reach out to others and to share.

- It would enable people to feel more a part of the society to which they belong. It would give them a greater feeling of ownership and encourage them to make the society their own.

- Empowering people can improve social integration because of the following: 1. It provides a path towards economic independence and economic independence is key to giving someone the ability to integrate. 2. It enhances an individual self esteem, making integration more comfortable and more likely to occur. 3. It teaches teamwork and respect for others. 4. It assists with the development of the social skills needed to work and interact in society. 5. It fosters the hope that drives the will to integrate. 6. An empowered individual or group is more likely to be accepted by those already empowered and entrenched in society.

- By achieving equality.

- If a person has education and job skills they may live and work where they are able rather than in ghettos.

- When people are able to care for themselves and those they love, they become whole, free and creative.

- If individuals have been empowered to be self-confident, they will not likely shy away from others in society. Instead, their sensitivity to people once like themselves may move them to assist others in ways that they were initially enabled to become a happier, healthier, more generous, caring and self-confident person.

➕ When people feel in charge of their lives, they want to protect what they have, and this requires them to seek support and to collaborate with others to sustain what they have.

➕ Empowered people remember there was a time they were not so empowered.

➕ Par des communications - Par des formations des jeunes, par des personnes vivant dans la pauvreté, - Pour une prise en charge des personnes handicapés - les populations autochtones par des formations.

➕ Each one experiences their own and others right to participation and inclusion. Everyone is humanized. Less division, less exclusion.

➕ It could make everyone a part of the solution, not just those with money and power. When everyone feels that they are in charge of their destiny, then they start to play a role in the action, no matter how old or young they are, what race or ethnicity they are, how rich or poor they are.

➕ To be effective empowerment strategies must address the root causes of discrimination and exploitation that deny these social groups the capacity to fight the conditions that keep them poor and at the margin of society. Social integration will only be possible if political, economic, social and cultural barriers are broken down and equal access to education, fair trade, labor markets and mobility are warranted as rights of all people, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, class or nationality.

➕ People feel powerless when they are unable to participate, have no opportunity or forum to have a say in matters that affect their lives. Among others, it is imperative that empowering people must include ensuring enabling environment to have a say in decisions that affect their lives and that they are respected. Once people experience that they are heard, they feel respected, included and are empowered. Participation in decisions that affect their lives and participatory forum to have their say are essential elements of empowerment resulting in social inclusion/ integration.

✦	Offering people the basic tools of growth and development will make an enormous positive impact. If a person has access to education they have access to many opportunities that will improve their lives.

✦	Poverty equals harassment by the authorities: Adam Smith's the wealth of Nations illustrates the ability of a government to restrict a person's travel in order to retain menial labor.

✦	Regretfully our world is becoming increasingly polarized into haves and have-not. Too many people, such as those living in poverty, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples are not able to break into mainstream society due to a lack of education and skills to be successful as well as a lack of affordable health care.

✦	Educated empowered people are more self aware and have the tools and have learned the responsibility to play a role in society with a diversity of people.

✦	Once people are empowered and are given the opportunities and resources needed to lead a happy and healthy life they will be able to live a more loving and peaceful life. Violence is the result of unhappiness and lack of peace within. The people empowered will be able to love and accept themselves and in turn love and accept others and contribute to the welfare of the whole society and the earth.

Human beings are social creatures and we naturally need to interact and live with each other. When people are empowered, they are motivated and usually better educated. They have the confidence and ability to do something and make a difference in their community, improving social integration.

✦	Communities helping communities. No government can enforce volunteerism, but if you educate and demonstrate, as we throughout all our courses, how the desire to help another is the tool to help yourself, then sharing becomes receiving. This is a key concept to engage societies to help the sidelined groups listed above.

✦	In terms of people with special needs: Youth have the desire to get ahead and to become successful. They are idealistic, and sometimes they just need tools to free them to do more. The

aged and persons with disabilities have gifts they can use for their own benefit and for the good of their society. Sometimes they need help finding out what these gifts are, and be taught the skills they need. Indigenous Peoples have their own sources of deep wisdom and skills.

🔸 Social integration may be improved as individuals: 1. Choose with whom to associate; 2. Choose education type, employment type, social groups with whom to associate; 3. Self advocate - they increase confidence, self respect and self esteem; 4. Are consulted and feel more included in decisions concerning themselves and their community.

🔸 By giving them the self esteem necessary to feel able to achieve their goals.

🔸 Participation requires knowledge, skills, and the physical and mental health needed to be effective. Integration is replaced by rejection without these qualities and capabilities. People living in poverty, youth, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities, often have not had the opportunity to acquire or practice these assets. Empowerment must fill these gaps and train the recipients for full social integration.

🔸 Empowering people would improve social integration because it allows people to take a major role in their community's poverty eradication. When people are in charge of their own solutions, I believe that greatly improves social integration.

How could empowering people help achieve full employment and decent work?

♣   To understand the time, the accompaniment and the ongoing mentoring that it takes to help people who have had limited opportunities to fulfill their potentials. Any skill takes theory, practice, and supervision and adequate time to internalize the new learned skill.

♣   We have to move away from an ethos of entitlement back to one of duty and sense of community well-being that is the responsibility of all! We all need to help ourselves and not expect the state to provide everything. This expectation of entitlement actually disempowers people and puts their destiny in the hands of others.

♣   When you empower people especially with education, you are giving them a better chance to live a good life, and a better chance to find good jobs and be employed and in demand.

♣   We need "neighbourhoodization" of market as an alternative to globalization of market. People can identify the buying needs in the neighborhoods and at the various levels of the federation of these neighborhoods, and organize the buying accordingly cutting through the middlemen at various levels. When people have a marketing chain this way people's own products could be sold and this would give them incentive to produce more in such way that the process is labor-intensive. Leading to full employment and decent work. This will be a globalization-from-below giving more control and say to people in the process.

♣   Empowering people through education and resolving the issue of primary needs: water, food, house, communications, energy, job, health, etc., may help to achieve full and decent work.

+ There must be a place for everyone to be productive, to contribute in some way, according to abilities and level of education. Again, everyone needs to change a position, just a bit, to allow for others to "sit at the table."

+ Full employment and decent work can be achieved giving the possibility to both employers and employee to match their needs. Less bureaucracy and a less rigid loan policy could facilitate both who wants to start an enterprise and those enterprises that want to hire new employees or enlarge the company, so creating new workplaces. A more accessible education system for all ages could help youth and seniors to improve their skills and be more competitive on the labor market. From one side, it is important to develop specific contents for innovative training paths, specific and based on the needs of every social group; on the other side, it is also necessary to ensure a better access to education for all these groups, especially for those who are usually excluded or penalized because of their age, their disabilities or their income. Giving the opportunity to have an easier access to bank loans, public incentives and a wider education may empower people in their search of a satisfying job.

The empowerment of people could be achieved only if each level of government (local, regional, national and European) realizes effective and coordinated policies. In this framework, one of ELISAN's priorities is represented by the reconciliation policies (between work & family life), which play a crucial role in preventing poverty and social exclusion among families and children. Veneto Region implemented the Audit model, an efficient tool for the management of human resources in an optic of reconciliation between family and professional life. It is applicable in enterprises and departments of whatever dimension and sector and it gives the possibility to map existing family oriented initiatives to give indications about potential improvement in 8 field of analysis: working hours, contents and work procedures, place of work, communication and information policy, management competences, development of staff skills, retribution and fringe benefits, services supporting the families.

ELISAN strongly believes that enhancing access to employment is an important priority at European and local level and that this objective can be reached promoting measures to reconcile work and private life, such as facilitating access both to childcare and care for dependent persons. Full employment should be encouraged by empowering women to keep working after labor, empowering the retirees to keep playing an active role in society, as assisting the most vulnerable, promoting quality jobs as those jobs that satisfy both parts involved. Moreover, Veneto Region is collaborating with FEPEM (Fédération des particuliers employeurs) in order to participate in the creation of a European Federation on Family Work. The purpose is to empower women in the home duties such as assisting the children and elderly, taking care of the house, enabling them to hire other women and starting a virtuous circle on the feminine occupation.

⁜   Empowering people help achieve full empowerment and decent work because all those who have been empowered through their education or skills that they have learn will help them to find decent jobs. For example, if someone gets a scholarship to study law and he/she graduates as a lawyer, that person will have a decent job, so empowering people help achieve full employment and decent work.

⁜   Empowering people means to make them aware of their rights and show them how to defend. Empowering people means to show them how strong they can be if united in solidarity. To reach the poorest and unemployed, empowerment must start at individual and community level. However, the support of the internationalization of workers unions and the promotion of self-help and local value chains in development cooperation seem effective strategies in regard to employment.

⁜   Strengthening of livelihood skills is a key component of empowerment. We strengthened the skills in folk dance, drama, songs and paintings for Indigenous communities in various parts of Eastern India. The target was to create new markets for the traditional skills. These communities were extremely marginalized and living below poverty line seven years ago. After nurturing new audiences and markets (e.g. developing cultural tourism, using folk media for C4D, and promoting art forms in cultural events), people who were daily laborers became 'artists' and cultural entrepreneurs. Recognition led to inclusion and empowerment and indices like education, health, sanitation all improved. We have also observed how poor women collectives (called self help groups in India), when made aware of the opportunities available under various Government schemes, took action for starting small businesses like running food service or making incense sticks.

⁜   The working place where empowered people are working will present a decent, democratic and fair working atmosphere for the other colleagues as well.

⁜   Through affirmative action policies at national and regional levels; through inclusive legislations; through encouraging /promoting creativity and initiatives that are within communities, interest groups, etc.; through ambitious national programmes. I will give the example of France who is proposing a generational contract between unemployed youth and skills seniors to reduce unemployment.

⚜ I think that more people empowered will bring along more probabilities of achieving full employment and decent work, starting by the possibilities of self-employment. However, I would not say that full employment would be guaranteed with people empowered. While ensuring decent work is at the hand of any upright employer, ensuring employment for all is a complex reality not so easily at hand which requires a big effort of creativity and investment for both, private sector and government.

⚜ In order to empower and achieve full employment of persons with disabilities, it is necessary to recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others and the opportunity to gain and a living by work freely chosen. Accepted work environment accessible to persons with disabilities. Safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work for those who acquire disability during the cause of employment by taking appropriate steps, including, career advancement, safe and healthy working condition, placement of services and continuing training. Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector provide appropriate policies and measures and affirmative action programs and promote self employment and entrepreneurships and own business.

⚜ Sound empowerment policies are those that take into consideration specific needs, are open to flexibility and adaptability given the different contexts. This means staying away from one-size-fits-all approaches and also teaching people how to generate their own employment or source of income. This implies innovative approaches to capacity building.

⚜ I believe that empowerment is the key to achieving sustainable development and an empowered person through his/her psychological and physical capacities will provide opportunities and means in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. It's simple: you give people the chance, opportunity with ability development and necessary help with all possible and required sources.

⚜ Cooperative principles include education and training as a key element in the values based business model. If you train your workers and insure that all are treated equally as cooperatives do (with an equal voice in how a business advances) - you set the environment for full employment and decent work.

⚜ By empowering those living in poverty to be part of the solution, we could gain valuable insight into the unique ways individuals can contribute to the global society. The answer for one

person or one family may be different than another, but the ability for those who are unemployed or underemployed to seek employment in an area that best matches their goals and talents may increase the likelihood of success.

🔸 It will create full employment because if your are empowered with capital you can start your own business or empowered with the required education you will also get employed

🔸 As people take over roles in their lives and communities, they develop skills, which increase their employability. At the same time, the solutions they may come up with as they analyze the root causes of their problems and reflect about solutions at their reach, employment opportunities can be generated.

🔸 Companies need to focus on the needs of the whole of society, stop putting money before every other value, and develop an inclusive, cooperative culture, instead of creating and celebrating such extreme competition for jobs. Everyone has something to contribute. Decentralize decision-making in the corporations. Create a culture of inclusion. Meet people where they are, economically and educationally. Make training and education more available.

🔸 The empowered people should learn how to start small, but think big. Think big in the sense that the single skill they have learnt, they should use it to build a new system. The system should be so built that it has propensity to employ people.

🔸 Part of this educational improvement should be to help everyone to find what suits better their capacities and helping to develop them in the best possible way.

🔸 There should be a range of opportunities preparing each person to earn a living wage and participate in the local and national economies. Opportunities include accessing primary and secondary education, vocational training and apprenticeship programs, and higher education. In some cases, the economic status of parents or region of residence prevents access to opportunities for career development and restricts children to a future of low-skilled and poorly paid work. Empowering communities should yield more responsive academic and career training, creative financing of local ventures, and access to new markets.

♣ How could empowering people help achieve full employment and decent work? This is a difficult question since in the history of mankind no nation has achieved full employment. The best we can do is to reduce poverty, not eliminate it. Empowered people can encourage their governments to create jobs, but this is possible only in democratic societies.

♣ Everyone would have the skills needed to find just and safe employment, contributing to an important part of society.

♣ Persons would have skills sets that permit them to contribute to the development of an economy - person would know their rights – be treated with dignity and respect - work would be regulated, persons would be able to address exploitive situations, seek just wages - Empowering has to do with production and consumption.

♣ Being an inspiration is a good beginning and share how they become who they are now.

♣ The most devastating thought for anyone is the thought that "I don't count and I can do nothing about it." From that comes despair, lack of motivation to look for work or train for it. The more people in a society who feel this way the less achievable will be the goal of decent work and full employment.

♣ Economic world as it is structured causes many problems by sharing wealth to only few people, despite that everyone is making their effort on what's happening on this planet.

♣ Empowering could help people achieve full employment and decent work when each person gets empowered through education, training, technical supports according his/her requirement and make them to be competent, get employment and decent work.

♣ There is a Chinese Proverb that says: give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. When organizations send educators whether they are from medical or social organizations to third world countries they teach good health habits and clean water techniques and how to build schools and better housing.

🔸 Full employment is hard to achieve, but when caretakers are paid for the services they provide for the disabled (as in Cuba), more people would be able to empower other people. Mediators are often able to empower nations and people to forgive each other and to build better relationships. People who work together to achieve food, housing, education, and loving community help to build the earth.

🔸 When a person feels that he/she has value, he/she marches forward instead of standing still. Normally, this would lead to the natural desire to seek out education and a job which would help better their situation.

🔸 Employment and decent work also a tool to support for empowerment, but still there is a need of changing attitude and bring them in decision making at equal level is true empowerment. Let us share an example from Sindh province of Pakistan, in Sindh province high cast Hindus are very rich and they hold most of economy of province. But due to lack of empowerment they are migrating to India. It means there is a huge difference in Empowerment and Poverty.

🔸 Through "community" and the "collective" contribution of all that what is good for the community is good for all. What people "have" they contribute, what they don't have they seek externally, what they get externally; they ultimately bring to the "community" in a collective way. No one person's contribution is better than other's - it all belongs to the collective.

🔸 When people are empowered and have the opportunity to exercise the right and responsibility, they will seek better work opportunities that are equivalent with their abilities and won't settle for less than that.

🔸 As mentioned above, empowerment is about having the skills, knowledge and drive to achieve. One of the most effective means of empowerment is supporting people to develop the skills, knowledge and vision needed to achieve employment and decent work. Employment often raises a person's status, as well as their income and self esteem. Often there are jobs or self employment opportunities, but the poor are unable to take advantage of them because they lack the education level, skills or self-belief to do so. For example, in India there is a 3% jobs reservation for persons with disabilities. However, the majority of this quota is not accessed by persons with disabilities as they are not empowered to utilize these opportunities. To access these jobs, they need to have the appropriate levels of education needed for the post; they need the skills required and need to know about the legislation that refers to the reservation and how to

access employment under these criteria. Thus education, skills training and knowledge of rights are all important if marginalized groups are to access employment and decent work. For full employment and decent work to be achieved the most marginalized must be included, thus time needs to be invested in providing the building blocks which support empowerment, recognizing that power cannot be given; the empowerment process can be facilitated, but people have to engage if change is to take place. Donors must recognize that true empowerment takes years, not weeks or months, to achieve. Therefore development programmes that include empowerment as a strategic tool for income generation or poverty reduction must be of at least five years duration, ideally longer.

- Full employment and decent work is not an overnight fix - it is the result of many years and many people working together for the overall benefit of the community. Education exposes individuals to more developed areas with a higher standard of living - we learn from one another.

- Empowerment people would help to achieve full employment particularly through the development of micro and small enterprises. It is an established fact that micro and small business enterprises generate significant employment in any economy. In fact in many cases their contribution to employment generation exceeds that of large business enterprises.

- Full employment and decent work is not our find of expertise, but we consider that macroeconomic policies, including fiscal policies, need to change so that the economy is at the service of the wellbeing of all the citizens and it respects the planetary boundaries, if the objective of full employment and decent work is to be achieved. Fiscal policies should take into account, for instance, the following aspects: Progressive taxation, greening the tax system, effective taxation of corporations; initiatives against tax evasion an illicit financial flows, etc.. Governments also will need to reallocate their expending, for instance: strengthening public spending to stimulate sustainable production and consumption, cutting military and police spending; investing on strong social protections systems; promoting public provision of essential services; strengthening participatory and human rights budgeting initiatives. Additional measures will be needed for people living in extreme poverty to have access to decent jobs.

The proposals the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona on the final draft of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights A/HRC/21/39 is one of the most relevant documents written on this issue. States should: (a) Adopt rigorous labor regulations and ensure their enforcement through a labor inspectorate with adequate capacity and resources to ensure enjoyment of the right to decent working conditions;

(b) Ensure that all workers are paid a wage sufficient to enable them and their family to have access to an adequate standard of living;

(c) Ensure that legal standards regarding just and favorable conditions of work are extended to and respected in the informal economy, and collect disaggregated data assessing the dimensions of informal work;

(d) Take positive measures to ensure the elimination of all forms of forced and bonded labor and harmful and hazardous forms of child labour, in addition to measures that ensure the social and economic reintegration of those affected and avoid reoccurrence;

(e) Ensure that caregivers are adequately protected and supported by social programmes and services, including access to affordable childcare;

(f) Put in place specific measures to expand opportunities for persons living in poverty to find decent work in the formal labor market, including through vocational guidance and training and skills development opportunities;

(g) Eliminate discrimination in access to employment and training, and ensure that training programmes are accessible to those most vulnerable to poverty and unemployment, including women, migrants and persons with disabilities, and tailored to their needs;

(h) Respect, promote and realize freedom of association so that the identities, voices and representation of workers living in poverty can be strengthened in social and political dialogue about labor reforms.

🞢 Home economics education improves knowledge in food production, house gardening, nutrition skills and health. Home Economics Education does not only lead to the self-sufficiency of the individuals, families and communities, but also to income generating opportunities. By selling the excess food produced in the family setting from a sustainable income generation activity, opportunity is opened for families and individuals. In combination with this availability of food, nutritional and health skills lead to an adequate nutrition of young and adolescent children which enables them physically and mentally to use educational opportunities that are available to them. Adequate School education is the determining factor for decent work and employment. Education that provides fundamental knowledge about self, meeting personal and family needs and protecting the environment is priceless in contributing to the improved quality of the everyday lives of people in every part of the world. Grass root projects, concentrating on the household and family make a big contribution to the development of productive capacity at the basic level of societies.

🞢 It can make them to be an entrepreneur, thereby making them an owner of a Business.

+ Empowerment increases self-esteem. With positive self-esteem comes the energy and ability to associate and cooperate with others.

Locally formed institutions, such as co-operatives at formal or informal level, will help in creating job opportunity. Training and gaining appropriate knowledge about cooperatives is of a paramount importance for the people who join co-operatives.

+ Empowerment comes in various forms. Information is a grate resource that can raise someone from nothing to something. Just having access to information would enable one follow up and tack action to better his/her situation. Access to finance is one that prospective entrepreneurs crave for. Various enterprises call for various financial support levels such that people are unable to venture into production if they need a lot of financial investment due to their inability to provide security for the fund. Youth and women in this case are hard hit but usually are the most energetic and do a lot of laborious work in most communities. Providing this empowerment would enable enterprise development and this means more jobs created. Once people are aware it helps them overcome elements of exploitation and have access to decent conditions of service.

+ To be honest I'm not sure that empowering people will result in full employment. What it may do is change the framework for what is 'full employment' and broaden the definition to recognize different fields and types of work outside the traditional scope of 'employment'. The issue with empowerment is that we need to be realistic about the possibility of empowering all, equally. In needs to be the aim but we must not forget the most marginalized who often are missed in this notion.

+ Empowerment will enhance the understanding of any form of exploitation, injustice and this will lead towards full employment and decent work, this will increase the number of people to enjoy their lives.

+ You have to match the education and skill development with the needs of the local economy and the developing economy. People also have to become aware that they have rights as human beings and they are not beasts of burden that can be used and abused. And they also need to be responsible workers. People have to know that labor can come together and create unions that can work with management for decent working conditions, fair pay and reasonable hours of work. If wages and hours are fair and just, more workers can be hired and better quality

of product will be produced. People should not be made to work excessive hours that destroy their health and family life. I know all of this is easier said than done.

✚	Discrimination in employment happens because of stigma, lack of knowledge, and misperception about the abilities of people to work - especially when it comes to people with disabilities, but this argument can apply equally well to people of either end of the age spectrum (young or old). People with disabilities often internalize this stigma and begin to feel that perhaps they cannot or should not work - even though they want to - and wonder about disclosure if they apply for a job. If they have gaps in a resume because of hospitalizations or treatment they have to worry about questions that might be asked; they have concerns about asking for reasonable accommodations. Knowing what their rights are, knowing how to prepare a resume, knowing how to address questions in an interview; and for employers - knowing that most accommodations do not cost money, and that (in the U.S., at least) there are tax breaks for hiring people with disabilities - can help people achieve full employment and decent work.

✚	If someone does not have confidence of a sense of self-worth they will not be able to convince others of their possibilities and receive employment or seek just and fair work.

✚	Empowerment also involves developing skills of the weaker sections of society. Skill development is very essential for achieving full employment of these masses. The organizations also through increasing their humanitarian efforts like corporate social responsibility and following equal employment opportunity can empower the marginalized and help them increase their employment rates.

✚	Involvement, awareness, communication, action can shape our society and ecomony.

✚	What is full employment? In the U.S. full employment is at least 4% of workers out of work or underemployed. Also, in the U.S. full employment is husband and wife working or the head of household holding down two or three jobs in order to provide basic necessities. Perhaps fair pay or living wage judged by items in the market basket e.g. sending children to school, purchase of meat or some other protein on a regular basis, ability to pay rent or build a shelter. Decent work is a nice concept but how is that defined. White collar jobs are full of stress even while one's clothing and hands stay clean. Again, perhaps the adequate definition is can the employed person take care of personal and family or household needs on the wages paid.

🔱   It has been shown many times that employers locate their businesses where they can find employees with the skills they need. If we can educate or train potential employees, then the businesses will hire them. Of course, it must be ensured that they are employed at a living wage and in decent working conditions. Governments need to enforce employment laws and minimum wage laws.

🔱   If people are empowered they will not just get employment for themselves but will create platforms for others and we can achieve full employment and decent work.

🔱   Empowering people means that they will seek decent work. In addition, jobs have to be available for full employment to be achievable.

🔱   People need to have opportunities to engage in work. This means education (to know what to do), training (how to do it) and a job. Ensuring that work is decent must include civil society and governments that monitor the workplace for safety & fairness.

🔱   It is mutual, when people have the resources they feel empowered and motivated for further employment and decent work. Decent work and employment also make the poor empowered.

🔱   Through proper job training and giving chances to practice the learned knowledge and skills. Giving chances to volunteer may also increase self esteem, networking, and job opportunities.

🔱   Empowering people could help achieve full employment and decent work because empowered with education, vocational training and other relevant skills will make their position at job market more attractive for employers who would consequently be more interested to hire them.

🔱   Empowered people are more likely to press for certain rights, such as work that complies with safety regulations, because they are more knowledgeable about the process and feel more confident about engaging with it. This confidence also relates to employment, as discouraged

and demoralized people are less likely to seek and remain in full employment. However, the structural concerns are the most important: legal policies that make young workers more vulnerable to firing, for example, or lack of representation of indigenous people in political processes.

- By availing information to all groups at all levels Different groups accessing Education and training thus skills required to start and run own businesses and Equipping people with Resource mobilization skills and small business management Implementation of decentralization policies.

- 1. Better working rules (minimum wages, social security...)
2. Minimum worldwide regulations, for a fair economic competition 3. International control and inspections.

- Equal access to education and other social benefits provides opportunities and choice.

- Empowering people should develop the idea of cooperation and coordination. With necessary education, skills and cooperation, full employment can be achieved.

- Empowering people usually results in more self respect and self confidence. When this is channeled appropriately, then employees and employers benefit. Employers also need to learn to empower others - which takes a lot of self discipline and control which for many is difficult.

- When choices are available and people are free to choose their work based on their talents and interests and the needs of the community in which they live, the interests and imposed conditions of work by outside employers and/ or corporations will not have the final word.

- Creating work and produce within ones own family and local would provide a model of creative productivity and would also produce money and produce for trade.

➕ It will open avenues for professionalism, technicality and expertise. It will help in building the economy.

➕ It will give people the courage and boldness to initiate projects individually and collectively, it will give people the qualification needed to fill up job slots, it will build capacity of people to demand rights and seek redress of injustices at work places it will give people a sense of ownership at whatever it is they are doing.

➕ Empowerment is a key means to achieving sustainable development and other vital goals. But it also has a value in and of itself. Governments should put more efforts to protect human rights, promote job creation and obtain improved access to water, sanitation, energy, education and health care all have empowerment at their core – the goal of ensuring that people have the opportunities they need to live better lives in dignity and security.

➕ When people are empowered, they will either be producing goods or providing services. In the chain of production or delivery, more hands will be required. One man cannot run an entire idea all by himself and gain the desired profit from the idea. He will employ others to do part of the work to enable achieving the set goal. Empowered people become employers of labor thus empowering others.

➕ People who have control over their own lives are in a better position to compete for resources and hence develop opportunities to support themselves and their families.

➕ The more people know, the more the world improves.

➕ Teach skill of communication through photography, the universal language.

➕ Through sustainable work, education people will be empowered. We know that specifically when women are empowered their child benefit.

- Knowing needs often creates work to cover those needs.

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- Empowered people know that they have rights and are not afraid to speak up. They will be more likely to demand quality government services, including work promotion programs. They will also demand job creation policies and labor rights.

- Ease of access to vocational training and to financial services could go a long way to helping people move from informal to more formal employment. Incentives to businesses that would offer affirmative action programs in hiring people of vulnerable groups should also be considered.

- For people to have a decent job and needed to have a greater investment about all the youth groups, universities to create courses that allow greater market after their formation, that there is greater opportunity and openness of the government in the creation of policies aimed at greater development and involvement of all of us.

- Employment and decent work is mostly achieved where worker-employer matches are satisfactory. Bad matches dissolve quickly, and are fraught with all the signs of job instability and insecurity (low salaries, under-employment, lack of access to employment benefits etc). Empowerment would allow people the opportunity to take meaningful steps to acquire the necessary skills that create good work-employer matches to achieve full employment and decent work.

- They get the chance to gain experience in real life. Experience adds value to their c.v..

- Empowering people can help achieve full employment by creating programs and groups that can assist with such tasks.

- If empowering people were practiced in a society that adhered to the principle of the "common good", the principle would preclude unfair practices that would deprive persons of their human rights, limit their educational opportunities and control work situations that enhance

opportunities for the rich to get richer while controlling opportunities for the poor and the middle class to advance.

⚜   Feedback, review, research, training, education, knowledge building, etc.

⚜   By realizing their human dignity and rights, and ability to organize with others to examine their situation and decide for themselves what is needed to go forward.

⚜   I go back to the importance of education once again. Here in the United States we have a wonderful system of public education which benefits everyone. Children in every family, no matter where they come from and regardless of their economic status, are offered tremendous opportunities to learn. I believe that those who take on this learning challenge will realize the depth of their empowerment. Employment will be available to them.

⚜   It is amazing how, when you draw on the ideas, hopes, dreams, frustrations even of people who formerly have had no day in their lives, you find initiative for new enterprise. This can lead to the establishment of new sources of work opportunities.

⚜   Empowering creates an entrepreneurial culture and creates synergy in people to blend different ideas to come up with innovative solutions. Empowering also creates mutual understanding between people and they can accommodate other people's differing opinions in. a friendly manner. This in turn creates a good long-term employability relationship.

⚜   Empowering People can achieved the target if 1.The person should be honest 2.He should take any decision with his freedom think tank. 3. Person should be capable for logistic support.

⚜   As indicated above, job training should be part of empowerment so as to guarantee full employment.

⚜   If people feel as they count for something and are encouraged by others, they often will seek for opportunities to get more appropriate education and training.

- Again if people feel empowered and are empowered in the true meaning of the word, people will feel more inclined to want to work and even to create opportunities for themselves and others. They will want the best situation for themselves and those around them.

- Empowerment by having a voice in developing and providing to all opportunities for self improvement and some of the basic living necessities will enhance self confidence among those empowered and free them up from focusing solely on daily survival.

- Lower unemployment and decent wage would be a great achievement.

- Strong, ethical individuals make for a strong democracy as well as for personal happiness. Many businesses in the US have jobs, but have trouble finding US citizens with the skill set needed. We have an untapped source of good citizens - just needing education and job skills.

- People are creative and it often takes very little to bring forth this creativity which is often expressed in their work choices.

- If and when individuals are personally secure and see value and worth within themselves (as a result of having been empowered by others) they will look into the future and will have a desire to make that future an even better place for themselves, their family, neighbors and community. They will not be completely content with either part-time labor or labor that is less than desirable, but (while still maintaining the job) will be diligent in seeking better full-time employment if and when that is available and possible.

- Pour habiliter les gens d'atteindre le plein emploi et le travail decent, il faut les éduquer et les créer un plan d'emploi et surtout les aider dans les PME.

- In an empowerment framework, work is seen as part of human expression and creativity, not a purely economic or productive end served by the human person. Everyone has something to bring, something to contribute. Everyone participates in building, not only economic progress, but the betterment of the human condition and a society for all.

- To me, empowered people have work/employment, so the two are one in the same.

- Empowering people should aim at giving opportunities for decent and dignified work for all, but not necessarily for full (time) employment for all – the latter being, in the current dominant free market economy, an illusion. Empowerment strategies should prioritize opportunities for employment for youth and women, developing and leveraging on local and sustainable livelihood opportunities, favoring innovative and replicable production modes, such as cooperatives, fair-trade, self-reliant organic farms, green technology, IT, cultural production, etc.

- Unemployment leaves people powerless –socially, economically, politically and legally. Unemployment and powerlessness are both the sides of same coin. Having a say in decisions that affect their lives, having participatory forum to have their say and be heard, having access to social protection measures, being well informed of their rights and responsibilities, having access to basic necessities of life and to livelihood are some of the elements of empowerment and will result in productive capacities of people.

- Education leads to work opportunities and increases one's self esteem....which is empowering.

- Through government sponsored programs designed to equip them with necessary education, skills training and decent wages.

- Empowering is a process you still need to create opportunities.

- People will be able to choose what is best for them and will be able to find means to satisfy their basic needs and then reach out to those around them to build a more just and peaceful society.

- There's a saying that you can't change someone unless that person wants to change. By empowering others, we are giving the responsibility to pursue full employment and decent work to themselves because they are capable of doing so. Empowered people also have the ability to create employment.

🜂 The key, which we successfully teach and offer to you, is to show anyone's desire to receive (subsistence, personal goal, life change etc), is fulfilled by a desire of theirs to share. When you show them how helping someone else on their way up, doesn't disturb, but actually feeds their own goal, they end up chasing helping others as a way to co-achieve. This ladder of achievement is quite specific, but age-old and proven.

🜂 If people can be helped to identify their passion (what gives them energy and what they love to do) and then be given the tools to follow that passion, not only will work be "decent" but a source of joy and pride.

🜂 Empowering people can help achieve full employment and decent work because empowered people have creativity, initiative, interest, motivation and so seek employment that is meaningful and fulfilling, personally and communally. Empowering people is likely to lead to more self-employment and creativity in the job market.

🜂 Self-esteem helps people believe in themselves.

🜂 Full employment and decent work first of all requires the health, knowledge, and skills needed in the work. Only then can real, productive participation result.

🜂 Empowering people with skills, tools and education, they can then find and retain better jobs that require their skills.

🜂 Lamentablemente en muchos países de América Latina, el acceso al empleo es manipulado por la afiliación política al partido político de turno en el poder, quienes están empleados son las personas que por necesidad se afilian a determinado partido político con la promesa de empleo, y se ha convertido en un ciclo vicioso y perverso. No es visto como un derecho y una responsabilidad del Estado para con sus ciudadanos, tampoco es parte de una Política Social bien constituida. De manera que siento es necesario hacer conciencia en las personas y en los partidos políticos que el empleo es una responsabilidad gubernamental y es un derecho ciudadano para que las personas vivan con dignidad. Y por la falta de empleo muchas personas se someten a las escasas oportunidades de trabajo en condiciones no decentes, inhumanas e injustas. Y lo que es mas grave aún, están vulnerables a las empresas fantasmas (por el hecho que son empresas que tiene de fondo el lavado de dinero y la droga) y son utilizadas

y cuando hay un allanamiento policial los empleados son los que toman presos. Caen en estas redes perversas del narcotráfico.

🔸 Se fortalece la autoimagen y la autoestima tomando conciencia de cuáles son las causas estructurales de la pobreza y eso crea lazos con otras personas que también están viviendo esa toma de conciencia, lo cual redunda en una posición activa que aumenta las posibilidades de alcanzar oportunidades para cambiar su situación personal y la de la comunidad.

What do you consider would be main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples?

✤ The investment of time and resources. People who come with answers, but have little recognition of how condescending outside expertise often is. Even in going through processes that encourage and bottom up methodology, marginalized groups often respond with the answers and solutions that they believe that the facilitators want to hear.

✤ Existing power relationships.

✤ a) La no inversión en programas hacia el sector rural (sistemas de riegos, créditos agrícolas, ganaderos, etc a mediados agricultores especialmente mujeres.
b) El no apoyo financiero a medianos emprendedores.
c) El no fortalecimiento del mercado local, para el abastecimiento de alimentos.
d) No hay políticas de protección a la seguridad alimentaria, con respecto a la especulación e intermediarios, reservas, etc.
e) La poca capacitación técnica, en muchos países de la región ya que son las ONG las que invierten mas en capacitación técnica al área rural que el mismo gobierno.
f) El fortalecimiento financiero y capacitación en la elaboración de productos artesanales culturales que tienen muchas veces poco apoyo financiero, por ser pequeños.
g) Con respecto a los jóvenes, no hay políticas específicas para ellos, como por ejemplo crear oportunidades para el desarrollo deportivo, motivación para el ejercicio de un deporte, no en todos los países de la región se invierte en deportes, música, arte, teatro, son pocos y muy escasa la inversión en estas áreas para los jóvenes. Y hay muchos jóvenes con talentos no desarrollados por falta de oportunidades, porque en muchos países de la región no es valorado ni visto como una estrategia de prevención.
h) Para las familias pobres con alguno de sus miembros con discapacidad o enfermedad es un gran sufrimiento y mucha estrechez económica, a veces ellos no saben si existe algún programa que les pueda ayudar, creo que las instituciones publicas y privadas, ongs, etc deberiamos de

publicar, cuales son los servicios que prestamos a la población, y que exista una guía de información, accesible a ellos.

- Selfishness and helplessness. Helplessness comes about when people do not have accessible and well-connected or well federated structures. That powerlessness leads to more powerlessness.

- Barriers to economic, social, political empowerment: corruption of people that corrupts politics and institutions. Lack of ethical values individually and socially. Lack of public and effective systems to protect poverty, youth, older persons, disabilities and Indigenous Peoples. Lack of social services in the sense of coaching, micro credits, education.

- The social norms, then, lack of empathy, sensitivity and care for others' condition. Level of consciousness and awareness of issues and needs, power and willingness to change.

- The main barrier to any kind of empowerment is the deafness of those private or public institutions that should be active in providing services that should help people's daily life and not make it harder. Among the main barriers to the economic empowerment, we want to underline the banks' rigid loan policies, the increasing taxation (accompanied by a great tax evasion) and the reducing of the incentive for new business. Among the main barriers to the social empowerment are the still existing man-woman, young-middle age, able-bodied-disabled discrimination at many levels and the isolation of the elderly from the social life. Among the main barriers to the professional empowerment we want to underline an education system that often fails to meet the aspirations and the potential (skills, attitudes) of the students, the difficulty for middle age workers to find a new place of work after a dismissal or a change of job, the wide number of unpaid and low paid stages and internships.

The main barriers to the political empowerment are again the man-woman, young-middle age able-bodied-disabled discrimination during the political career paths, the high economic disposition sometimes necessary in order to carry on a campaign, the difficulty for poor people outside the main communication channel to express their own ideas or position, also due to the low educational level. In terms of target groups, the main barrier that the elderly have to face is social isolation following physical and mental illness. In this field, ELISAN's position on Active and Healthy Ageing and Solidarity between Generations considers essential that elderly are involved community, in order to regain an active role within the family and society. Participation means also to break down the consideration of elderly as a "burden" both for the family and

society, but also among the elderly themselves (a sort of vicious circle).

➕ One of the main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people is selfishness of our leaders. Example, here in Africa, the politician do not work to the expectation of the people instead they mislead the youth to commit crimes or wage war against their political opponent, they should learn to work as promise in their manifesto, socially the youth, older person, person with disabilities and indigenous are always neglected in the society, they should be provided with basic amenities such as, housing, feeding, etc. They should be provided with loan, so they can make up small business. This is what I consider as the main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older person, person with disabilities and indigenous people.

➕ Talking about poverty, the list seems endless. However, the main barriers, I suppose, is the interrelated functioning of the mode of production (mostly shareholder-value driven), the modern nation states (facilitating and generating its budget from the shareholder economy) and the lack of bottom-up control in politics and economy. Therefore empowerment is strongly correlated to democratization of all aspects of society, be it institutional (ownership-rights, decision-making rules) or structural (mandated delegation instead of representative democracy). A really democratic society needs a vast majority of highly empowered people.

➕ People lack awareness of their rights and entitlements. They remain unaware of laws for protection of their rights. They do not have access to services meant for them. Social norms and attitudes, weak governance and corruption are barriers to access to rights, entitlements and services. Further poor people, marginalized youth, Indigenous Peoples do not have any platform to voice their opinion. They lack scope to participate. Lack of education, media darkness and geographical isolation also add to the vicious cycle perpetuating dis-empowerment.

➕ I would say governmental/ political inquiries of developed countries: Weak education system; - Lack of good governance; - Lack of a legislation framework supporting economic, social and political empowerment; - Weak and disorganized civil society; - Cultural stigmas, conservative faith groups; - Lack of awareness among the population of marginalization and exclusion in their own societies;

➕ The main barrier would be not to consider them in law, or in practice, as citizens with full rights. Citizens, who are in special situation because of advance age, disabilities, belonging to minorities, etc., need the social protection required by their situation. Some legislations, for

example, allow abortion of preborn children just for having a disability which is clearly discriminatory.

- The significant challenges threaten to access to products and the supporting services that used by the individuals living with disabilities. Those individuals deal with physical disabilities challenges every day and utilize wheelchair to maximize their function and the coverage of the products and payment problems. The main barriers are the buildings, roads, transportation, indoor and outdoor services including housing work place, medical facilities, information and communication technologies services, not accessible for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities have not fully participation in political and public life on an equal basis due to the above barriers.

- Some of the barriers are limited access to education, learning and training opportunities, cultural practices, lack of openness, inadequate, imposed or partial solutions, non inclusive policies, lack of accountability, etc.

- Lack of motivation, consciousness of poverty, hand outs by governments, not challenging people to stand on their own feet, small business development starting from very small and building.

- Government policy is slow.

- Democracy and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realization of economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups. Other barriers will be inequality, disability and education.

- Gender equivalence, implementation of the Human Rights Charter, women/child rights, education for all, and necessary legislation for all in order to make people empowered.

- More must be done to make use of the cooperative values based business model. It is based on a needs not greed approach. It allows for competitive business which is both humane and of human scale. It is an incubator for new ideas - which might not with the corporate model gain a foothold. It underscores the value of the individual and the group working towards

common goals.

🔸 Access to decision making processes is undoubtedly, one of the main barriers to economic, social, and political empowerment of people and social groups. The systemic exclusion of minority groups from decision making further perpetuates the ability of the empowerment of the already powerful over the empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

🔸 The barriers are many and include the following: political unrest, border documentations, lack of transportations, and lack of good road networks.

🔸 The lack of trust in traditional knowledge and the wisdom of people who have not gone through formal education. The lack of adequate spaces for people to discuss issues of concern. The lack of trusted brokers (associations, individuals, volunteers, etc.) who can bridge the conversation. The lack of political will to take their perspectives into account.

🔸 The spirit of unhealthy, extreme competition for jobs and within the workplace; failing to celebrate the contribution of people who differ from the "norm." Focusing on the profit motive instead of using the power of the corporation to benefit the commonwealth. Education which prepares all social groups to participate in the collective welfare of all.

🔸 The main barriers include structural/institutional blockages, educational obstacles and a lack of knowledge or access to the knowledge required to overcome these barriers. Marginalized people also often lack organizational skills, networking and confidence to begin to address these barriers.

🔸 The first barrier I foresee will be the inability to have assessed to the people in need of empowerment. 2) Another barrier will be the problem of nepotism where people selected to be empowered will not necessary be people in need of empowerment, but merely friends and relatives of those with the power to empower.

🔸 Prejudices, lack of freedom, commercial interests and colonialism.

- There are social and physical barriers preventing full participation in society by all people. Broadly stated, these include sanctioned discrimination through rules and practices meant to restrict opportunities and services, and unintentional discrimination due to misperceptions about actual needs, assets and abilities of individuals and groups. For instance, establishing "separate but equal" educational programs in an attempt to save money or centralize services perpetuates historic discrimination. Another example is restricting access to loans or grants through a complex application process. Successful applicants are those with specific training and experience who can complete the application.

- The main barriers to reducing poverty are the government especially undemocratic societies. Governments that are ruled by dictators usually favor the wealthy over the poor. Keeping the poor in low level jobs and afraid to complain or rebel will maintain the wealthy classes in their power.

- I believe the main barriers would be lack of good health, clean water, proper nutrition, health care, resources, opportunities, education including motivation and encouragement. Barriers may also include location and environment.

- Discrimination against the groups mentioned above, poverty, lack of access to resources, land, money, credit, banks, lack of access to water, sanitation, food, health services, education and basic income. Growing economic and gender inequality.

- Lack of education and resources.

- THE MAIN BARRIERS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE ARE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS. THE GOVERNMENT'S OF RESPECTED COUNTRIES MOSTLY THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) OR THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FACE IS INADEQUATE RESOURCES TO LAUNCH ANY EFFECTIVE PLAN. IN ORDER TO GENERATE MORE AND MORE EMPLOYMENT A COUNTRY HAS TO HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES IN ITS HAND SO THAT IT CAN MEET THE STANDARD AND DECENT WAGE REQUIREMENTS TO EMPLOY A PERSON. BUT IT IS FOUND THAT MOSTLY IN THESE COUNTRIES MENTIONED ABOVE CANNOT FULFILL TARGETS AS IS EXPECTED. AS A RESULT THIS INCAPACITY OF GENERATING NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DUE TO LACK OF WEALTH IS MAKING THEM IMPOVERISH DAY BY DAY.

POLITICAL CONSTRAINT IS ANOTHER PROBLEM WHEREBY IT BECOMES DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE EVERY PERSON IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS DUE TO THEIR IGNORANCE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION. IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THESE COUNTRIES AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THE DEVELOPED WORLD IS ILLITERATE. THOUGH THE NUMBER OF ILLITERACY IS MORE IN DEVELOPING WORLD IS MORE THAN THAT OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD. SINCE THE GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES ARE UNABLE TO INCLUDE EVERY PERSON WITHIN THE AMBIT OF EDUCATION MANY OF THEM STILL LIVES IN UNDER THE DIM LIGHT OF IGNORANCE AND THUS ARE NOT GIVEN A PLACE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS. SOCIAL CONSTRAINT IS ALSO ANOTHER PROBLEM. DUE TO HUGE POPULATION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS COMPARED TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MANY OF THEM DOES NOT HAVE A REGISTRATION ID EVEN. MOREOVER THE PROBLEM OF MIGRATION IS EVEN SINCE. MANY MIGRANTS DOES NOT HAVE ANY RECORD OF THEIR EXISTENCE AND SOMETIMES THEY ALSO REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S MECHANISMS AND POLICIES. PROBLEMS ARE EVEN DUE TO THEIR DIFFERENT SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS, CULTURE, CUSTOMS, RELIGION BECOMES DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO UNITE AND PUT A STEP FORWARD IN THE MAINSTREAM SOCIETY.

- 1. The determination of the few to control the resources of the planet for themselves. 2. The lack of funding for universal education and personal development. 3. The fear of failure on the part of those who would like to do something about the issues - a fear that makes action impossible.

- Lack of information and burocracy. By lobbying power the wealthiest companies can affect the political leaders to make decisions for the benefits of the few.

- The barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment for the people living in poverty and Indigenous Peoples are: ignorance, illiteracy, lack of communication facilities, and lack of knowledge of different improved technologies. For older and disabled: lack of physical fitness, stigma in the family and society, lack of appropriate device and suitable opportunities. For youth: the community and the society to which they belong, are not able to channelize youth properly. Poverty families are not able to provide them good and high level education to make them competent.

✤ The main barrier is lack of education. If a person learns how to read he/she can achieve small things and great things. When Indigenous Peoples come to UN Conferences, they have access to the world. They learn from each other and bring new ideas back to their people that enhance their quality of life.

✤ Weapons do not empower those living in poverty or persons with disabilities (which includes those in prison). The refuse from nuclear power is not good for people. Nuclear weapons are destructive of the empowerment of people and destructive of people. Earthlings have no need for guns.

✤ Lack of knowledge is the most common barrier to any group. This would apply to each of those listed in the question. Once knowledge is acquired, there have to be teachers/leaders who can/will distribute it to the particular people of each group. As the group learns, the growth takes place and barriers begin to fall away.

✤ Main barrier is attitudes, myths, stereotypes and so-called traditional practices developed historically by powered people. In recent history we can observe movement of black people in USA. Still there is thinking that black people and Spanish language speaking people in USA are not fully empowered, even now President of United States of America is black. Actually majority these people face some kind of discriminative attitude.

✤ Those who seek an easy way to solve their problems. Those who believe there is an easy way and thereby support those promises.

✤ 1- Discrimination against minorities and Indigenous Peoples. 2-Monopolizing resources by the more wealthy and influential people in the community. 3- Inequality and the exploitation of the strong by the weak. 4- Many people are unaware of their rights and responsibilities. 5- Some people do not seek to improve their lives. 6- Lack of effective cooperation between governmental institutions and civil society.

✤ Myths and traditional beliefs by the general community, e.g. that leprosy and disability are a curse, your caste is a result of karma
* Racial, caste or gender prejudice and attitudes of superiority (e.g. against indigenous people, women) * Lack of recognition or understanding of the potential of individuals, e.g. believing that a person who is blind is unable to work, yet with the appropriate training and support the person is able to become a hotel telephone operator (TLM Myanmar)

* Self-stigma and lack of self-confidence * Lack of education and skills training of the marginalized group * Donor belief that there is a quick fix, whereas in reality sustainable development where people are empowered economically, socially and politically takes time * Donor's focus on providing measurable results (empowerment is difficult to measure) * It being more cost effective and easier to reach targets by targeting people just under the poverty line who have some resources and self-efficacy, rather than reaching out to the most marginalized

⚜ Stability in the local and regional governments does not create an atmosphere for long term development. It is difficult to develop these areas with additional variables of drastic government turn over.

⚜ 1) Entrenched cultural barriers such as the marginalization of women and the elderly.
2) Outdated power structures which no longer adequately serve the interests of society.
3) The over-concentration of power in overarching political organizations at the state level.

⚜ For people living in extreme poverty exclusion, discrimination and stigmatization are the biggest barriers to economic, social and political empowerment. On their own words: «Lo más terrible de vivir en la miseria es el desprecio, que te traten como si no valieras nada, que te miren con asco, con miedo y hasta que te traten como a un enemigo. Nosotros y nuestros hijos vivimos eso a diario, eso nos hace daño, nos humilla y nos hace vivir con miedo y vergüenza.» People living in poverty live in fear and shame and that conditions their access to their rights. While we don't recognize this reality and the violence and suffering caused to people living in extreme poverty and we make sure that the conditions for them to break the silence are provided, they will continue to be excluded, misunderstood and blamed for their situation.

⚜ Missing preconditions such as: access to education, access to food, gender equality, the contribution of women in decision making processes on local, regional and national levels, access to land and micro credits, insufficient infrastructures. All kind of discriminations of girls, women, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, unstable economic, social and political systems, and military conflicts.

⚜ Lack of interest by the Government, resulting in insufficient funding, lack of dedicated leaders, lack of education.

⚜ Simply when people are excluded from their right to participate in common affairs.

🔸   Mainly the barrier to economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups comes from the fact that these people have no social security, especially with regards to safeguarding loans for projects. In this instance the reliable support are grants, but they are also very minimal. In most countries, such as developing nations, the social safety nets have dwindled hence an increase in the levels of poverty. This rise in poverty renders one unable to play a role in various aspects of the nation including politics because they have no resource base. With empowerment comes increase in capacity to do various things and also to access various opportunities that are able to help one get out of poverty. However, once this lacks them, the future is at stake because people will get deep rooted in poverty and in the event that developmental programs are initiated, people are focusing on filling their stomachs first.

🔸   In order to empower one group of people, there needs to be a level of release of power and control from those who have traditionally had it - whether it is governments, the military, large NGO's, husbands or even parents. I see this as one of the biggest hurdles. Another is effective empowerment vs. just another NGO led programme that may look good on paper and keep workers in a job, but in reality is just shifting power and not truly empowering those it is meant to.

🔸   Lack of effective policy, corruption, religious fundamentalism, traditional outlooks, inequalities.

🔸   Economic, lack of awareness and weak policies.

🔸   Lack of respect for the dignity of each person as a child of God. Greed. The lack of a sense of the common good.

🔸   Discrimination by others. No knowledge of rights.

🔸   Prejudice and values of lifestyles and locations, appearances, and education.

🔸   The barriers to economic, social and political empowerment are three pronged. The first is from the side of the marginalized themselves. They have accepted their state of living as it exists and there are very few social activists from their side who fight for the rights of these people. They are ignorant because they have been suppressed and they have internalized their plight as a state that is ever existent. Therefore they do not avail the benefits and opportunities

provided to them by Government. The second set of barriers comes from the side of the privileged sections of the society. They resist any efforts towards restoring equity because the change might put them to a disadvantageous position and topple the power imbalance that exists in the society today. The third barrier is from the side of the Law enforcement agencies and government, because sometimes they adopt a lackadaisical attitude and the policies are not enforced properly due to grave problems in the system like corruption. The barriers to empowerment are more psychological in nature as they exist in the mind. Thus efforts have to be made to remove these psychological barriers so that policies can be implemented successfully.

- Apathy, lack of sense of personal worth, lack of control and access to influence and resources which is poverty.

- The major barrier these days appears to be an end to war or civil strife in too many countries or areas to count. If no war or civil strife, the major barrier is education. Other barriers include adequate food, personal health, and access to medicines, medical devices and other health care needs, stable shelter, public transportation, the kinds of businesses that are sustainable in the geography of the local community.

- I believe the biggest challenge today is the worldwide financial problem we are facing. Along with that problem, we have many areas in the world where conflicts are going on. When we hear of all those who are fleeing danger, we know that this is a major problem. If the world can solve the problem of human greed and incapacity to respect human life, we can begin to build a sound financial system and bring an end to conflict. These words may seem idealistic, but if we do not have ideals, what hope can we have? Another barrier is the lack of political power in many nations. Those living in poverty, youth, older persons, those with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples all face the same problems, i.e. a lack of political power and being marginalized, sitting on the outside of society.

- Religion and local political leaders could be the main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples as religion is mightier than sword and political leaders do not want to lose their vote bank.

- A major barrier is discrimination in regard to age (young or old), disability, and ethnicity. These forms of discrimination must be overcome.

+ Training and education opportunities. Also, the second class status of women, so that they are systemically barred from education and good paying jobs.

+ Main barriers: 1. prevalent injustice in the society - unequal opportunities for education, employment and unequal wealth distribution. 2. Eroding of ethical, moral and spiritual values 3. All kind of discrimination, gender, race, color and age 4. Consumerism and market oriented life style 5. Human rights violations 6. Lack of integration of social, economic and political.

+ Lack of fund and infrastructure to provide opportunities to get proper job training and practices. Lack of proper training manuals and manpower.

+ Main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups living in poverty would be a conflicted economical and/or political interest of factors keeping monopoles in respective fields.

+ There are cultural barriers in the form of discrimination and long-standing assumptions about these groups' lesser value in society. There are practical obstacles such as mobility-unfriendly buildings and cities. I believe the main hindrance is the economic inequality between these and more powerful groups, which is self-perpetuating. This is why livelihoods and economic status are of the utmost importance when speaking about empowerment.

+ War and conflict like in the case northern Uganda. Poor road networks Access to markets. Poor communication and or Lack of ICT Drought and other weather change effects poor government policies.

+ Intolerance of culture, language, poor health and financial insecurity breeds prejudice and exclusion.

+ When empowering the people, it is important to keep in mind that we should not just focus on the empowerment of a social group, but also need to give equal attention to raise awareness and educated the more privileged group so that they can support the empowerment process rather than resist it. For example, if our focus group is women, then it is equally necessary to teach men how to respect women and support her to develop all the skills necessary to stand at par with men.

🔸 Expectations and the lack of expectations. Often people with barriers have an expectation that they "deserve" things from others who don't have the barrier. But they need to change their expectations to collaborative expectations. On the other side there is a growing demand on general society that all those with barriers want something and the general populations are feeling they are working while others are lazy. The expectations of both groups need to be modified to ensure that neither group loses.

🔸 The main barrier I see is the growing inequality in income and resources and wealth that exists both within countries and among countries. This inequality impacts every aspect of life: access to essential services, education, health services, infrastructure, etc. along with the ability to participate meaningfully in the life of the community and especially in making the decisions that affect people's lives.

🔸 The main barrier is static thinking that implies that only power can create power.

🔸 Lack of basic amenities, religious and ethnic crisis, natural disaster, corruption.

🔸 Actors at community level often do not communicate or work together. Community members do not have the capacity or confidence to take initiatives or exercise leadership. Community members often see local government or national government as corrupt and not understanding the local issues important to them. Government is sometimes distrustful of community groups and civil society, and may exclude them from political processes and decision-making. Civil society may be distrustful of local government and lacking in confidence to build relationships with policymakers. Age, Sex and Gender is some religious and cultural context is oftentimes used as an inanimate excuse to exclude sectors of the society from a decent life. Status, Mental or wellbeing in physical shape is also used as an excuse to delineate the disadvantaged from sustainable livelihoods. Lack of appropriate legislations limits the protection of disadvantaged, marginalized and older sectors of the communities.

🔸 The main barriers are lack of the governments to fight poverty, abuse of human rights, lack of funding, etc.

🔸 I consider the following as main barriers - Bureaucracy - Poor attitude to change - Bad governance - Unfavorable economic policies – Corruption.

- First and foremost, the unwillingness of elites to share resources with others, particularly through fair taxation and then the use of those taxes to benefit the population as a whole. The private sector is interested in profits (which are often sent abroad) while the public sector is frequently interested in benefiting government officials rather than spending its resources for the purposes intended. While much can be achieved through political and economic reform, ultimately the only way to deal with the problem is by inculcating in people a sense of common responsibility. Dealing with at-risk groups (older persons, persons with disabilities) is of secondary concern: if the primary goal of inculcating a sense of common responsibility is not instilled in all groups (including youth and Indigenous Peoples, who must in turn share in the common wealth), little can be achieved for at-risk groups.

- The lack of a good educational system - education is the key.

- Lack of education. I believe that it is the key to empowerment. The other barrier is racial discrimination.

- The fact that people only like to be with people of their own kind, that it often takes much effort to get people to go beyond their comfort zones, that it is easier for people to 'give' from far than have a relationship with those who are different from them.

- Barriers. Well, unfortunately, I believe the main barrier is a failure of global morality; by that I mean the ABSENCE of a globally-accepted belief in a God-given human dignity for all, and the ABSENCE of any universal certainty/belief that diverse expressions of humanity are not only acceptable but are vital, are in fact a necessary part of all life. Hence, there is no - or very little - respect for those who are weak; are disabled; are women; or are of different color, faith, and politics.

- Lack of political will is the single most important barrier to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous people.

- The main barrier to people in vulnerable groups not realizing their basic economic, social, and political rights is that they feel their involvement is not valued. They often receive this impression by the way the bureaucracy is designed to hinder their participation, e.g., costly transportation to civic meetings, no child care provided, meetings not held in native language.

🞣	What I consider to be major barriers to economic empowerment, social and political and social groups of people, including those living in poverty, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, are the existing policies in these countries and the difference between rich and poor that is quite high.

🞣	These are many and varied, and include amongst others, the following: Limited access to education and opportunity for skills development. Disparities in resource (including access to) endowments relevant for their ills. Lack of meaningful opportunities for socio-economic and political development, including the all important employment opportunities. Lack of leadership and accommodative institutions (economic, social and political) that deliberately and effectively targets these social groups.

🞣	We need leaders to stimulate the young ones, there's lack of leaders/teachers/coaches.

🞣	I would consider lack of dialogue, understanding, and an unwillingness to extend an open hand of peace to be the main barriers to the economic, social, and political empowerment of people.

🞣	I consider the main barriers to the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, would first of all be a form of government that denies a person his/her basic human rights, that does not operate on the principle of the "common good", that approves and advances the social and economic principles of any rand which can only produce two classes of society, the rich and the poor. Such a society carries within it the seeds of its own destruction, since it is built on unjust principles.

🞣	Caste, Religion, Region, Centralization, Power, Authority and Economic Conditions.

🞣	Lack of education and knowledge of their human dignity and rights.

🞣	Once again, the main barriers to success in the areas mentioned above would be the result of those who choose not to take the opportunity to become more educated; if not for themselves it is critical for their children.

✦   We live in a world where the current economic systems favor endless growth. But this simply cannot be sustained. These systems put profit before people. The unlimited power and lack of accountability of the huge multi-national corporations contribute to this unhealthy state of our planet. So one of the main barriers I see is sheer corporate greed. It contributes hugely to the immense disparities in wealth distribution in the world. Another very real, but often unnoticed barrier is fear: because nations are afraid of each other, because those that are poor resent the wealth and waste of the richer nations, because men still think that violence will solve disputes, we have the obscenity of the arms trade. Billions of money is spent on manufacture, sale and use of arms. It is well known that even a fraction of all this expenditure would guarantee clean water and food in the parts of the world where these basics are lacking.

✦   Lack of political will by different governments. Ignorance of people who only want daily hand-outs without putting any much effort. Self-centered life goals on most people who only want to empower themselves without thinking about the wider society.

✦   There are many barriers in the field of urban and rural peoples:
1. Lack of knowledge
2. Social condition is very poor
3. Monetary capability and appropriate functions to be improved
4. Corruption
5. Political interference
6. Reception of communal peoples to be improved
7. Infrastructure and communication to be develop as of local demand.

✦   Ignorance, prejudice, indifference.

✦   Racism, ethnocentricity and a narrow view of the world based on experiences. Fear, a lack of understanding of different ways seen as a threat rather than a challenge and opportunity for enrichment.

✦   Means to get to the places of employment. -- Initial transportation to places of employment for people who do not have means of transportation is a real or imagined "barrier" that even prevents some people from applying for employment. Language barriers -- "technical

language" is a barrier even for people who speak English. Fear of social acceptance in the workplace.

⚜ The global, state and community economic system of the society in which they live; the political establishment; motivation; discrimination; access to the outside work through the internet, media; lack of a 'voice' on the society to which they belong and the means to instigate change.

⚜ Finances, ignorance, cultural traditions, prejudices, current laws, resistance to change and the entrenched position of those in power.

⚜ Good public schools.

⚜ Drug addiction. Poor self image and poor support from families, family structure broken, challenging and believing in these people to bring out the best in them.

⚜ Poor education, lack of basic human needs (health care, housing, food), restrictive environment.

⚜ I think discrimination and lack of education would be the two main barriers preventing the empowerment of people and social groups.

⚜ Lack of education, political unrest, corruption, lack of resources, especially a social platform to give stability to lives of poor.

⚜ Those in power refusing to be open to sharing power and decisions. Elitism. People come to feel they deserve more than others. Those with excessive wealth refusing to share. It's as much about eradication of extreme wealth as it is about eradicating of extreme poverty. But the extreme wealthy do not want to hear this and they control media, etc..

✤ I think there are many barriers to empowerment of people in poverty and they can be very complex and varied according to country, culture, region, etc. But I think some of the most salient issues are lack of decent education, poor health care, lack of political representation, war or violence.

✤ The main barriers are: unjust distribution of resources; social, economic and educational barriers to vertical socio-economic mobility; lack of opportunities to increase one's own social capital; and group specific discrimination against persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

✤ • Lack for participatory forum for meaningful participation, forum that are small, viable, and are at neighborhood level and federated at various levels as in Kudumbashree programme in Kerala, India • Poverty • Unemployment • Discrimination • Lack of enabling environment that promotes values and motivation in life • Profit oriented development rather than people centered/ Planet Earth centered sustainable development •Inequality within and between countries • Lack of good governance • Lack of accountability and transparency • Lack of priorities to overcome poverty • Measuring the growth of the country with economic indicator alone.

✤ The barriers that would be most limiting would be: no education, no resources to go the school, no employment to work out of poverty.

✤ The main barriers are a lack of government support for programs that will equip those mentioned above with adequate housing, education, health care and supports.

✤ Lack of education from Infant to university, lack of democratic governance institutions that fights corruption, dealing with multinational corporations as non nation states with obligations to people the same as a sovereign government.

✤ Though we have various organizations and institutions in order to serve the needy and poor very little reach the grassroots where the most vulnerable are living. Basically human beings are selfish and most of us who have access to knowledge and resources keep it for ourselves and for our immediate relations. So even when we have people elected to governments positions, very little is given for the development of the poor and vulnerable. There is no proper education system which can enable the people to appreciate and promote their own cultures,

values and empower children to develop their skills and potential suitable for themselves and for the needs of the changing society and the world.

One of the main barriers is usually the characteristics of human nature; people tend to be self-centered, egoistic, and jealous when others seem to be more successful. We, therefore, do not want to empower others and want to keep the power and wealth all to ourselves. Even when we do want to empower, we empower too little. We need to be more generous, think of others' interests instead of just our own, learn to share more, live with less so others can also have a decent life. Another barrier is the difficulty to come to a mutual understanding and agreement / common ground which creates unnecessary, inefficient, and demotivating bureaucracy. Last but not least, a main barrier also includes the fact that sometimes those living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples don't want to be empowered because they are used to the life they have been living in. Changing others' mindset and perspective on life is futile if they don't want to change. Empowering others is a two-way street.

True empowerment is from the people up, not just political establishments down. The movement people need to feel is a shift from 'world-leaders' to an individual's trait of 'world leadership'. This will actually reinforce, re-establish and sustain current leadership. The barriers to this are solely the support of more leaders and establishments creating educational support and policies for us to do more in this area. We have the educational product tried and tested - now just the infrastructure support to roll out.

1. Lack of adequate food, water, and medical care 2. Lack of self esteem and dignity 3. Lack of education and training 4. Lack of peace and freedom from fear.

Barriers to economic, social and political empowerment are: 1. Complacency and satisfaction with the status quo 2. Being overwhelmed at the world's problems and succumbing to helplessness 3. Poverty, hunger, war and disease - so that survival is the focus of life for many mentioned in question 4. Short-term policies from elected governments 5. Corruption in many countries due to need to survive 6. Failure of many groups to have proper regular evaluation and accountability.

International corporations that pay extremely low wages. Prejudice. Homelessness.

🔱   Four barriers are primary obstacles; 1. Lack of basic resources, including food, health services, housing, and sanitation. 2. Lack of free access to vital information, knowledge, general education, and job training. 3. Lack of knowledge and skills in interpersonal relationships, particularly conflict resolution. 4. Lack of knowledge and skills in managing cooperation and pursuit of common goals in groups, and making their voice heard and understood.

🔱   Lack of resources.

Do you have any examples of successful empowerment of people, including specific social groups? Please indicate them.

+ The staff of Cabrini Ministries in Swaziland, all local people with limited education and skills who have become accountants, phlebotomists, lab techs, managers, drivers, and human resources professionals.

+ Internal armed conflict between left winged guerrillas such as Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) and Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), right winged paramilitaries and Colombia's armed forces, characterized the history of Colombia for the past 50 years. The civilian population suffered many human rights abuses (extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, etc.) leading to a large number of displaced people. In response to the violence the indigenous Indian population formed the Guardia Indígena to provide peaceful resistance. This unarmed civilian guard was an existing mechanism in the Indian community for the protection of their indigenous norms and values. Their aim is to protect their communities against violence, to monitor the situation and to promote security in their region by providing a voluntary service to their community.

The Guardia Indígena, recognized by their characteristic colorfully decorated wooden sticks, operates on community member voluntary contributions to peacemaking. The Indian communities collaborate in an association of Indian leaders of North Cauca (ACIN). In northern Cauca, there are approximately 2,500 to 3,000 guards from around 11 Indian reservations, comprising of both men and women ranging in age from 18 to 60 years old. Each town chooses 10 voluntary guards and 1 coordinator. Selection processes filter out community members previously in armed groups, to prevent compromising the reputation of peaceful, unarmed resistance that characterizes the Guardia Indigena. Thus rewarding and empowering the peaceful. For the youth, membership of the Guardia serves as a deterrent to joining violent guerrilla groups. Sometimes the Guardia purposely also includes former prisoners returning to the community as members in order to promote reintegration, depending on the rules set by the indigenous leader. Due to the non-violence, strong community collaboration and the courageous nature of the initiative, the Guardia Indigena received the Colombian National Peace Prize in 2004, a prize that is organized by a number of organizations, including the United Nations, the

Ebert Foundation and various media.

➕ There are many successful programs including: People empowering people, which is a community base focused on encouraging growth in communities and teaches problem solving. Empowering the disable, a program that focus on education and services for the disable, help them to achieve independent living assistance and so on.

➕ En Guatemala, Chimaltenango. 1. Programa de Alfabetización en su mayoría llegaban jóvenes y mujeres, que trabajaban en Fábricas de Maquilas, Agricultura para aprender a leer, hacer cuentas, junto con la formación académica se les brindaba otros talleres motivacionales contra el alcohol, las drogas, la violencia doméstica, derechos humanos, elaboración de curriculum, cartas, asesoría legal para madres solas, etc.
2. Coordinación Religiosas del Buen Pastor con una Institución llamada INTECAP, para cursos de corte y confección, floristería, repostería, embutidos, conserva de alimentos, manualidades. Muchas de estas mujeres establecieron sus propios negocios, y trabajan en sus casas. Contribuyen al ingreso familiar.
3. Religiosas del Buen Pastor coordinábamos con la Embajada Suiza, pequeños proyectos. Se capacitó a mujeres especialmente para el cuidado y comercio, se les habilitó corrales para gallinas ponedoras, crianza de cerdos, también pequeños huertos, y negocios de tortillas a mujeres pobres. Una experiencia de esto es que no todas las mujeres aplicaban en lo mismo, se hacia una entrevista y selección de acuerdo a la experiencia de conocimiento e interés de la mujer, donde ella sentía que podía crecer su pequeño negocio. Se coordinó con estudiantes de Agronomía para la capacitación del cuidado de sus huertos y animales, para higiene y calidad del producto. Mujeres con grandes habilidades en el negocio, ya que sabían utilizar las fechas festivas, para mercar un mejor precio de sus productos. La mayoría se incorporó al mercado local. También se les brindó talleres de formación personal, a través de los grupos de ALANON- para familia con algún familiar alcohólico. Son grupos de ayuda grupal, eso fue muy importante para la solidaridad entre ellas y la ayuda mutua. Sobre todo para salir de la codependencia emocional con sus maridos alcohólicos, transcurrido un año en el programa muchas de ellas, fueron mejores emprendedoras.

➕ Latin American Basic Communities are one. Self-help groups are another. Gradually efforts are taken to make these self-help groups territorially organized as neighborhood groups and federated along the various levels of governance. We had neighborhood parliaments of children (NPCs) and their multi-tier federations in some places in India where children were those below 18 years of age gathered as NPCs and federated at various levels. Excluded categories of children got integrated and affirmed through this process. (Our Tamilnadu-Pondicherry State Parliament of Children won the global UNICEF-San Marino Alexander

Bodini Award for being the best child-led organization for child rights action) Kudumbashreein Kerela is a good beginning.

+ Empowerment of people: migrants and ethnic groups in a city, in social exclusion and extreme poverty are helped organizations that organize contacts with volunteers, one to one approach, coaching and helping each specific person through information and education for a long-term help.

+ Yes, girls and boys learning and succeeding in school equally, regardless of gender.

+ Having specific European Year dedicated to a different thematic is certainly encouraging helping the member States to promote and develop policies that can empower people on various fields. In the occasion of the EY 2012 AGE Platform Europe has helped all the Coalition members to act in the field of the active ageing and the solidarity between generations: ELISAN, ENSA and the Veneto Region have been actively involved in this work, organizing a Conference on Energy poverty in November the 27th in which there will be a specific panel on the problems of the elderly facing the energy management and its costs. As mentioned before, ELISAN is about to publish a position paper about the active and healthy ageing and solidarity between ageing. The Audit process implemented in Veneto Region and the participation in the Raise Awareness Meeting – Expert Group Meeting (5-8 June 2012, Brussels), organized by IFFD (International Federation for Family Development) with the relevant contribution of the Focal Point of the Family, are just two examples of what Veneto Region and ELISAN have done in order to promote empowerment policies. These two examples can also be inserted in the sphere of the EY 2014 for Reconciling Work and Family Life and the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014. Moreover ELISAN wants to organize a conference on family policies in 2013 in occasion of the EY 2014.

+ As a youth organization based there in Sierra Leone west Africa, we have done a lot to empowering people. E.g. 1.we organize seminars and workshop, we invite other youth groups to take part to the discussion on youth empowerment related issues. 2. we have also provided some school children with school material, like books, pens, pencils, blackboards, etc., in various schools. 3. we also made up a survey to the taxes vegetable women were we provided them with some agricultural tools in 2010 last year.

+ Success seems always gradual. However, I know of initiatives of long term unemployed, which successfully pull mostly aged people out of isolation and provide new prospects. I know about the Indian dairy cooperatives; actually most cooperative success-stories would fit here.

But there is also self-help in regard to non-economical issues. Just yesterday I read about an interactive digital city-map for wheel-chair access, developed by wheel-chair drivers themselves.

➕ I would like to share our experience of empowering Indigenous Peoples by strengthening their traditional skills in art and crafts. Our initiative 'Art for Life' targets augmenting livelihood options by developing community led creative enterprise based on traditional skills. This approach has not only safeguarded cultural heritage, but also strengthened community identity and pride. The process has led to socio-economic empowerment as well as social inclusion. It has particularly improved access of women to decent work. We have also been successful in mobilizing youth led movement against child marriage. We worked with 300+ adolescent girls (out of school and also from Muslim communities) and built their awareness on pitfalls of child marriage, how to seek protection and empowered them with skills to build awareness among their peers. In last one year, they have stopped 150+ marriages in one district of an eastern Indian state, all the girls started going to school and many refused their own marriages.

➕ There are many CSO's / people in Turkey whom are successfully empowered themselves and the society they live in. Such as Mustafa Kemal Ataturk; the founder of Turkish Republic.

➕ I do have many examples of successful empowerment of people: 1. The UNV Programme has supported the set up of national youth volunteer schemes in many countries of the world. This has played a critical role in empowering youth, giving them a role in society and highlighting their contributions to society 2. Women's group in West Africa, Haiti who took it upon themselves to improve their lives through self-help and joining forces. 3. Persons with disabilities in post-conflict contexts who demonstrate their contributions to society through economic and social activities, through sports competition, etc.; 4. Individual 'heroes'/role models who everywhere on this planet take their destiny in their hands and stimulate entire communities to claim for their rights, to improve their communities' lives 5. Refugees who organize themselves to improve basic education and health services in camps; 6. Volunteer and community-based organizations who greatly contribute to improving socio-economic and political inclusion.

➕ Our organization is an NGO working for the development – empowerment – of the Nigerian woman through education in general. Nevertheless the bulk of our work is addressed specifically to vocational training in Hospitality Management leading to employment of young women from low income families. The courses have a length of 2-4 years and we could say that practically each student shortly after the completion of the course is an example of "successful

stories". The training received cares not only for skills, but provides an all round education. The knowledge, working habits, ethical principles and skills acquired transform the girls in self-confident women, good citizens and skillful professionals obtaining very easily employment in the Hospitality industry – which is very much on the increase in the country. Often they soon rise to positions of supervisors or even Managers. Employment carried out with job satisfaction and remuneration allows them to provide for their families, and be well respected in their midst.

- In my country Ethiopia empowering women is the main target of the Ethiopian government policies and strategies. According to the government directions women's are half of the society and empowering women mean empowering the family, the society and as whole the country. In this way empowering women. In education, in decision making, bringing women's to power and parliament, and implementing policies and amendments on the different proclamations. The equal right of women's with men and giving affirmative actions to empower women's including, in education, employments, housing. These are some examples of my countries empowering women's. But provide the necessary service and equipments to persons with disabilities and build infrastructures, requires high cost and our country is poor.

- Evidence provided by impact evaluations conducted in Latin American countries like Mexico suggests that conditional cash transfer policies have contributed to empowering communities by enabling more low-income families to send their kids to school, generate income of their own and improve their management capabilities.

- We give the example of the growth of the mango festival - Grenada participated in 2010 and 2011, Suriname participated in 2012, our rural women have become tutors, grown in the skills and presentations, and earning their own income.

- Through our programmes we empower young people. An example will be to really listen to what they have to say, include them in the decision making process and listen to their feedback. In other words, mobilizing them at the grassroots level to build self-reliance.

- Yes, our organization working on different projects for example: Free Literacy Schools Project for Pakistan from Pakistan Volunteer Assist Foundation. We have established free schools on the slums areas for needy children, poor people, Indigenous groups, women, etc..

◾ In this UN International Year of Cooperatives - the examples are everywhere. It is for this reason that the UN unanimously declared a whole year devoted to emphasize the cooperative model.

◾ The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Self-Development of People (SDOP), Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) ministries of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry area are leading the way in the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the world is taking notice. The West Africa Initiative (WAI) was one of 800 nominations from 113 countries recently selected to receive the prestigious Equator Initiative Award. The WAI is a SDOP, PHP and PDA–led partnership between several U.S. denominations, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the United Church of Christ (UCC), and the Disciples of Christ, and ecumenical partners in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The goal of the WAI is to support and strengthen the capacity of rural community groups to develop self-reliant and independent organizations that are engaged in food production and marketing, thus contributing to the improvement of community food security and the economic and social well-being of their members. Cynthia White, coordinator for the PC (USA)'s SDOP program said, "This was truly an ecumenical effort. We worked in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the United Church of Christ, Agricultural Missions, Inc. as well as our religious and community partners in Liberia. However, the greatest blessing in all of this is seeing the joy on the faces of the farmers as they are now able to feed their families and contribute to the economic well-being of their community."

In Liberia the program promotes agriculture, apiculture, snail raising, and the planting of multi-purpose tree species to improve the livelihood options of unemployed rural farmers. Over 200 farmers received training and a starter kit containing beehives, snail cages, basic carpentry tools, and moringa tree seedlings. To date these farmers in eight villages have also received training and initial starter kits to launch businesses that generated an average of $3,500 per year per group. Participating individuals also have access to leadership training, guidance on small-business development, and a revolving microcredit fund, which provides start-up capital. Improved incomes have been invested in education, health and community infrastructure needs.

◾ Some organizations are empowering women from the rural areas to do gardening and they are benefiting from such agricultural activities.

- UNV is engaged in mobilizing communities through volunteer work worldwide. There are numerous projects, which demonstrate that civic engagement and community participation increases the capacity of people to positively influence their livelihoods, to take responsibility for their community, to build their capacity and related employability and to strengthen their sense of ownership for development efforts.

- The Bahai's are creating empowerment in youth and neighborhoods around the world by offering free children's classes, Junior Youth groups, and other classes for adults, which focus on spiritual values [without requiring changing one's religion or adopting any particular faith] and ways to be of service in the neighborhood and culture in which they live, in neighborhoods and countries all around the world.

- The Social Platform is an example of how different, and many marginalized, groups can come together to work effectively with EU institutions and each other to progress different social aims.

- A typical example is AIESEC Jos, a subsidiary of AIESEC in Nigeria where they used to run a project called "young entrepreneurs" but had to stop for lack of finance. During the execution of this project, skills were taught to unemployed youths and they were also taught how to utilize their skills to facilitate poverty eradication.

- One way we have seen to do, it is by promoting training courses for local specific jobs, such as mechanical in an area where there are car factories, agriculture in rural areas, etc.. Usually people in those areas appreciate a lot to be helped and it encourages them to try their best.

- Disability Rights and Resources in a nonprofit agency is the Birmingham-Hoover Metro Area (U.S.) formed to provide opportunities for independence for all persons including those with disabilities. In spring of 2011, two-thirds of countries within the state of Alabama were affected by a series of catastrophic tornadoes. An Interagency Emergency Response Coordinating Committee was formed quickly after the natural disaster and led by individuals with disabilities and their advocates. This voluntary group successfully reestablished communication systems, matching relief supplies to persons in need across the entire state. Resource information was shared in multiple formats (printed, audio, electronic) through a

coordinated effort involving state and federal emergency management agencies, American Red Cross, local government, faith-based organizations, health and social service agencies, and concerned citizens. The result was rapid resolution of individual needs for housing, food, medication and durable medical equipment and transportation.

+ The best examples of reducing poverty on a large scale would be the nations that have improved their society by increased production of goods and services such as Brazil, India, and China. There is still much poverty in these nations, but they have reduced poverty and seem to be heading in the right direction.

+ Immigrants At my current ministry at the Presentation Ministry Center we've had women who came as participants and in time have become Co-ministers. We currently have two women who participated in Zumba classes and are now certified to teach. They are currently leading the classes. We've also had participants in Arts and Crafts and Crochet who are now in the teaching position and teaching their skills to other women. We've had a number of participants become citizens of the U.S. and can now have a voice in our government. We've had a number learn computer skills that allow them to apply for jobs online and also learn English as a Second Language that helps them communicate better in a variety of situations.

+ Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd economic justice projects with empowerment as one of the key areas. 13,274 is the number of women, children, sick, poor, victims of violence who have been offered shelter, training, education, income generating opportunities, awareness on their human rights thanks to the 20 projects in Thailand, Lebanon, Madagascar, Kenya, El Salvador, Bolivia, India, and Colombia. Handcrafting Justice, (USA) provides access to Fair Trade markets for unique, handmade goods created by enterprising women in the developing world working to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. By fostering self-reliance, ensuring fair wages, and building support networks, the organization offers far more than Fair Trade: Handcrafting Justice promotes human dignity by empowering women to overcome social and economic injustice.

The main aims of Sharing Fair are: To ensure fair financial benefits to the workers on the products they produce; To provide the opportunity for women to participate in meaningful paid employment: To enable women to express their gifts, talents, skills and creativity: To enable women to develop their skills and experience thus providing a catalyst to access alternative employment, careers and educational opportunities: To provide consumers with the choice to purchase products that guarantee the producer fair financial benefit; To build social networks across the globe that are mutually interdependent and caring. Trading Circle (Australia) Paraguay, Teko Joja Kuña Rembiapope, Asuncion Teko Joja Kuña Rembiapope and the

Cooperative of the Weavers of Ñanduti were established by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Asuncion, Paraguay, to assist poor craftswomen to earn a fair price for their work. Besides the weaving of the Ñanduti (or spider web) weaves traditional to the women of Paraguay, the women also do the ao poi embroidery on tableware and clothing. A community of the Maca Indigenous Peoples of Paraguay weaves colorful bags and backpacks.

✠   Won Buddhist Center in Swaziland - kindergarten: educate kids - centers for women: teach local women to work so they can earn their own salary - health clinic: educating health issues and providing medicine.

✠   Today education is made accessible to all. Youths from very poor families have come up and participate in Government's policy making and even rule the world. Willpower is the most important thing as to fight against all odds, Along with boys the enrollment of girls too in schools have increased a lot in recent years. Dropout has been minimized. Access to internet facility is also strengthened in some areas. Women are sharing shoulders with men in terms of employment. No one is lagging behind. Change is inevitable but accepting the change and stepping forward for betterment is what is needed.

✠   I am aware of the success of Citizens/Community organizing groups in providing training and empowerment for individuals and groups and enabling them to take action for the common good and the particular benefit of those suffering discrimination. London Citizens offer a good model.

✠   Racial issues like apartheid or equality between races. Also women rights have gotten better all the time, but in both of these there is a still lot to do.

✠   The Indigenous Peoples are formed in SHGs groups and have formed federation and got registered. They are managing their groups, loan distribution, recovery and each families having sufficient income and living a decent life.

✠   The relief workers sent by Israel to Haiti to help the poor and poverty stricken people. They are empowering and enabling old and young people by teaching them to read and write so they can better themselves. They are Empowering and enabling the Haitian farmer who could barely grow a tomato or a head of lettuce and now he sells his new and beautifully grown produce to a five star hotel. They train youth groups that spread the message of STD, Cholera

and Malaria prevention. They train people to design a business plan for an internet café or chicken coup in order to financially sustain his community. "It's the WHAT that matters, Not the WHY- One relief workers personal analysis of a project to help Haiti. Author: Guy Seemann, Israeli Relief Worker in Haiti. Today I handled thousands of dollars. Some going to our new community center, some to our medical clinic, some to our agricultural project and the rest towards logistics and food. When asked the question, "Why does Israel spend thousands a month on Haiti?" and I find myself at a loss of words. The same paradox exists when we talk about Nepal, El Salvador, Malawi, Chad, East Timor, and so on. The number of countries inhabited by Israeli development teams in 2011 the number of these projects was approximately 110. For a country with only 7.7 million inhabitants (not including the Palestinian Authority and Gaza) and GDP of 242 Billion Dollars, that is quite impressive. Yet, a majority of those countries hold almost no international, economic or political power; nothing to manpower and financial resources in Haiti? In the understanding of international intervention, long forgotten is the concept "Do unto others what you would want done to you". It is not all about personal gain... ".

♣   Alternatives to Violence workshops run by volunteers help to empower those in prisons and in slum and refugee communities. Many of those traumatized by war can gradually overcome their distress through trauma workshops.

♣   El Movimiento de Vida Independiente en general, y la Oficina de Vida Independiente de Barcelona.

♣   History brings us back to the age of the 60's in the more affluent parts of the world. There we see the realization that we have a social obligation to the world as a whole. We also see the youth as the motivator. They taught the older generations that "stuff" and "money" does not make a community great. The youth of the 'age of aquarius" showed us the community in another light - in the light of the collective thinking and work of the collective as being the glue that held the community together. They showed us that regardless of what social circumstances they came from - rich or poor - survival as a community did not depend on "stuff" or "wads of money" - that understanding of what the makeup of the community was, respecting each other for their contribution and developing simpler ways of reaching their goals while aiming for a culture not based on needs of wanting to be like someone else or some other country.

♣   Bahrain Women Association – for Human Development (BWA) is an active NGO in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In year 2007 BWA lunched one of its programs "Tributaries Development Program" which supports BWA's vision "To Empower Leaders for the Human Development Era". "Tributaries Development Program"

pays substantial attention to the aspects through which women can raise and become a vital element in the process of human development. Through interactive workshops and discussion series, the program provides women with a fertile ground to share and exchange experiences in addition to acquiring novel skills. Among the workshops offered are the following: •Self-knowledge and self-Appreciation. •Promoting values in everyday life. • Promoting culture of motivation for human development. •Stimulating Innovative concepts in leadership and participatory democracy into everyday lives. The Development Tributaries strives to reach to the targeted groups by being available in their convenient places - such as nearby charitable or social funds or clubs - to facilitate and ensure the success of learning process. Till date, 300 grassroots women have been trained and enabled to overcome the constraints and the challenges they face and affect their role in society. Selected group of the targeted women were considered to be empowered economically beside social empowerment. This Economic Empowerment Project was called "Tatweer" meaning "Improve" which helped Housewives (i.e. women with no formal employment) to improve their skills to be able to initiate and maintain their own micro projects in field of their interest, thus shifting them to a better standard of living, and providing them with the opportunities to achieve long-term financial sustainability. This in return aids in the kingdom's prosperity in particular and to human well-being in a wider scope.

The Leprosy Mission Trust India's Choice, Dignity and Integration project, which has led to the socio-economic empowerment of people affected by leprosy, disability, devadasi (temple prostitutes) and people living with HIV/AIDS. * The Leprosy Mission Trust India Challenging Anti-Leprosy legislation project, where people affected by leprosy are empowered to challenge discrimination and able to have a voice to call for changes to discriminatory legislation and lack of government provision within their communities. * Ethiopia National Association of People Affected by Leprosy, where the member's organization now has the skills and expertise to support its local associations to implement community development programmes including income generation. * Nepal Leprosy Trust's STEP programme, where groups of people affected by leprosy are now empowered to manage their own health condition, where people affected by leprosy are seen by the community as the leprosy experts, and where the group of people affected by leprosy have become change agents in their community facilitating community development.

NY State has created Economic Development Zones for depressed areas. Nothing motivates like human greed and the state offered tax incentives and benefits for businesses to develop in these area. There were incentives for creating employment. This program did not differentiate between any social groups - it was in my view purely economic and any and all could choose to partake of this. Jamaica, NYC is a good example locally.

♣ In my country thousands of people have been empowered through membership in successful financial co-operatives. These persons are drawn primarily from the lower social strata of society.

♣ People's University. The People's Universities were established in 1972 by Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World. They bring together people living in poverty with people from other walks of life. They usually meet once a month to discuss a specific subject and are held in several countries across Europe. Preparatory work is carried out in smaller local groups. These People's Universities provide a forum for a dialogue between people living in persistent poverty and people from wider society. This forum is a place where the voices of people suffering poverty are listened to with respect. Their knowledge is recognized and enriched by the knowledge and experience of others, who in turn can pass on what they have learnt. In these People's Universities, people share their personal commitments to eradicate extreme poverty.

♣ Many home economics projects have demonstrated that home economics projects successfully empowered children, women and families to generate income, to improve the quality of lie an the wellbeing of the families. One of these impressive projects is being conducted by the TANZANIA HOME ECONOMICS (TAHEA) Project Name: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Enterprises (Covers Food Security, Health, Nutrition Education and Income Generation) Related to UN MDG: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, combat HIV/AIDS Malaria and other diseases, promote gender equality and empower women, ensure environmental sustainability Home Economics Area: Everyday life Time Period: It started for five (5) years, but it has been going on for over fifteen years (15 years) and is still going on. People affected: More than eighty thousand (80.000).

The Local Aims of the project is:
1. To enhance household food security.
2. To improve health status of the households members and the communities as a whole.
3. To prevent nutrient deficiencies.
4. To alleviate severe poverty.
5. Improve economic status of the poorest communities.
6. Increase education status of the poor communities. Short Project description: The Project has made people work hard, and adopt the importance of saving and credit to improve the standard of living, sending their children to secondary schools, colleges, and Universities which was not a majority practice. Attending hospitals for treatment women for child delivery, child immunization and building houses of Good standards. Cleaning their house environment and constructing toilets within their households. Results: Project is in progress (achievements so far):

people have changed their life style, such as building sustainable houses, sending their children to school. Project is in progress (expected results): raised financial status and poverty alleviation.

🔸 Habitat for Humanity empowers people by teaching the future owners how to learn the skills of owning property, caring for property, and integrating into the neighborhood.

🔸 I consider myself as a living example of achievement of locally organized informal type of co-operatives. It was through these kinds of institutions parents raised me, sent me to school and showed me the good side of life as a man born into a large family living under the yoke of poverty. I support financially and the other wise to the informal co-operatives formed in my locality in north-west Ethiopia.

🔸 In Zambia, the Government initiated a financial support programme called The Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission that was giving out loans to viable entrepreneurship ventures. A good number of people have been able to benefit from that program. Furthermore through the Ministry of Gender and Child Development, grants are disbursed to community gender and development groups that apply and are having viable projects, The Ministry of Youth and Sport sets aside Youth development funds that vulnerable youths are able to access once they submit their viable proposals. The Zambian Government has also set aside vast portions of Land through the Land resettlement department for Youth to access and exploit with intent to empower them with such an asset.

🔸 We know that when women are given the chance to make a little money, they spend it on their children for food, medicine and education. It can lift the whole family out of poverty. Handcrafting Justice, a project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, is a good example of what can be done, Women who are living in poverty are given an opportunity on varying levels to work and earn money in these fair trade projects. Also there are many educational projects supported by religious groups and not for profits groups that have enabled young poor children to move out of poverty. Generations benefit from these projects.

🔸 Persons with disabilities - Recovery University - class offered by Advocacy Unlimited, Inc. in Connecticut - educates people in recovery to be peer support specialists People with disabilities - NAMI (national) - In Our Own Voice (IOOV) & NAMI Connection - IOOV trains people living with mental illness to speak in public about their experience of living with a mental illness; NAMI Connection is a peer-led support group led by people successfully maintaining

their recovery. People living in poverty - Statewide Legal Services of CT - provides information and advice to people to represent themselves in civil legal cases in the areas of housing, family, and government benefits when those cases cannot be referred to attorneys for representation. People with disabilities - Connecticut Legal Rights Project - advance directives - allows people living with psychiatric disabilities to express their preferences with regard to treatment. CLRP also assists people with psychiatric disabilities in learning about their legal rights.

- Family Success Centers and Treatment/Intervention Plans Social Workers.

- In India women have equal right to inherit the ancestral property of their parents. It is not solely the right of men now. This is one very significant example of successful empowerment of women in India. Also Women's Reservation Bill which demands 33% reservation of women in the Indian Parliament and state legislative bodies was passed in the Rajya Sabha and is due for consideration in Lok Sabha. These examples reflect the efforts towards women empowerment.

- Education of women in Africa - Emusoi Center for pastoralist girls in Arusha Tanzania - present women leaders educated in secondary schools in Tanzania - examples of peacemaking in the book Moral Imaginatin by John Paul Lederach

- As I read, the world has a large number of cooperative enterprises which have achieved sustainability; economic power and the ability to self govern. Many must have had back up plans, too, since even in this turbulent world market, they are successful.

- Working for an NGO that concentrates on women's issues, we have supported many programs through UN agencies such as UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA that have helped to empower both women and their families. For instance, the programs we have supported through UN Women have brought safety to many women in Latin America. As a consequence, they are able to pursue lives virtually free of the threat of violence. They can pursue their hopes and dreams of a better life through education and training for jobs that will make them self sufficient and help their families to prosper. They will be able to pass on to their children the hopes they have seen fulfilled. These women come from the farms and rural areas of their countries into the cities because they cannot sustain their families otherwise. Our program has worked with the governments of these countries as well as law enforcement so that these women are safer now than they have been in many years.

🔸   Radio is the best medium of empowerment. For example Radio Jamia, with which i started a programme called EDUCATION ZONE in which I use to give information about college admissions and one day a caller called up and thanked me for the information I gave him about a course for which his son got enrolled. He said that he was an illiterate person, very poor, but he daily listens to my programme and while listening one day he noted a government sponsored course for his son and got him enrolled for the same and thanked me for shaping his sons future which he said he could have not ever thought of because of no source of income.

🔸   The League of Women Voters US has been working for more than 92 years in helping voters make informed decisions via education on candidates, their positions, following the money, etc. Check out Vote411, their tool to provide information during this election season.

🔸   Yes, my experience of working with the Dalit (former untouchables) women in India . They were economically poor, socially low or out cast, as women they were oppressed by men and politically powerless. Ten years of living with them, organizing them, giving awareness, mean while empowering them economically through micro credit, they were able to improve their social status and eventually gained political power (through Panchayathi Raj). The change in self esteem was obvious and they gained power to demand for their basic needs as well as rights. We also provided exposure opportunities and found very helpful as people learn from one another and get increasingly motivated.

🔸   I know some individual cases, but not in large scale. Young and old volunteers often find jobs in the places where they volunteered.

🔸   Among other activities, our organization "The Smile of the Child", Greek NGO which has been active in the field of child rights protection since 1996, operates 13 homes for children in danger throughout Greece, where we currently have a total number of approximately 300 children. These children come in our homes upon relevant court decision, requiring immediate removal of a child from the present environment. Children live in our homes according to a "Greek family model", meaning they are provided with friendly family home atmosphere and have all necessary emotional and other support in a daily life. They all attend public schools, language training courses and they also gain other skills that prepare them to become an independent adults and ready for the life on their own. Children stay in our homes as long as they become capable either to find the appropriate work or start live independently, or by the time they enter university and start to live separately, upon our continued support. Our community

homes could serve as a good example of empowering young people which come mostly from very difficult economic and social environment.

- Indian self-help groups are supported through external provision of business advice, initial funding, meeting space, etc. These are tools that the groups use to bolster their own entrepreneurial activities, thus creating opportunities to generate income and invest for the future. As these groups mainly consist of rural women, a largely disadvantaged group in India, they increase the visibility and strength of their members.

- The United Nations, democracies with established rule of law and strong middle economic class and well-supervised elementary schools.

- Maiti Nepal is an organization that helps prevent girl trafficking and domestic violence. In Nepal, Maiti Nepal has been doing a decent work in empowering trafficked girls and women. These girls, once when they are brought back home, face discrimination from the rest of the society--even their own families. This makes it impossible for them to live normal lives. Maiti Nepal has been trying their best to help these girls attain necessary income-generating skills so that they can live a decent life. A lot of educating and counseling also helps them withstand the social stigma. These girls today can work with their heads held high instead of having to depend on others' for money. I believe that the prospect of being able to live decent lives not only motivates the rescued girls, but also strengthens the spirit of those who are in problems to struggle for their freedom.

- In Canada we have many examples of empowerment of people. Society for example embraces the use of wheelchair accessible sidewalks and transit. Those with mobility challenges lobbied for change and once it was embraced by society it became normal. The social services in the area of Vancouver with the largest population of poor, have engaged these poor to grow food in small gardens, do cooperative shopping and cooking, seek medical attention earlier and be responsible for their environment. This has made a big difference to those who make the choice to engage with the program.

- People's parliaments in India are a good example. In some areas, there are children's parliaments where young children become active members of their local community and participate in its life.

- My own NGO, the Center for War/Peace Studies, does a lot with very little. But I am not directly engaged in the most important aspects of self-empowerment at the local level in poor countries.

- Yes, Human rights clubs, paralegal services.

- Leather Bag Manufacturing Factory initiated by Itumbonuso Youth Multipurpose Cooperative Society located in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State trains destitute boys and girls with skills on making bags, wallets, shoes and various leather accessories. Views from the Frontline (VFL) Project commissioned by the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), a collaborating centre of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction based in London, the United Kingdom and implemented in Nigeria by the African Youth Movement (AYM) as the country coordinator, is a multi-stakeholder approach successful at identifying rural people's perception of threats to disasters and works to identify the underlying causes of such disasters through coordinated series of community risk assessment, disaster risk profiling, community, local, state and national consultations with participation of local government, community representatives and NGOs- acting as participating organizations.

Communities are empowered with the capacity to conduct risk assessment, armed with the skills to conduct recurrent, seasonal and periodic disaster risk reduction surveys and interpret the data, local government intervenes to identify communal problems and works within the disaster risk reduction initiative to sink boreholes, create jobs and provide social amenities such as roads, dispensaries etc. The project pays emphasis on women, young people, very old people and the disabled. Finally, ambassadors and participating entities to the VFL Nigeria project have since 2009, 2011 been honored in the Global Report of VFL, a Global Assessment Report (GAR) Compendium of the International Secretariat of the GNDR submitted to Secretary General of the United Nations through the Under-Secretary General for Disaster Reduction during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Imaginit Media Resource - Involved in capacity development of youth in the south region of Nigeria. Focuses on education, value-reorientation programs and skills acquisition programs since 2008. Total Girl Development Initiative - Involved in empowering young ladies, rehabilitating pregnant abandoned and abused women and advocacy RISE Youth Network - Involved in national transformation projects and youth advocacy ActRight Initiative - Driven for national transformation and value re-orientation Move of SHE – An initiative concerned with

mobilizing women to rise to the challenges of unemployment, illiteracy, abject poverty in Nigeria.

♣ Photography can help achieved employment with little education. One with a camera can become a photographer to find work in wedding photography, commercial photography, advertising photography, real estate photography, etc. The only investment is just the camera with knowledge to take pictures.

♣ Coming from the USA I think the civil rights movement of African Americans has been the most significant example of employment. Has it been totally inclusive? The answer is no. However, over all it has dramatically changed the ability of that group to be empowered.

♣ In the world of technology social groups that are otherwise excluded because of religion, customs and habits come together because of their common technological work. Working side by side, conversing about their common interest - technology - they overcome barriers, learning about each other, adapting to each other's habits, etc. As time goes on, they carry this over to other aspects of their life, breaking down barriers, but also creating a barrier - the world of the people of technology versus others.

♣ As a teacher of children with disabilities, I know that quality education that involves families can empower. * "Water With Blessings" and "Sister Visitor Center" and Catholic Education.

♣ I worked on community development. It was wonderful to see how local women's groups would get empowered given the appropriate space and training. They became stronger, more demanding and optimistic.

♣ The neighborhood parliaments of India have been very successful in empowering women and youth to participate in the civil life of the community. This process has then led to representation at the state level.

♣ A few examples below: Swaziland LUSIP/SWADE: A poverty alleviation project which brought irrigation water to the poor in a drought prone and semi-arid region of the country and

saw significant economic spin offs - access to clean drinking water and sanitation, food gardens and opportunities for other agrarian livelihood activities. Micro projects programme which targeted poor communities by empowering them to meet priority social infrastructure needs (school classrooms, cattle dip tanks, clinics, small bridges etc). South Africa Expanded Social Package programme to integrate the indigents in the City of Joburg through targeted interventions including linking youth to jobs through the South Africa's Expanded work programme thus providing opportunities for the youth to be employed. These are sure stepping stones to decent work.

🔸 I live in the Netherlands, work with 130 young volunteers and I see them growing, and gaining self-respect, life-experience, work-experience, enthusiasm, and most of all: Faith in their future !

🔸 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, in the last few decades, have been empowered and it has led to great success.

🔸 We used to be subject to deplorable conditions in many major countries, such as the United States. While this is still true in much of the world, it's getting better for us. We demanded equal rights, opened communication to who we are, and it has led to great success.

🔸 Eboo Patel and his Interfaith Youth Core based in Chicago is one fine example of bringing young people together in colleges around the country, young people of different faith traditions, to learn from each other, to respect and understand each other and to work together in service to those in our society who are disadvantaged in so many ways. Another such example is the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, modeled on the IYC of Chicago, that bring together youth of high school age , in a program called WALKING THE WALK, to also bring hope to society by learning from each other, dispelling stereotypes, and, while providing service to others, learning the meaning of mutual respect and understanding of each other.

🔸 Women, Children Education, Farmers, Trade Unions, CBOs, Clubs, etc.

🔸 Dorothy Day's and Peter Maurin's legacy found in the Catholic Worker groups; Mother Teresa of Calcutta's religious orders of men and women helping the poorest of the poor to realize their human dignity, even if it means dying with dignity; those who put water and food in the

desert of the Southwest to help those trying to cross to a better life; those who teach English as a Second Language to those who are trying to better themselves in this country.

- I work for a not- for -profit agency in an area of Westchester County New York where many immigrants live. This immigrant population is very diverse and come from all areas of the world including not just the Latin countries, but areas of Europe and Asia as well. This agency serves the needs of immigrants in the area both with regard to assistance with the process of documentation as well as helping them to learn English. It has been my experience that those who learn English have the opportunity to work in areas where the pay is higher and the overall benefits greater than those who have not learned English.

I have found this to be true for everyone including those with a prior education and those without it. Here are some examples. Families hiring babysitters want the babysitter to know English so their children can be helped with homework. Someone hiring a housekeeper wants English spoken so that specific instruction can be given to the worker. The teachers in the public schools need the parents to understand some English so that there is good communication with the home. The Spanish speaking kitchen worker is told that if he learns English he will be promoted to a position on the wait staff. Some of the students we have now attend a local community college for coursework which will eventually lead to matriculation. Education empowers.

- The LONDON CITIZENS movement which is growing nationwide in England. CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY in the UK has successfully brought together people in urban poverty and created hearings at which they have been given a voice to address members of parliament and inform them thoroughly about their situation, the injustices that plague them and what needs to be done to address these. CAFOD and PROGRESSIO the Catholic agencies in the UK for precisely this, work all the time at empowerment in places in the developing world.

- Youths in Malaysia are quite empowered economically, socially and politically. They serve as my model benchmark of empowered youth.

- Under appropriate guidance, we have so many successful story in the rural and urban sector. Successful empowerment peoples working under Governments, NGOs, Cooperative level, as: 1.Agriculture 2.Fisheries 3.Livestock 4.Poultry 5.Tree plantation 6.Handicraft & small Industries, etc..

↯   I worked with needy families in emarginated areas of Chile during the Pinochet years. Women were helped to form workshops making bread, knitting sweaters, etc. to supplement the meager salaries paid by the government to their husbands doing construction. The success of these groups made for happier, more stable families. The women in turn did all they could to empower their children. It is contagious!

↯   Work of community leaders in local communities in Philadelphia, Hispanic organizations in Los Angeles, New York and other urban area.

↯   The structure of our organization gives a 'voice' to disadvantaged groups in society, because of the subsidiary nature of the structure of the organization and especially where the smaller branches are concerned. In some branches we have relatively small number of people e.g. Cornwall, Isle of Man with very little 'voice' in the outside world, but through our organizational structure we can amplify that 'voice', which would largely go unnoticed. Our ability as an organization to make contact with and network with other groups and peoples through the internet.

↯   Microfinance operations among associations formed of women in a community, community development associations done on a very small scale to operate water and sanitation infrastructure improvements, even native American gambling rights protect by US laws.

↯   Scandinavia for decades, Brazil just recently.

↯   Christo Rey high schools which takes low income students and matches them with jobs that pay for 80% of their high school tuition. These schools are college prep and are successful in getting most of their students, who are marginal when taken in, to finish high school and go on to college.

↯   HEIFER INTERNATIONAL'S ANIMAL DONATION PROGRAM seems to provide many of the elements needed to empower people especially women.

↯   Back around 1976 there were women in Jellico, TN, who were materially and educationally poor. Sister Yvonne Nelson, a Presentation Sister from Fargo, ND, went to the area

and with help from others, renovated an empty Church building and established a used, second-hand clothing store which she named the "Crazy Quilt." Fairly quickly the local women became friends with Sister and were gradually employed. Receiving even a relatively low salary, they were able to make small but necessary improvements in their homes, and as business increased they were able to do yet even more for their families. Over the years, Sister trained women (according to their talents, preferences and abilities) to manage all aspects of the store, including the finances. Consequently a relatively shy and self-demeaning group of mountain women blossomed into a successful, competent group of sales' ladies, who (while retaining their authenticity) secured a new position of respect in the field of competition. 2. The Developmentally disabled have achieved awards and commendations (not to mention self-pride and self-gratification) from participation in Special Olympics.

✦   Micro financing has empowered many women, some to begin their own business.

✦   "El sistema" "Emergency" and other really no profits organizations programs to provide high quality education to health workers, education workers and so on

✦   Women in micro-enterprise projects - gain education and independence through skill development. Has a positive effect on parenting and next generation, but still there are barriers to their entry into mainstream economics. Barriers are put up by the wealthy and powerful.

✦   Many of the groups of women who are part of Handcrafting Justice are, to me, successful stories of empowerment. These are groups of women who make handcrafts for sale in other countries, and all profits are returned to them. They have been able to use this income to provide for better housing, education, and care for their family.

✦   ICYE cooperates with a number of successful community projects (i.e. working with children at risk, disabled, elderly, etc.), which favor a participatory and holistic approach to needs assessment and problem solving. Given that many empowerment programs are hardly evaluated, it is difficult to provide evidence of how different empowerment strategies can be more effective than others.

✦   1. Children/youth in India. Children say that 'We begin as Neighbourhood Parliaments of Children (NPCs) of about 30 families each. We become federated parliaments at various levels

and become a world parliament of children. Neighbourhood Parliaments of Children promote our participation in issues of importance. They spur us to come together, discuss together, decide together and involve together in action and in fun'

2.People living in poverty, older people, people with disability in Ireland and other countries: Clann Credo - The Social Investment Fund. It's simple goal is to support people and assist in the building of stronger communities. It supports social enterprises, charities and community organisations by providing accessible loan finance.

3. Women in Zambia: The Bakhita Women Project by rural women in Kinnertone village, Kalomo District, Southern Province of Zambia was initiated by our organization in 2002 at a time when women in this village had limited access to enough food, finance and land. Most of these women are widows. This project helped to invest in human capital and in agriculture. The women, having constructed a dam to harness rainwater harvesting and having access to land, they are able to produce enough food for themselves, sell the surplus and use the resources for their children's education.

Today they are a Cooperative and share the benefits among themselves. Besides, seven other neighboring villages have access to the harvested rain water from the dam for their farming. They are a registered society and are empowered to access government programmes and network with other NGOs. 4.People living in poverty, Kerala: Kudumbashree is a programme by the government of Kerala and was launched in 1998 for social empowerment, economic empowerment and women empowerment.

🔱   My professional position is to work with women who are very poor and market there crafts. Women who can earn a fail salary and have dignified work can impact the whole family and village.

🔱   Human capital flight from "undeveloped" countries until retirement and relocation: reversed human capital flight.

🔱   Our religious community, the Sisters of the Good shepherd, have created workshops opportunities for Indigenous peoples, in particular women who have been trafficed and who are without resources to become educated and have opportunities for dignified work. Good Shepherd Services in NYC empowers disconnected youth to become empowered by achieving their high school diplomas and enter post secondary training/college through specially designed collaborations with the city's education systems. We also assist victims of domestic violence and abused and neglected children find new safe environments and equip them with the skills that they need to avoid future abuse and neglect.

✦ In Uganda and Kenya educated men and women that are stepping up to participate in civil society and create positive social change.

✦ The women's groups in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India - They were municipal corporation workers but they managed to save money, open bank account, approach govt. officials, demand for housing 2. Two young girls from Zambia were taken to the UN for the CSW 55 with great preparations and were able to present their report at the UN. One girl was a double orphan. 3. Young girls in Zambia, mostly single mothers were encouraged to save K. 1000 per month and started small businesses to enable them to get back to school to further their education 4. The women's group, mostly single mothers were given old clothes to sell and with the money received they were able to trade in rice business and from there planning to do something more to earn them more money for attending educational meetings 5. Interest free loan given to people so that they were able to start business, improve housing, further the education of their children etc.

✦ YCAB Foundation empowers youths at risk in Indonesia - those working on the streets and high-school drop-outs - by giving them access to an affordable, accessible, and a good education that also includes teaching them vocational skills at YCAB Rumah Belajar (learning centers). YCAB also provides the mothers of these children with micro loans through YCAB's education-linked microfinance so the whole family can be economically empowered and they can have a decent income and all the while their children are getting a good education. When these youths graduate, YCAB directs them to its industry partners for paid internship or full employment or they can also become teachers and trainers at the learning centers. YCAB's programs are sustainable, allowing them to truly empower these youths and their families.

✦ We have countless examples of diverse people from every walk of life, prisoners, business people, the unemployed, children, at risk individuals etc. Their lives have turned from victim / state dependant / society expectant / community takers to empowered, aspirational, and givers to their communities.

✦ In a poor population in Chile (Casa Ursulina Chillan, Chile), a group of women were taught how to make use of a native indigenous skill-- handiwork and needlecraft--by the simple expedient of crochet and knitting classes. They were then taught how to market their wares, helped in finding markets, and how to handle their finances. This simple beginning has become a workshop and learning center for people of all ages, with educational experiences that increase

self esteem and provide family revenue.

♣ People recovering from mental illness in local area due to: 1. Receiving support - adequate, partnership, creative, strengths based, voluntary 2. Being accepted as they are and not being judged 3. Having employment opportunities as peer support workers 4. Using creative recovery programs to monitor mental health. Aboriginal workers, due to: 1. Organization strategic framework (practiced) on Reconciliation and promotion of Aboriginal people 2. Support and consultation on any activities especially concerning them 3. Whole organization orientation to Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and guidelines for work with Aboriginal people 4. Actively seeking to employ and keep Aboriginal workers 5. Organization openness to accepting and working with different cultural needs.

♣ I believe the "No Interest Loan" schemes help people to rise out of poverty and to feel empowered to act.

♣ A prime example is that of convicted prisoners who have grown up in slums or migration camps and have chosen a life of crime for sheer survival. Given the opportunity for rehabilitation, many have succeeded against heavy odds to excel as highly productive citizens.

♣ One of our programs, Learning Our Way Out, provides community members with the practical tools to discuss family planning on a more open level, thus reducing children and poverty levels. In a culture where women are rarely given the ability to plan their own reproductive futures, our LOWO program empowers them to make these types of decisions on their own.

What policies do you consider would further promote social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people, including social groups?

+ Same as questions one; policies based on finding the balance between liberty and equality. For e.g. western liberal democracy is primarily based on the rights of the individual - perhaps we need to rethink this principle as the core building block of many policy based decisions to one that promotes rights of the community - a return to policy that nurtures community growth based what is best for the many - the 'give' rather than 'take' mentality that would have been the mainstay of many pioneering/remote communities that relied on each and every person for well-being for survival.

+ Equal opportunities, training, education, and pay for all.

+ Seguir motivando al Piso de Protección Social, y que se cree un marco jurídico de política social y a largo plazo.

+ The parliaments have to be accessible to the people, the excluded at the base. Hence the call for neighborhood parliaments. Neighborhood parliaments give them a grip where it matters. The grip is important. The grip has to be firm and not elusive and slippery if the body of people is to move forward. The grip on the first link of chain is decisive. The very first forum of participation is to be well within the grip of people. - Subsidiary whereby nothing that can be done at any lower level is taken up at any higher levels should be the norm. And higher levels deal only with those matters that no lower level can handle. The tendency to over-centralization and consequent feeling of alienation is to be avoided. People at the base must constantly feel that they matter, they are not non-persons, they are consulted, they are participants and subjects and not mere objects - Neighborhood Parliaments are to be organized and federated along the various levels of governance. - Neighborhood Parliaments are to be made the convergent point of various governmental and other programmes

⊕   A good quality and free education for all while respecting diversity is important. Laws concerning the right to education are a key. A good policy to eliminate corruption and fraud. Laws concerning proper functioning of institutions, anti-fraud, and specially education for ethics and values in the country, including media education. Transparency and difference between the economic power and the political power. Today the first seem to control the second which corrupts the system. A good policy to give more microcredit for studies and business. Free access of ICT for all as well as the primary goods: water, food, house, electricity, health. Policies aimed to protect families as a nucleus of society would empower strong individuals at the same time as societies.

⊕   1. Education for all 2. health care for all

⊕   The promotion of European and International Years is extremely useful for the member States to be encouraged to put in place policies on sensible matters, such as reconciling policies and family policies.
A) Migrants: better management of the migration flows with a strong integration between labor market needs and number of legal migrant needed in each country (introducing labor mobility approach also outside EU borders); promotion of a better legislation on "migrant integration", in order to avoid the identification language = integration and to move towards a more integrated approach to citizenship (civic education, local cultural & traditional education, etc…);
B) Older people: strengthening lifelong learning paths for seniors (aged between 50 to 65 in particular) to better prepare them to the new labor market needs; promoting "healthy lifestyles" among seniors to prevent elderly not self-sufficiency and to reduce social assistance expenditures. The Elisan position on Active and Healthy Ageing and Solidarity between Generations insists on these matters;
C) Women: promote a more favorable legislation for conciliation between work and family life, in order to enable women to have a stable and safe professional situation and a higher economic benefit; promote training and education to improve the knowledge of women on how to protect themselves against domestic violence and abuse, in order to avoid that difficult family situations lead to poverty and to children marginalization;
D) Persons with disabilities (and elderly with difficult of movement): introduction of the "Design for All" approach on legislation, in order to favor the realization (and adaptation) of accessible services, buildings, urban areas and ICT tools with an intense action of public procurement rules (incentives, awarding scheme, etc…).

⊕   1. one of the policies I consider would further promote social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people, including social group is by providing scholarships for children in

need, providing loan to people, 2.Building social institution so people can learn difference skills that will empower them in the future.

⁜   Putting empowerment in the focus may first of all raise questions on many existing policies. However, on an international level (agreements), I would promote exempting trade and mutual transactions among worker-owned companies from all international trade barriers, to strengthen inter-co-operatives ties. Economic self-help groups and worker owned companies need protection similar to the human rights chart. They should be considered in negotiations with member states at UN-level and effective multi-national zones (EU,?) .... At national level, there is sometimes legitimacy for "hard" measures like sanctioning homophobia, but in general, the long-term strategies do more fit the goal of empowerment, basically awareness creation and capacity building. Using incentives (e.g. Mexican system of conditional family support) can be a tool, if there is an apparent chance to solve a specific problem in time. Otherwise, it may rather replace old dependencies with new ones.

⁜   Integrating culture and development is important. Our development pathways try to impose Western Models. This is reflected in the very next question. The indigenous people and rural communities in South have a rich cultural heritage which is being ignored. This cultural capital is a huge social and economic capital.

⁜   More inclusive, adoptive and mobilized policies where civilians can become more active.

⁜   National, regional and international policies are required to promote empowerment of people - National constitutions reflect inclusion - adoption of inclusive/non-discriminatory legislations/Affirmative action type of policies; - signing and implementation of international legal instruments on human rights for ex. - Free education for all - Policies promoting a strong and articulated civil society - Policies to protect the media and freedom of speech.

⁜   Policies that foster education for all and protect women and families. The MDG on universal primary education is not yet a reality and the lack of minimal quality in some countries make one say that it is not really education. Before any policy is adopted, it should be questioned whether it will impact positively on women and families.

🔸 Ensure the equal rights of all persons with disabilities to live in the community facilitating to fully participate in the social economic and political and legal process. Give the opportunity to chose their destiny and an equal basis with others have access to range of in home resident and other community support services. Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disability in the manner and at the time their choice with other with out obliged to live in particular living environment. Policy makers provide policies and ratifying international conventions regarding to persons with disabilities and currently certain coverage polices are "diagnosis driven" policies so it needs the coverage of the policies are incorporating all disability issues.

🔸 Policies should be inclusive, participative, customized to meet the needs of countries with complex and diverse social fabrics. They should also be supported by sound accountability principles and instruments.

🔸 Policies that would promote encouragement, one that show people they can do it if the try, have the political will to go into the trenches find the successes hold them up as an example to allow others to emulate, we only need to look at paraplegics making a name for themselves in sports

🔸 Disability friendly.

🔸 Gender equality, education, democracy, etc.

🔸 Education and Training Policies and the Implementation. Social and Gender Justice.

🔸 While Rio+20 directly state the importance of cooperatives for poverty reduction, sustainable development, employment, etc. ECOSOC failed to underscore this in its final text dealing with unemployment. It is up to the UN to be consistent in its emphasis on cooperatives. We greatly welcome this year being declared the International Year of Cooperatives. As the year draws to a close we would encourage all UN committees and UN agencies to carry forth this values based business model in their daily work, their support of programs and their priorities not just for this one year but as a leitmotif- an inherent part of UN values.

✦ The 208th General Assembly (1996) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) committed to the following acts of empowerment: a. Reaffirm its understanding that the gospel calls us to be concerned for those in need, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the outcast, and that our faithfulness is measured by our care for the least of those in need. b. Recommit the church to ministries of support and compassion for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the sick, both at home and its worldwide mission. c. Commend the United nations for its efforts toward the elimination of poverty worldwide, for calling governments and the institutions of civil society to task before it: to provide care for those living in poverty, and to restructure and reorder economic priorities and institutions, in order to eliminate the multiple and complex causes that bring about and perpetuate poverty.

✦ Good political policies such as granting the youth, and needy good business capital to start good and healthy business among the youths and women.

✦ Policies aiming at facilitating freedom of association as well as spaces for civil society organizations Policies aiming at facilitating participatory processes in policy making, explicitly calling for the inclusion of marginalized groups Policies aiming at facilitating volunteerism.

✦ Policies which reflect the values of healing, holistic practices in the corporations and in government.

✦ Implement the Beijing Platform for Action and mainstream human rights throughout UN member states.

✦ Policies that permit social groups to have a quota in the education of youths officially. Policies that enable social groups to have access to funds that will be utilized more efficiently. Policies that charge social groups with the responsibilities of empowerment as this will eliminate unnecessary corruption.

✦ Those targeted at giving equal opportunities, such as grants for those who want to get a degree and have shown the capacity for it.

✦ Despite achievements during the past century to increase access for all to social, economic, political and legal systems, vigilance is required to recognize and remove barriers. There are laws within the U.S. prohibiting discrimination by public agencies due to race, gender and disability; however, enforcement of these laws is uneven. Too often, a group of individuals' experiences repeated discrimination and must challenge practice to obtain their rights. We must examine how current law and policies are implemented and identify gaps indicating need for new rules. For instance, how older adults are protected from unfair labor practices forcing early retirement.

✦ Education, political freedom, government action to create jobs and changing the cultural ideas of the past which inhibits progress. Such as treating women as inferiors and religious concepts that believes your religion is the only way to god and constantly at war with other beliefs. Wars create poverty.

✦ In general, health policies and educational policies would be the first two that come to mind.

✦ Recognition of and serious implementation of the following Declarations, Covenants, Mechanisms and Social Protections Floor. - Implementation of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights at national level - Implementation of the International Covenant of Social, Cultural and Political Rights - Implementation of International Covenant on Civil and Political rights - Implementation of the various Human Rights Mechanisms - Immediate implementation of the Social Protection Floor - again Human Rights Based - Legislation and policies at national level that are based on the well being of the people, care of the environment and the nation vs. profit, growing inequality, corruption and corporate greed.

✦ First of all in order to become empowered people must have a basic education, which their respective countries can only provide. After that they need to be socially aware of their conditions and surroundings and what kind of reform do they want out of their government's. Socially they have to be given a decent employment. Economically they have to be given at least standard wages for earning their livelihood. Politically they have to be given a say in in the government's decision making process after attaining minimum educational qualification. Legally they have to aware of any kind of human rights violation against them or any atrocities committed causing loss of life. They have to be aware of the rules and regulations of their countries concerned and file a report against inhuman activity committed against them. The people should be protected from internal as well as external violence, incase of a war between

countries which the governments have to ensure.

- I consider that wealth must be taxed, huge bonus awards are scrapped, tax loopholes are closed, and that every person be treated equally before the law. The acceptance of difference is key to peace and to empowerment.

- Equality of nations, races, sex and religions. Also understanding that our planet as a common habitat for every one of us would be a great shift in thinking.

- Involvement, participation and giving them opportunities to develop themselves and responsibilities would promote the social, economic, political and legal empowerment of the people.

- Accessibility to knowledge and access to education... educating people will help people help themselves. Accessibility to leaders that listen to the people, a creation a forum for dialogue locally will further promote social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people, including social groups.

- Government and religious policies that enable those in poverty to have their human rights observed. Turn some army bases into trauma treatment facilities. Feed the hungry, and help them to have land where they can grow their own food. Clean up the oceans. Use solar and wind power rather than oil.

- Políticas basadas en el sistema de Derechos Humanos en general, y en la Convención Sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad en particular.

- Actually there is a need that under represented communities should be mainstreamed at decision making level through their capacities development that will further promote social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people, including social groups because they have tacit knowledge of discrimination.

- My personal opinion of policy development is a low one. It becomes the toothless tiger in a community atmosphere - time spent on political agendas, large working groups who sit around

drafting socio and intellectual drafts of white papers, green papers and pink papers. In the end few get to the actual working or grassroots level and even fewer become rational contributors to the success of eradicating the problem. Continual failure of the intellectuals to bring forth programs that suit the community on a local level wastes the resources we have been given. The only solution is a "policy" that works with each community from the grassroots up rather than the intellectual and political levels down. What could have been accomplished over the years in utilizing gifts and donations, political dollars, and educational services is a dream we did not hang our hats on. WE must leave our egos at the door once and for all.

⚜ Policies that emerge from the coordination of Government, private sector, and NGO's, and suit the society needs, and accommodate all sectors would be the "best fit" policy and may also fill any regulatory gaps.

⚜ We must learn from our mistakes with the Millennium Development Goals; targets for poverty reduction which do not include disaggregated measure for reaching the most marginalized (such as people affected by leprosy or disability) mean that agencies tend to focus on the easiest to reach, rather than those most in need or the poorest of the poor. Any post MDG framework, Country Poverty Reduction Strategies and Donor Policies must address inequality and include targets with specific reference to marginalized groups e.g. disabled people. Policies must refer to the need for longer-term interventions that are people rather than resource focused and should prioritize approaches that facilitate empowerment. Data needs to be collected for specific groups, such as disabled people, so that the real situation is known and development interventions can be planned appropriately and impact measured. More research is needed into effective models for measuring the various aspects of empowerment.

⚜ Educational system - with an agreed upon courses/fundamentals on human rights.

⚜ The passage of equal opportunity laws to improve the plight of the disabled, elderly and women etc. 2) The vigorous promotion and development of co-operatives is a powerful empowerment tool. Co-operative are member-owned, democratic organizations that are people focused. They are dedicated to the upliftment of their members through the provision of products and/or services at reasonable cost. 3) Fostering the growth and development of NGOs. There is no gainsaying the fact that NGOs have an empowering orientation. When functioning effectively, they are a forum for the discussion of ideas/issues and the development of solutions to individual, group and societal problems and challenges.

🔸 Participation and the real democratization of societies. Main social and economic policies, including fiscal and financial policies, shouldn't be taken without the participation of all citizens, including people living in poverty, and never by institutions that are not democratic.

🔸 The IFHE demands to - Recognize the importance of families as basic units for reaching decent work, productive capacity and sustainable economic development -Realize and integrate home economics education as precondition for developing productive capacity and to fight poverty and hunger -to achieve gender equality to enable women to reach decent work - to create a social, economic and political surrounding in which individuals, children and families can develop their full potential to achieve productive capacity, decent work and avoid poverty, hunger and social exclusion.

🔸 Necessary disbursement of facilities. Direct Access to loan Provision of Adequate materials needed for the empowerment programme. Having a Right frame of Mindset /Focus . Having the right target for the empowerment.

🔸 Fair tax codes, medical care for all.

🔸 Certainly it all depends on the general structure of the society people live in. To be successful in a society, I consider for example the administration pattern should follow a bottom-up policy in all activity.

🔸 The Gender Policy The Land Policy Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Policy The Agriculture policy The Mining policy Youth Policy

🔸 Policies need to start with involvement of the community at all levels. The notion of inclusion and seeking input needs to be ingrained in all policies across the social, economic and environmental spheres.

🔸 Policies to ensure full employment with total social and economic security (standard wage, health facility, social security, healthy working environment), policies on social inclusion, education for all and right to voice.

- Awareness with good policy and good team.

- Child labor laws Fair Trade Equal pay for women and men. Regulation of work places to be safe Protection of rights of workers to strike and bargain Laws that protect those with disabilities Provide worker compensation/health care benefits International law/agreements Statements and charters of the UN

- Funding, education.

- Better help systems put in place; more opportunity.

- Policies like equal employment opportunity, reservation for people with disabilities, scheduled castes and tribes, other backward classes, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act are few examples that would promote empowerment. They need to be enforced properly.

- Education, microfinance, model UN - revisiting the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Earth Charter.

- Policies on immigration. Again, just judging by the U.S., the ignorance about and discrimination against immigrants is inhumane. Fair wage or at the very least minimum wage on which persons and households can meet their desired basic needs as human beings.

- I believe that governments must pass legislation to promote the social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people, including all the social groups mentioned. But they must also implement those laws. To merely have laws is not enough. Law enforcement must become sensitive to the needs of all these social groups and not blame them for their problems. Everyone who is given the opportunity to turn his or her life around, can do so if they have the support of their governments and law enforcement. Obviously, as can be garnered from previous answers, I believe that education and training are of the utmost importance and here, once again, governments must have the political will to do the right thing.

- Organizing awareness campaigns, approaching the local NGOs, working at the grass root level and providing free help to the needy.

- First and foremost education. Various forms of training, the teaching of skills that can be used in employment.

- Policies for inclusion, participation and reservation are helpful. Education and awareness is the key to success. Governments and civil society need to pay special attention to the people living in poverty. The vicious cycle of poverty need to be broken and the policies should be in favor of this. For this we need leaders who are committed and value based .

- Affirmative action.

- Further social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people would be achieved through policies that promote human rights, particularly right to education and work, as well equality on age, race, gender and nationality.

- Elimination of discriminatory policies in hiring, firing, financial mechanisms, legal processes, etc. 2) Easing of obstacles to greater involvement, such as lack of education, lack of tools to compensate for physical handicaps and lack of financial resources. 3) Consideration of quotas so that underrepresented groups are better reflected in farmers' groups, labour unions, political parties, etc. 4) Special programmes dedicated to underrepresented groups, e.g. scholarships for indigenous people, employment skills training for disabled people, etc.

- Gender policy Disabled and the Elderly policy Youth policy Orphans and Vulnerable children policy

- Public participation policies, in broad sense.

- Voting power for all to elect fair leaders. Family endorsement. Incentives for employers to share profits.

🞣   One of the strong means of empowering people is promoting these issues through education. Education should be a must to those groups that are to be empowered and also other groups whose support is essential in empowering the marginalized groups.

🞣   This is very difficult as there are so many different groups. It is important to teach leaders that there is a new era of management. Management by "decree" doesn't work, management by empowerment is much more effective. There are so many well educated young people that giving them some role in decision-making is very important and useful.

🞣   Policies are needed that regulate the distribution of resources in such a way that all members of society have what they need to live a full human life. The principle of equity is of the utmost importance.

🞣   Grass roots education, especially for women and girls.

🞣   Gender friendly policies, policies that protects the environment policies on ICT.

🞣   • It is crucial to bring the young actors, community representatives and local authorities together on the path of dialogue to bridge the trust gap.
• Youth concerns especially on corruption must be taken into account: set up an anti-corruption body and involve young people to monitor corrupt officials. In less time, you will see the results
• Put a round peg in a round hole: because young people are often smart and energetic, they will not tolerate for long stuffing them with loop-sided officials and policies which does not work (case in question is the Arab Spring).
• Encourage young people in politics; assist young people to be leader's not just thugs for ballot stuffing's and rigging. Give them a role, commit them.
• Initiate small and medium scale entrepreneurial ventures.
• Commence door-to-door campaigns, recruit uneducated young people, seek out the disabled who are always left out in most developmental programmes (use questionnaire based surveys to seek their opinion, hear them first, be guided before implementing a plan).
• Give incentives to the best youth initiatives, encourage them and reward them through prizes and give young people roles as ambassadors- such initiatives powered by young people hardly fail.

🔱   Government should committee themselves in:

■ Building strong economies;

■ Establishing more stable and just societies;

■ Achieving internationally agreed goals for development, sustainability and human rights;

■ Improving quality of life for women, men, families and communities; and Propel businesses' operations and goals.

🔱   Higher level of participation of you in formulation of policies - Human Rights with fairness to freedom of speech & information in 3rd world countries - Welfare and Health privileges for the poor - Trade policies to favor export & import of local content.

🔱   Democratic participation. Universal education. School-to-work programs. Effective health services.

🔱   Democracy is always a first step.

🔱   Communication.

🔱   Allowing women and men the right to vote, own property, access to health care, equal education and policies that enable them to serve in public offices.

🔱   Whenever possible, schools that include all kinds of people. The more diverse the groups that children come into contact with, the less they see them as different when they are adults.

🔱   From my experience, empowerment begins at home. For children and youth, the process has to be strongly promoted by the educational system. In older individuals and groups, empowerment-promoting strategies should be incorporated in all aspects of the nation's social policy and services.

🔱   Many of the proposals made by the Commission on the "Legal Empowerment of the Poor" would help people of vulnerable groups realize their own power. Also, many recommendations have been made by Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Special Rapporteur on

extreme poverty and human rights. More states also need to ratify the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Political Rights.

- Housing policy, the politics of public health,

- In addition to other policies, These should be deliberate policies that target specific groups, developed from a comprehensive assessment of the situation and particularities relevant to the social group.

- Ask companies to create a place for a volunteer, and make sure there's a senior who will coach them.

- Youth participation in community, regional, national, and international politics and decision making 2) Globalization of the economy, politics, and world governments under the authority of the United Nations to create a more liberal world for everyone. 3) The establishment of an international police force 4) Increased power to the International Criminal Court 5) The enabling of fair-trade economic practices 6) Government regulation of businesses and institutions, like banks.

- Any policy that considers the common good as a basic starting point for determining public policy socially, economically and politically and respect for the basic human rights of the individual whose dignity is respected and not compromised through unjust practices, would have an impact on empowerment of those in our society who may have felt disempowered for one reason or another The internet may provide the first step to empowerment for those in our society who have long felt unattached and uninvolved.

- Awareness , Practice , Skill Building, Formation CBOs, Capacity Building and follow ups

- A complete and comprehensive reform of the US Immigration policy; a complete and comprehensive reform of our judicial and penal policies; a more "level playing field" for American workers, including gender equality.

♣   The new Obama plan to assist those immigrants who came to the United States as children, who now have an education or are in the process of getting an education is a policy that can lead to a work status (now a legal status). This is clearly an attempt to promote social, economic, political and legal empowerment of people who are now illegal, regardless of their social group.

♣   This question is too huge for a simple individual to answer alone. It calls for systems of government, local and national as well as international to put the common good of humanity before wealth creation as an end in itself.

♣   Policies more issue based other than politically driven more youth oriented policies who account for largest global population Development of benchmark millennium empowerment villages in every country

♣   The policies should be truthfully set up for the specific people and implement by straightforward team management.

♣   Better immigration laws; higher taxes of the wealthy and lower for the needy.

♣   Passage of the Dream Act for young, undocumented persons. Better resources for technical as well as academic education. More career oriented education programs, better special education programs.

♣   Equal opportunities policies; proportional representation of the political system; a democratic system; free and equal access to the legal system and the courts.

♣   Policies that focus at the district and community level. Funding of soft costs in developing local associations. Teaching self governing, but focusing first and foremost on utilities and necessities of life. As an example, this could be funding "animation" and training of locals to community associations to oversee the installation of infra-structure for water and sanitation. This would be less threatening to those in power and not appear to be a significant threat to the status quo.

- Policies that can and will be implemented and monitored.

- A higher living wage. A stronger educational system. Keeping the safety net for the poor: food stamps, unemployment, etc.

- Any policies dealing with educational standards and opportunities; free health care for children; home care funding for homebound/elderly.

- I very much believe a policy Against "Discrimination" of any kind (e.g., race, sex, religion, nationality, marriage or sexual orientation) should be generally promoted and enforced throughout our society.

- Strong government support and polices. Effective organizational support is needed.

- Public access to health programs, education programs, in particular to mothers!!! It starts the domino effect.

- Les politiques que nous considérons favoriserait davantage l'autonomisation sociale, économique, politique et juridique des personnes, y compris les groupes sociaux? Est de mettre à la disposition de ces différents groupes des fonds.

- Acceptance & Implementation of the Social Protection Floor. Would be a start. Universal education. Policies that support women in peacemaking Policies that support disarmament and de-militarization.

- Policies such as the one in Malaysia where for-profit corporations and banks are required by law to give a certain percentage (maybe 5 %?) of their profits toward non-profit organizations in the country -- this has benefited non-profits in that country and helped empower people.

- Long-term and context sensitive policies that acknowledge and address the roots causes of social and economic disparities between social groups. Policies that view the need of

education for all and satisfaction of basic needs as fundamental human rights of all persons.

🔸   In our globalised world, we need to consider policies that will address the root causes of poverty, unemployment, lack of social inclusion/ integration resulting in the empowerment on all spheres of life. Policies that will ensure… •Participatory forum small enough at neighborhood levels enabling people to have say in decisions that affect their lives and are universal. Neighborhood forums federated at various levels. •Social Protection Floors that are universal •People and Planet Earth Centered sustainable development promoting job rich growth and enhancing full and decent employment for all •A global and national economic system regulated, transparent, and accountable focusing on supporting the real economy •A global financial system that includes mechanism that diminish causes of global instability and prevents future crises through appropriate regulatory macroeconomic policies •International Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability •Assessing the wellbeing of the countries beyond GDP as indicator •Monitoring of the implementation of the internationally agreed commitments

🔸   Full employment for all Education opportunity for all.

🔸   Free access to a webpage that efficiently allocates legal knowledge that can be quickly studied and tested via an expert/ lack of "spam advertising" on telecommunication devices, popularity being a more determinate factor than results without disenfranchisement of the weak.

🔸   Increased government responsibility to care for the most weak and abandoned members of society should be a primary source of support.

🔸   Sustainable educational development Gender Justice Right to vote and clean elections Promotion of social entrepreneurs.

🔸   1. Ensure the women and children are part of decision making at every level
2. Include committed people working with the people at the grassroots are part of the implementation of govt. programmes which include funding. There is so much corruption and the money allocated for the poor is not reaching them and they are never part of the decisions made.
3. Education to be given free from the age of 5 to 18 years in every country and ensure quality education is given to the most vulnerable.

4. Tax the wealthy and channel the resources for the betterment of the poor in living a most sustainable life.

5 Prevent the rich corporations from polluting and destroying the environment and lay down policies to go for alternatives.

6. Encourage the rich countries to link with another most poor country in developing a most sustainable way of life.

➕ Policies that require stronger tri-sector collaboration; public, private, and the citizen sectors. Policies that are created out of aligned goals of the three sectors.

➕ It's less of a policy, which could be construed as counter-empowerment. It is rather more of a 'singular global forum' to involve all, demonstrate, empower, and ignite the aspirations of all societies to follow suit. To show, not tell. We can offer many, many 'products', testimonies, solutions and roll-out structure to this end.

➕ Policies that promote freedom and peace, universal education, provide adequate nutrition and health care -- in other words, a social protection floor. Particularly the empowerment of women...

➕ 1. Greater transparency in all agendas
2. Policies from which people DO what the policies say.
3. Consultation with the people concerned before any policies is written, followed by annual review and evaluation 4. Cultural awareness education written into organization practice (and DONE)

➕ Policies which redistribute wealth. Policies which look to house the homeless. Job creation schemes.

➕ Two opportunities are outstanding: 1. The Social Protection Floor concept 2. The advent of free interchange of information, knowledge, and training via Internet.

➕ Allowing marginalized communities to have more access to education.

Do you consider that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), especially the Internet has an impact on empowerment? Can you give some examples?

♣ Yes, it broadens knowledge base, gives much wider exposure to ideas and various view points.

♣ Yes - it offers a voice for many (although somewhat censored) that would otherwise not have a forum for their voice.

♣ It is very helpful, most people are exposed to it, they have access to books and music, politics and history, self help and health, astronomy and science, it offers an unlimited knowledge of the world and provides lessons and certificates with a much cheaper tuition than the American universities.

♣ They have. But they cannot be substitute for people coming together to discuss, decide and govern. They could support the "neighbourhoodization" process.

♣ Sí creo. A través del Facebook, por ejemplo, yo envío motivación a participar en campañas y actividades contra la violencia de género, motivación a favor de la justicia y la paz. Por medio de un programa llamado dropbox, una red latinoamericana de Justicia y Paz estamos informandonos de conferencias y seminarios,etc en la región. Por medio de youtube, muchas personas de mi institución están aprendiendo inglés, etc. Es increíble, gracias a Dios estos medios de comunicación nos ponen recursos que antes eran limitados. Otro recurso a través del internet que yo oriento para una rápida comprensión de conceptos es Wikipedia.org

♣ Yes, ICT is a powerful tool to get a job stay connected and informed, for example today we can study abroad in very good universities at a very low cost or open a business at a very low

cost and facilitate commercial transactions.

✦ Yes, to the certain degree - only those who have access (usually not the powerless people).

✦ Internet has a strong impact on empowerment because nowadays it is possible to open a business, forge personal and professional relationships, buy any kind of product at any price, keep informed in real time about what is happening in the world and so on. In the field of occupation, teleworking enable mothers, disabled people and students to work at home. In the field of assistance, domotics is extremely useful for the home care; enable the elderly and the people with severe disabilities to keep some autonomy. Naturally, there is the problem of teaching and educating people to the use of these new tools; in fact this could not be always successful.

A good example of how ICT can improve the empowerment of disadvantaged people is the use of electronic device for assisted living. The use of assistive technologies in houses for elderly, disabled or people with difficulties of movement enables both patients and assistants to have a better life, thanks to the help that ICT can give to the assisted people. Another example is the specific Web Platform to surf on internet dedicated to the elderly (see ELDY, an Italian best practice), which enables a larger portion of senior population to access the web services. Finally, all the projects dealing with distance-training thanks to innovative ICT projects (like webinars, for example, or other platform on e-learning) help people with difficulties to be updated and trained about competence and skills required by the labor market.

✦ Information and communication technologies have an impact on empowerment because through information people can get information through the internet about things happening around the world and their country and also disseminate the ideals to others.

✦ It depends on the level of education of the targeted group and the way these technologies are introduced and accessed. Even though I haven't seen an independent assessment of it, I guess the One Laptop per Child initiative may be a good example, as it considers these aspects, and actually many more.

✦ In India, there is no electricity for hours during the day, if at all. Sometimes there is no power for 15 days at a stretch. In such circumstances ICT cannot be used. Further literacy is still an issue. This limits scope of using internet and mobile phones. Unless these basic problems of education and infrastructure (electricity) are addressed, ICT can just be piloted as a tool of

empowerment.

- ICTs have a big impact on the societies and individuals in micro level. Through ICTs social media users become familiar with global issues and educate themselves. People also find opportunities to raise their voices and become activists (cyber activists) and fight for their rights.

- Absolutely. ICTs and Internet represent a revolution in the way we apprehend the world today and has greatly contributed to empowerment of people. No voice can be silenced and this represents a huge counter-power to any form of abusive systems (e.g. dictatorships, censure, etc.) Ex. - To me, the most striking evidence recently has been with the Arab Spring and Egypt, where citizens managed to rally millions of people through internet to challenge the government in place. The Syria civil war is another example of how internet is used to disseminate information on the conflict (although it is used by both sides and may lead to confusion) Abusive and discriminatory systems are denounced daily through internet and social media.

There are human rights campaigns, petitions, etc. This gives a totally different magnitude and impact to events that otherwise would be completely ignored. The fact that from my computer, I can sign a petition for a woman's whose rights have been totally ignored and violated in any part of the world is very empowering. I, as an individual, can make a difference in someone's life in a different part of the world.

- Internet is a powerful tool that although can be harmful if not properly used has brought an unprecedented way of communication and shared information. There is practically no job nowadays that does not require the use of internet and the use of computers and therefore anyone entering in the labor market need to be acquainted with them. Specifically, internet is a great tool for flexible working timetable allowing doing some jobs without being physically in the office and therefore favoring family-work conciliation.

- Distribution of information communication technology and internet service is indispensable to persons with disabilities. From my experience my disability is three years ago November 2009 due to trauma of car accident. before my accident I do not have more knowledge about disability but when I am paraplegic to secondary L1 I am browsing a lot web sites searching more information and experience related to my injury so ICT is mandatory to disable and I am empowering myself and build my hope through ICT and internet. I am reading a lot of news and researches currently going on related to spinal cord injury the future hopes.

Finally I get more experiences from around the world about the challenges of our disabilities the difficulties that we are living with so ICT to me it is my life I can't live with out it, ICT is my

job, ICT is my food . Thanks ICT.

- ICTs are contributing to empowering communities by improving and democratizing access to information including by the poorest and remote communities. Better access to information and opportunities is a key factor in improving the well-being and livelihood of communities and also marginalized groups.

- We learn quite a great deal through the social media, and the internet; however the very poor and rural communities are in most cases without basic amenities, how can they be helped via ICT's?

- Yes, ICT does play a major role in empowering people. Sharing of information and data helps them to reach each other and assist whenever and wherever necessary.

- Yes, First Internet opens the doors for all to get knowledge about many things which next to impossible before Internet due to Cost, Information, Access and few other reasons. Second its make easy to get in touch/communication for anyone and it's really works.

- Access to the internet is vital in an age when this form of communications is so key to doing business, promoting social issues, advancing every aspect of life.

- ICTs can help with empowerment, but empowerment through ICTs should be later in the road to overall development. We must first focus on human rights such as freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and rights to food and housing before we focus on ICTs. If a person cannot express themselves ICTs may prove ineffective in achieving empowerment.

- Yes it have good impact because i got the news of this survey from the internet and many a time such good information are pass via the internet.

- Once people have access to it and are proficient users, the possibility to connect with like minded people and supporting individuals and organizations can upscale efforts and increase visibility of actions. The UNV Online Volunteering Service www.onlinevolunteering.org for instance connects individuals from across the world with often very small and local projects targeting specific development objectives. The direct one-to-one exchange allows for creative, direct and often surprising solutions.

♦   People are exposed to a greater variety and a broader expanse of information, in real time rather than merely in history books. There is, however, a danger that people will believe whatever information they come across, merely because it is posted in the Internet, and forget the independent investigation of truth.

♦   In terms of making knowledge accessible, ICT can help, but it is necessary to learn how to manage ICT successfully. It can be extremely helpful in providing a lower-cost method of participating, inputting in processes (such as this one), and organizing groups, but it is necessary to have a certain level of investment in ICT to begin with.

♦   The first aspect of empowerment is that of sensitization and I believe the internet is already doing a lot in that aspect of empowerment. It is also the basis on which a lot other aspects of empowerment will ensue. When you take into consideration the number of youths that are plugged into the internet and the amount of information exchanged on a daily basis, there will be no doubt as to the role of the internet in empowerment.

♦   Yes, but only if young people are helped to make the use of it that can really help.

♦   Presently, enhanced efforts are needed to build infrastructure within nations and communities to provide access to ICTs for all persons. It is not feasible to post electronically essential information about health care, education and career programs with the expectation that all citizens have access. Remote and poorer communities resemble "technology deserts" with limited and unreliable access to communication systems and information transmitted electronically. Government, health and education agencies have not embraced universal design of websites, permitting access by individuals with disabilities.

♦   My answer is based on the idea that many good and worthwhile ideas have been spread throughout the world. Unfortunately many lies and racial hatred also has been spread throughout the world through such methods as the internet.

♦   In general, the first thing that comes to mind is the fact that a majority of educational and work opportunities all involve technology in some form. The internet provides limitless possibilities.

✦ Yes, ICTs are the way forward - and a very effective way of empowering people if the infrastructure is in place to provide ICT's e.g in Rural Areas. - Use of the Plasma Screen in High Schools in Ethiopia facilitated education coming from South Africa to the classroom in Addis Ababa. But not available in the rural areas because of lack of infrastructure. - Use of ICT's during the Arab Spring - for political change - Negative use of ICT's in trafficking of persons and other criminal activities. There appears to be no shortage of resources of ICT's in the criminal world but people living in poverty - especially girls and women are bought, sold and exploited using ICT's. I believe with political will ICT could be used effectively for the empowerment of people - poverty eradication, education, for market information, for health, politically engagement etc.

✦ Definitely! by sharing what they are doing in Africa or other countries around the world of facebook or other Social Network, they are connected with donors. So they get more people to support their work.

✦ YES, ICTs, ESPECIALLY THE INTERNET HAS CERTAINLY EMPOWERED THE MASSES PROVIDED THOSE WHO HAVE AN ACCESS TO IT. IN THIS ERA OF GLOBALIZATION ONE CANNOT JUST THINK WITHOUT AN INTERNET CONNECTION. IT BRINGS THE WORLD MUCH CLOSER TO US PROVIDING NECESSARY INFORMATION. THE YOUTH ESPECIALLY IN THIS MODERN AGE HAS BENEFITED FROM THE INTERNET USAGE. THROUGH INTERNET, ONLINE EDUCATION, ONLINE LIBRARY, JOURNALS, BOOKS, NEWS, CURRENT EVENTS COULD BE ACCESSED WHICH MADE LIFE MUCH EASIER. THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GOING TO SCHOOLS AND HAVE FURTHER EDUCATION, THIS INTERNET USAGE HAS BECOME BENEFICIAL FOR THEM. ALSO DIFFERENT EMPLOYMENT NEWS IS BEING UPLOADED IN DIFFERENT SITES.

INTERNET PROVIDES AN ACCESS TO THOSE SITES AND PEOPLE BECOME MORE AND MORE AWARE ABOUT THE JOB OPENINGS AND CAN COME FORWARD AND APPLY FOR IT. BECAUSE IT IS NEVER POSSIBLE TO KNOW ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE NEWSPAPERS IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE AN ACCESS TO INTERNET TO KEEP PACE WITH THE EVER CHANGING WORLD.

✦ Yes it does and has great potential. Amnesty International has commented on the speed with which they are made aware of kidnappings and unjust situations now that there are mobile phones, Facebook and Twitter. Avaaz is an example of a successful lobby organization which operates via the internet to bring pressure to bear on governments and big business when the rights of individuals and groups are being abused. Campaigns can be organized very effectively

via these ICTs but unfortunately they can also be used to promote hatred and disunity.

♣ Through internet it is possible to get information about things that national or worldwide news broadcasting is bypassing. Free reach to information is a key for empowerment. Would there have been Arab spring without internet? Many wrongs by big economical powers would have been dismissed if the telling about their actions would have let to the hands of the big news companies.

♣ Yes information and communication has impact on empowerment. Internet empowers people to share their ideas, views. It empowers people to do the work fast and complete more works in short time thus it increases the capacity of the people and helps them to update their knowledge, keeps them well informed with worlds happenings on time.

♣ With Information and Communication Technology Companies that care and go to people that are in far reaches of civilization in far flung third world countries they teach communication with the world and make their world better. Accessibility is the key here and The Cisco Sub Saharan Africa Initiative is a prime example. Cisco's mission is to address issue of poverty alleviation in five Sub Saharan Africa Countries and assist communities and individuals in joining the global market. By providing means of communication Cisco has provided for hands on training and online communication thus the Internet has an impact on empowerment?

♣ Definitely YES! When Internet is used in prisons, people can be educated, and values can be elevated. There is a danger that pornography and games can harm ethical values.

♣ Everyone that uses the internet has an instant library at their finger tips. The information and research value of the internet provides a wealth of information on any situation, society or race of people. One can certainly look up social situations and compare it to one's own situation. This is a great tool in opening one's mind to the world and situations in the world.

♣ Absolutamente. El Foro de Vida Independiente de España es un ejemplo de cómo a través de las TICs se pueden promover procesos de empoderamiento personal y colectivo.

♣ Yes, of course ! And we are using ICT for empowerment in shape of Empowerment Cafe on Disability. For e-cafe we are utilizing social media effectively like Facebook, Twitter,

Youtube, Issuu, Docstoc, Slideshare, and many other online free resources. We have lot of ideas and plans including online trainings, home based jobs, and business to promote empowerment through this ICT and internet tool, where initially we are providing information with inclusion of most marginalized and underrepresented groups. If Empowerment Cafe on Disability linked with potential partners, this will support millions of people online.

Again I will present myself as living example that I am with physical disability from rural area of southern Pakistan, I was a common person with disability but when internet came in 2002 in this area, I introduced not only to Information Technology but same time introduced to rest of the world. And in a very small period of ten years now contributing at International level as Activist, Facilitator, Expert and also using ICT and internet to empower people with and without disabilities and contributed as expert at UNESCAP and WHO. This miracle happens because of ICT and internet.

- Yes and no. The desperately poor do not have access or even know the internet exists. For those that do have access we have already seen how media has changed the political landscape as recently as in Syria, and as far in the past as Tianamin Square. Information technologies have allowed the people to see and hear what the reality of their situation is and brings together those of equal thought as a collective unit to solve their own problems. Hand in hand with the media and journalism community plights can rise from local to national to international within hours. With that comes international understanding and assistance such as the movement of nations during the crisis in Haiti.

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is considered as a very important factor with high impact on empowerment, as it provides individuals and associations with researches, studies, statics, online courses in different fields, consultation, and many other features all with lower cost and easy access.

- Yes, * It is a means of sharing learning about effective strategies/interventions that help to facilitate empowerment, along with methodologies that don't work * It can be used as a tool for developing the education level, skills-base and knowledge of the most marginalized that contribute to empowerment * It can help disabled people to overcome communication and mobility challenges and work remotely.

It has had a tremendous impact. Internet learning allows the individual to go at their own pace and review the various classes to absorb and retain the information.

Certainly ICTs can impact positively on empowerment. ICTs equalize access to information which is the gateway to knowledge. Increasing knowledge skills can have dramatic effects on the dynamics of power relationships. Another important characteristic of ICTs is that they can create employment vistas hitherto unknown for some marginalized or disadvantaged groups, for example telecommuting opportunities. Further some ICT job categories can adequately be filled by persons who are disadvantaged such as the disabled.

From the point of view of people living in extreme poverty, that have none or little access to ICTs, the gag has widened. ICTs by themselves do not increase empowerment, they provide the means for wider participation of citizens in decision-making processes, but without the democratization of the institutions that make the decisions, and this participation will only be tokenistic.

The 20th Century is called the - Digital technology Communication technology can bridge time and space, with in practice might mean working from home, for example. Ways of using the communication technology can also either increase or bridge the gap between healthy and disabled people, generations, genders or countries. Development of modern societies and communication technology affects the daily life of consumers and citizens. Development trends are contradictory as well within the field of technology as in society in general. Globalization increases the scale and technology exceeds the limitations of nature, but at the same time localization and individualized approaches are valued. People have different roles as consumers and conscious citizens. In the everyday life of families, these developments can be noticed, too. Increased possibilities for mobility make labor migration and travelling easier. Individualization can be seen also within the family, as children act more independently, and instead of instruction-based, family life often can be described as negotiation-based. Many changes are mediated by new communication technology. Individual mobile phones, for example, give independency in one sense, but at the same time they have created new prospects for control.

Yes it has a lot to do with empowerment programme, Opportunities on the Internet can be explored by youths and concerned people.

♣   Very much so! This is a form of communication not found in any other system. With communication and networking much can be accomplished!

♣   I believe ICT should have and great role in the process of empowerment. For example, owning mobile phones by people living in rural and urban areas helps to fasten communication among people.

♣   I do consider that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the internet to be precise, has a tremendous impact on empowerment. I say so because it is through this medium that we nourish our brains with information. Information is the greatest tool that one can possess to overcome any obstacle and also to enhance oneself. For instance, in rural areas where agriculture is the mainstay, one can use the internet to research on crop and animal disease prevention, mitigation measures and or remedies. This would help in efficient and effective action on the produce reducing on the risk factor of damage / mortality. Without this one would either get a sample of a plant or seek an agriculture specialist for advice who might not be in office at that time and has to return some other time. (Considering the minimal resources, the farmer is in a crisis) The internet helps to create linkages and connects people with common interest. It helps facilitate access to any product or service one might need.

♣   In the case of access to information yes. However the reality remains that having access to information is one thing, being able to influence social, economic and political outcomes is another. Work needs to be done in that step. Also we must not forget that some of the most marginalized do not have access to new communication technologies so we can not fall into the trap of relying on this alone.

♣   Education or knowledge is most important aspect of empowerment, through internet get chance to enhance knowledge by getting more information about recent development. At the time of training for the departmental heads of the Assembly in Ghana, I used some data on Human Index in Ghana that collected through internet that was useful to understand the gender situation in their country and in their institution. At the time of gender awareness used some real example of women empowerment in different parts of the World, made the program more realistic and acceptable.

♣   Yes Information and Communication Technologies have a great impact on empowerment issues for example Our AIHRA website: www.aihra.org and other social media link.

🕈 I don't know much about it, but information sharing has great deal of power. We just have to look at the Arab Spring.

🕈 Yes. Many nonprofits (including all the agencies listed in 11, above) maintain websites with information that educational information that is accessible at any time of day. I think the difficulties with relying on the internet are twofold: making sure people have access to the internet, and making sure the information that they are getting on the internet is accurate.

🕈 Yes, because people from desolate locations can be included and involved in larger communications and offer input from multiple different experiences and areas.

🕈 Information and communication technology has made available all the information to the common masses. Thus autocracy and secrecy are no longer relevant in today's society. Since internet is so widely accessible to the masses, it has greatly helped the marginalized gain information and hence emancipation through knowledge liberation.

🕈 Yes - no specific examples but Pax Christi benefits in coordinating our activities in real time globally.

🕈 Yes. Many of the large corporations, e.g. the hotel industry, construction and weapons contractors create and conduct employee skills training, implementation of policies e.g. codes of conduct, human rights, health and safety education or training on internal web sites. At the very least, videos on proper procedures are part of healthcare aides trainings.

🕈 I know that in Liberia, where my organization has had a program for the last 4 years working with women suffering from obstetric fistula, the use of cell phones has greatly improved the chances that women will not suffer the same problem in subsequent pregnancies. The team that works at the medical facilities, can keep in touch with former patients who may have become pregnant and monitor their progress so that they will not suffer the a fistula again. It is necessary to keep in contact with them which is sometimes difficult due to a lack of roads, etc. in some of the rural areas. I believe that the internet has an impact in that it brings home the problems that many are having which helps those who are not impacted to understand the need for people living in poverty to be empowered. We can see, every day, the motives of those who

wish to keep people in poverty so that they, themselves, can have all the power and the fruits of the labor of others.

⚜   Yes I consider that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), especially the Internet has an impact on empowerment example Bombay Blast thousands of people went to the hospital for blood donation, International projects information could be accessed from internet from anywhere which can help us, for research and development internet is a boon, distance mode learning programmes could be taken up easily by anyone from anywhere, social groups are a great help to start a new project.

⚜   ICT can be useful in contributing to education and training, especially in contexts where resources are scarce and education through direct communication is not feasible.

⚜   Sure--look at the Arab Spring and what is being done by local people witnessing events & capturing on their phones & spreading it to YouTube and other media. Fraud, corruption, violence can all be captured and transmitted to news outlets with smart phones. I think that the news outlets need to improve their ability to receive these eyewitness accounts and start to help frame the dialogue that needs to accompany the story.

⚜   Communication is a powerful tool for empowerment. The current digital divide is a big blow to people living in poverty. Lack of electricity, lack if internet and computer skills further deprive those living in poverty. If we can invest in communication, we can expect a great change. Besides Exposures are very helpful, learning by observation as well as from one another.

⚜   Yes, it is very important since a lot of information regarding job opportunities can be found in the internet.

⚜   ICTs could have a very good impact on empowerment; particularly when in use for educational purposes (distance learning, online vocational trainings etc.).

⚜   Yes, as those who do not have access to ICTs will be left further behind. Access to technology can help bridge inequality in areas with low levels of resources. For example, a rural area with few textbooks or teachers could become more educationally empowered through the

use of educational computing materials. To continue the theme of rural empowerment (since our organization focuses on rural women), relatively simple items like mobile phones can provide farmers with information on crop prices and weather conditions. This helps them to plan forecasts and helps to mitigate the information gap between powerful buyers, who can basically set prices, and agricultural producers who might otherwise feel compelled to accept poor rates.

- Information access and sharing Learning about new technology across the globe Reduced costs of communication Exchange or On line programs via internet

- Internet reduces dramatically costs of communication. It is possible for people working at home to connect with other people more easily and creates a new social space.

- Mobile telephones for distance health care. Social media. Increased education via Internet.

- Definitely Information and Communication Technology has significant impacts on empowerment. Distance learning has been made possible in those areas that lack skilled teachers. The work carried out by Mahabir Pun in Nepal is a good example. With the help of different other organizations, he help set up wireless internet service at a remote area in Nepal and started a distance learning projects. He helped the villagers come out of the information and technology gap that they would not have been able to come out of because of lack of infrastructure and also financial resources.

- Information technology has given many people access to information but not the ability to apply this information in an appropriate way. While ICT can make learning easier it is what one does with the learning that is important. Communications has three parts, the sender, message, recipient. The internet is simple a different way of communicating, the sender and the recipient still need to send and receive the right message.

- I believe that it is an essential tool for our society today. Access to important and necessary information will transform societies where great inequalities exist.

⚜   Yes, It provides information and connects people across the globe

⚜   Great impact by connecting rural-urban-global communites in a common communication and practical web where people share ideas and dreams. The facebook, linkedin, youtube, twitter etc are tools of change ushering in the Arab Spring and soon to come Africa Spring. It's a revolution happening now.

⚜   Yes it has helped a lot in communication and empowerment because one can now get any information at any given time.

⚜   Yes. It has enabled young people grow their ideas to global standards and find new markets on a global scale. With the use of the internet and social media, services can be exchanged without the burden of manual labor in regards to looking for a viable market. Some of the people we train now sell their products online. It also has opened people to information and opportunity to grow in knowledge. With simple clicks research could be made to help check feasibility of an idea, do surveys such as this knew discoveries can easily be made. It has bridges the communication gap.

⚜   The Internet has made resources available to higher education institutions in developing countries that were never available before. Even the most remote colleges and universities have access to vast amounts of data that were previously beyond their reach. Two problems remain: (1) assuring the access to these resources is inexpensive and (2) assisting staff in making use of them.

⚜   Facebook users post billions of photos on their pages. Online photo printing is big business.

⚜   Yes. People communicate easily. Can share information and opinions as well as learn from one another about how to go about empowering themselves.

+ Yes and no, as communication technologies are not face to face encounters and conversations. You can be the best of friend over the internet and not be able to stand the person in life, because of appearance, smells, habits, etc.

+ Seem to be at least a possible catalyst (e.g., the Arab spring).

+ Yes, I consider that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), especially the Internet, has an impact on empowerment. Through the ICT's, even individuals who live in remote locations have a gateway to the world. They discover what really happens in other places, and in many instances they will compare their own experiences with others in other situations. They will also have the opportunity to communicate with individuals who are facing similar challenges, helping the former come up with action plans.

+ Yes, the new access of cell phone technology in some developing countries has allowed for a more uncensored flow of information to people previously unaware of what was happening in the larger sphere that impacts their life.

+ I think rather that this information has great power over everything in the young, as it facilitates and very rapids can put a solution. An example and when we organize a campaign for the ratification of the decree which forbade the girl pregnant in high school to attend the course where she found them, we use this medium to pass the message and make greater advocacy.

+ Definitely. Amongst others are: ITCs reduce the Geographic/location barriers to communication i.e. communication is cheap and faster across ICT platforms. Remote areas can be reached with ease as long as they are connected. This is ideal for dealing with socio-economic imperatives. Farmers have shared their commodity prices in real time to prospective buyers. Allow for speedy transfer of technologies Have allowed education(formal and informal) opportunities. It is possible to take an entire training behind a personal computer that has internet. Diminishes the impact of Information asymmetries which renders opportunities known and not known to others, another unnecessary filter to access.

+ The real impact comes by invitations. That is most efficient by the internet and can be easily created by posting volunteer-vacancies.

↵ Absolutely. The internet allows people to share ideas, to discover new things and to learn about almost anything they have an interest in. The internet has allowed members of the Arab Spring in Arabic countries to share their experiences with each other. It has allowed African farmers to learn about successful farming techniques. All of these things have had a major impact on the empowerment of the people and the free exchange of ideas. That is why the United Nations should oppose any and all legislation that seeks to prohibit free speech and expression on the internet.

↵ The internet has empowered many people who have found voice through the ability to respond to groups, organizations, etc., where they can also give voice to their beliefs, make suggestions and help determine outcomes through their involvement. They can also continue to learn of issues that were once beyond their reach. All this makes for a more educated citizenry. It also provides involvement in a broader sense, on issues in which people hope to be involved.

↵ Sharing of Best Practices for cross Learning, Fill up Gaps, Learning, Time save, Technology should be within the Community.

↵ Yes! Consider the Middle Eastern "Spring"--which, of course, is still in progress toward democracy; the almost-instant communication from groups such as Amnesty International when atrocities can be prevented by massive protests through the Internet. Sister Dianna Ortiz' rescue from her Guatemalan (and US ?) torturers because of media communication due to Maryknoll and other protestors.

↵ The use of the internet is clearly a tool for connecting, learning, communicating and being a part of the "world". My experience has been that many of the people we work with do not have the money to purchase computers and therefore continue to remain isolated. This causes problems in many areas and most especially in the area of communicating with their child's teacher and school which now uses the internet as their main avenue of communication. Local public libraries need to reach out and provide more availability and access to computers and computer technology for their community. Immigrants in the community and others who fall into this category of needing to be "empowered" ought to be encouraged to seek the help of library staff willing to work with them individually so that technology education is achieved.

🕇   I have heard from our sisters in the African province, how important and helpful, even necessary to them and their people are mobile phones. I also understand from CAFOD and PROGRESSIO reports (UK Catholic Church agencies for international development) that mobile phones are making life so much better for farmers and small producers in the developing world.

🕇   Yes there's much power In ICT and empowerment examples being use of platforms like twitter, Facebook to exchange ideas and find global solutions together. More friendship bonds are created and people are able to benchmark best practices around the world.

The present circumstances of the global stage, it is most significant that, Information & Communication Technologies is the prime factor to the rural & urban position.
1. Agricultural people need most useful data when in the field he is in problem.
2. Fisheries people need frequent information about fish birding & sea condition & where he can go to fishing (GPS Info).
3. Impact of Empowerment is upgraded if Health & science Technology keep informed desires every day.

🕇   Many poor, uneducated persons have little access to the social media. Expand such opportunities at libraries, schools social centers, day care by training the providers.

🕇   It has both a positive and negative impact. People can work from home once the technologies are provided for them, thus eliminating the need for transportation and all the other "fears" that accompany working with a "group" of co-workers. But it is running amuck with violations of privacy.

🕇   It is very important, because it gives people the opportunity to reach out to the wider world for support if required. It also strengthens the 'voice' of specific groups and individuals so that injustice can be highlighted. One example of this is with difficulties that the Syrian people are currently experiencing. Another is when a people speak a minority language and are spread out over a geographic area they can form themselves into 'virtual' group on the internet where they can use that language together.

🕇   Providing inexpensive i-pads or similar devices to classrooms.

⚜️   YES, THE USE OF COMPUTERS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN REMOTE AREAS/CONNECTING THE EXPERTS COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN TO ENHANCE THEIR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE STANDARDS ARE LOW.

⚜️   I can't think of any particular examples, but I think programs on the internet generally, can either empower individuals to do well or to do evil... depending on what's being watched. Hopefully there are more inspiring news items and presentations than disturbing ones.

⚜️   In rural areas, the cell phone is used for banking. It has also provided to farmers and those in rural area information needed for a more effective marketing.

⚜️   Absolutely yes.

⚜️   Considérez-vous que les technologies de l'information et de la communication, en particulier l'Internet a un impact sur l'autonomisation? Aucun impact sur l'autonomisation. Par contre elles favorisent les moyens de communication.

⚜️   Not sure, I suppose so, but like economics and politics, educations and health, it gets co-opted & monopolized by the wealthy and powerful.

⚜️   I think that technology, when used as part of a strong education, can help empower people. However I think results are limited and that the future will inevitably hold much more technological advancement that can help fight poverty even more.

⚜️   ICTs bear a great potential in bridging the knowledge and information gap and have proven that they can effectively enhance more people's participation in political debates and processes of change. Particularly in rural areas, communication technologies have had a considerable and positive social and economic empowerment effect. The development of ICTs should be more led by their intrinsic empowerment potential and less by market/consumer (induced) needs. To overcome the digital divide, which is also a gender divide, (computer) literacy programs and access to improved ICT infrastructure are unavoidable pre-conditions.

+ ICTs especially the internet today connects the whole world instantaneously. Information is knowledge leading to empowerment. The recent Arab Spring was possible because of ICT.

+ Yes these are very important. If producers can send marketers catalog of their good to sell we can much more information to tell the customers who will buy them. The more the marketer can know about a product the better they can sell on behalf of the producers.

+ The internet has given the world access to the plight of marginalized peoples as well as provided opportunities for us to see firsthand the needs of individuals who have been victims of natural disasters

+ ICTs have an impact on empowerment. At the same time for those poor people who have not even a meal sometimes this does not empower, as the youth specially the boys who get little money seem to be using it on these ICTs when their parents are working so hard even to feed them. Due to lack of proper education and the sudden exposure to these ICTs allure them into false happiness and then destroy their future and the future of our own society.

+ ICT and Internet does help to empower others because it gives people the access to information worldwide. An example would be EdX, the free online course provided by Ivy League schools. A lot of young people could not afford to go to these Ivy League schools. With the existence of EdX, they can now gain access to a top-notch education which will empower them to fulfill their potentials in life.

+ Yes as distant learning and mentorship is made possible from almost any place in the world now

+ Yes. Use of cell phones to keep rural women in Africa safer, help them market their products, and help provide contact with health care providers Teaching computer skills to children in remote areas can lead to jobs, even permit people to set up computer-based "cottage industries" Look at the use of people in Pakistan and India to help make plane reservations!

- Yes: AVAAZ, Get Up, Conservation Council of Western Australia, Pachamama Alliance have all achieved remarkable successes by empowering people to act for change

- It can be a useful tool but people need to be self-confident.

- There are 500 good, FREE online courses, from leading universities, at everyone's service on the internet. What are lacking are the organization and will to make such assets known, to make them readily accessible, and, in a way, to market them to marginalized peoples..

- Yes because it keeps people-up-to-date.

How is empowerment related to inequality in societies?

♦   Inequality for women, persons with disabilities, elderly, emigrants, people of color, people of different religion and others because of a historical discrimination against them. Empowering these people and others will eliminate the inequality in societies, by helping them in making decision about one's own life that will open the door to more opportunities.

♦   Es desigual, en sociedades profundamente machistas y patriarcales en la región (América Latina), muchas niñas y jovencitas, les negaban el derecho a la educación. Ha sido un proceso largo de motivación y concientización y poco a poco se va abriendo camino, sin embargo es muy diferente a mujeres en otros países por ejemplo Estados Unidos, que han tenido una trayectoria de incorporación a la educación y oportunidades de desarrollo. La educación es clave para el empoderamiento. Y considero que lo que más pesa en estos momentos en muchas mujeres en América Latina es que todavía no creemos que somos capaces, y por eso los avances son tímidos e inseguros, esto se refleja mucho en la participación política.

♦   The distribution of power - is just like the steps. Stepping up and down - empowered-one steps up, while the powerful (until now) steps down, and again, up and down until they eventually, equalize... that is why I believe it has to be a two-way process to achieve equality or equity at least.

♦   The access to a variety of useful public and private services is one of the means to reduce inequality in societies. The ELISAN network aims to have the role of protecting the most vulnerable one through a society of solidarity.

♦   Everyone is not equal in the society, empowerment is the ability to acquire some skills or education to be self-reliance, while inequality is always present in the society, but with understanding they can work together as one.

- Once empowered, people challenge inequality - they question traditional divides and hegemony.

- Gender inequalities in the society are very much related with the empowerment of women. Women must become active in the society by gaining the rights of entering the educational fields, work forces and so on.

- Empowerment is the means through which inequalities can be fought.

- Leaving aside corruption and bad practices, inequality in the society comes mainly from inequality in access to education. As the very introduction to this survey says "empowerment and participation are essential for democracy, harmony and social development". Each person should have the opportunity of education so as to be able to develop his/her capabilities for his own benefit and the benefit of the society. Ignorance and illiteracy make people an easy prey of unscrupulous governments and ideologies imposed with pressure.

- To empower inequality in society it needs awareness, so promoting Awareness creation - training programs for the society regarding persons with disabilities and the right of the persons with disabilities. Raise awareness throughout society starting at family level regarding the right and respect, dignity of persons with disabilities and promote positive perception and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities. Promote recognition of skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities and their contribution to the work place, the labor market, to the society at whole to their country.

- Increasing empowerment in our view also means addressing the roots of inequalities by bringing values and principles such as equity to the heart of policy-making.

- The rich will always be richer, but the poor with a change of attitude, belief, and the simple positive thought can be rich in mind and manifestation when one is empowered they can better relate to society, and feel a sense of belonging.

- Reducing inequality by giving opportunities.

⚜ If people are not empowered, inequalities are created. To build a culture of cooperation and partnership, empowerment is needed.

⚜ Equality of outcome is often compared to related concepts of equality. Generally, the concept is most often contrasted with the concept of equality of opportunity, but there are other concepts as well. The term has been seen differently from differing political perspectives, but of all of the terms relating to equality, equality of outcome is the most "controversial" or "contentious".

⚜ As noted previously, when you empower the individual and the group you give them a chance to better compete and advance in society.

⚜ Inequality in societies happens, in part, because one part of that society is empowered more than another part. The inequality continues to grow as the empowerment of one group over another remains in place. We must strive to find a system by which empowerment programs are designed to empower all in society. If there is one group with less access to decision making and power structures, it is important to work towards equality in those sectors. The Accra Confession, affirmed by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (now the World Communion of Reformed Churches) "reject the culture of rampant consumerism and the competitive greed and selfishness of the neoliberal global market system, or any other system, which claims there is no alternative." Here, the church community is recognizing that inequality in societies comes from systems put into place that maximize rampant consumerism and competitive greed rather than a system whereby all are valued as equal.

⚜ Empowerment always closes the gap between those who have equal to those who don't have so all of them benefit.

⚜ Empowerment leads to a subjective sense of dignity and value of an individual. This is a first step for people to flag their issues, be seen and be heard and change the perception of members of a given group.

⚜ There is a converse relationship between empowerment and inequality. The more inclusive and positive the society, the more empowered its participants. The more there is inequality, the more barriers exist to empowerment.

➕ If a group or an individual has no power, it is highly likely that the person will not have access to income or institutions.

➕ Firstly I will consider inequalities on a broader level that is including caste systems, gender inequality and ethnic inequalities. With these background understanding, empowerment role will be that of building bridges where there is a ditch in the sense that it will serve as a platform for providing equal opportunities to those that otherwise may not have had assess to that opportunity.

➕ Those groups who are not given the chance to make choices are discriminated and produce inequality in society.

➕ This is a very serious problem, a struggle between the haves and the have not. The more powerful and wealthy nations have not done enough to help the poorer nations. Unfortunately the poorer nations many of them are ruled by dictators who are corrupt and take much of the aid sent to poor nations.

➕ Some people have more resources/opportunities due to family and/or connections and therefore they have become the have more and vice verse, those with less end up with less. There is a tendency that a small number of people have the majority of the wealth while a larger number of people are poor.

➕ Growing inequality as occurring today is disempowering more and more people and making them vulnerable to falling into poverty and excluding them from being involved. Growing inequality disempowers, disrespects and violates human rights, exploits human and natural resources for economic and financial profit and disregards the dignity of the person. Empowering people by implementing human rights based approaches to services and programmes within societies is one way of addressing inequalities and the structures and systems that perpetuate inequalities and allows them to persist.

➕ Not everyone gets a chance to learn and develop themselves. It is our responsibility with all privileges that we have to do what we can to help people in other side of the world.

➕ IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT THOUGH WE WANT EMPOWERMENT FOR US THIS EMPOWERMENT ALSO LEADS TO FACILITATING SOME AND DEPRIVING OTHERS. THE LEVEL OF EMPOWERMENT IS NOT EQUAL IN EVERY SOCIETY. IT VARIES

FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY DEPENDING UPON ITS POPULATION, EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS WORK EXPERIENCES AND A COUNTRY'S LIMITATIONS. A RICH COUNTRY CAN VERY WELL PULL OFF AS MANY CANDIDATES AS IT WANTS. BUT IN CASE OF A POOR COUNTRY EMPOWERMENT REQUIRES RESOURCES WHICH THE COUNTRY MIGHT NOT HAVE. SO VERY OFTEN IT IS SEEN THAT PEOPLE MIGRATE TO PLACES WHERE THEY ARE PROVIDED JOBS FROM A REGION WHERE THEY WERE JOBLESS. THIS SOMETIMES LEADS TO EMPLOYMENT IN A HAZARDOUS JOB WHICH THEY ARE OBLIGED TO DO BECAUSE THERE IS A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL.

IN ORDER TO EMPOWER THE VERY NEEDED DEVELOPING AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THE GOVERNMENT'S OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST PROVIDE FUNDS AND CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION FACILITIES FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH NEED THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT. AND THE PEOPLE WHO MIGRATE TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN SEARCH OF JOBS THEY SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH DECENT AND FULL EMPLOYMENT AS AND IF POSSIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOAL OF EMPOWERING THE MASSES WOULD REMAIN AN UTMOST DUTY FOR ALL THE DEVELOPED, DEVELOPING AND LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS.

➕ Only free societies can have everyone empowered so that they would achieve and give all their potential for the benefit for everyone. Anyone suppressed in some way cannot give their best and reach the potential they have unless they start struggling for it. Any society suppressing a part of its population also loses the potential of the suppressed.

➕ People that are in better economic condition, have high education good health will have better opportunities in life than Indigenous Peoples and people living in poverty because these will have to struggle to get high education and increase their income and improve their life style.

➕ The lack of education promotes poverty thus those that are educated can be healthier, stronger and more successful but the uneducated will remain poor less healthy. The key to empowerment is education and communication.

➕ Some rulers feel obliged to have armies that help them control populations. This divides the people into those who have, and those who have not. Those who are to guide others must listen to those who they are guiding.

- In many societies, women are undervalued. This certainly leads to inequality. In almost every society, persons with disabilities are not well served with necessities of their lives. Even the US, which has the ADA, has a long way to go to reach this goal.

- Sin empoderamiento no es posible la acción transformadora colectiva organizada horizontalmente, y la experiencia nos enseña que las respuestas que se estructuran jerárquicamente acaban burocratizándose y convirtiéndose en parte dócil del sistema que se pretendía transformar

- The difference here would be where empowerment of the people gave rise to feeding the egos of those with political aspirations that were incongruent with those of the collective or community. Wherever you have people whose lives are impoverished you will find those who seek power for themselves rather than for the people - unfortunately that will not end any time soon. But truly educating the people that promises are nothing but promises not actions and it is actions and integrity that truly moves the economic engine of a community perhaps may give an edge to the people. That requires education in all that the word implies.

- Empowerment gives equal opportunities to individuals to work and develop. Individuals may need simple skills that help them improve their standard of living. When an individual is deprived from empowerment; he/she will be deprive from essential factors for development and integration. Empowering people is thus the ultimate aim of civilized societies.

- The person or group that has power controls the resources and tends to use them for their own priorities. This means that the disempowered have little control over resources and therefore are more likely to be poorer. The greater the power differential within communities the greater the inequality. E.g. India has more of the world's poor than any other country, but also more of the world's billionaires. However, it also has a patriarchal culture where women are often disempowered and female infanticide is practiced, lower castes and tribal groups are discriminated against, persons with disabilities are hidden away and not valued, and people affected by leprosy are stigmatized and cursed. Unless the powerful can be held to account for the fair distribution of resources and greater social justice, poverty and discrimination will remain. Therefore, empowerment of marginalized groups, making them aware of their rights and entitlements, supporting them to envision change and have the education, knowledge, skills and opportunity for their voice to be heard and for them to attain positions of influence, is essential for development. It should be recognized that inequalities are often the stimulus for violence and conflict, and therefore tackling issues of inequality can help to mitigate the risk of political instability.

- Empowerment is related to inequality in societies when individuals place their own personal agendas ahead of the common goal. A rising tide lifts all boats.

- In societies where citizens are empowered there is less inequality.

- Home Economics demands gender equality as determining factor for decent work. Home Economists acknowledge the importance of equality in education, employment and business. Both, women and men, should have access to primary and higher education, and through the empowerment that knowledge gives, should seek suitable employment or become entrepreneurs. The skills learned and the equal opportunities acquired also improve the quality of life at home. From the Home Economics perspective, family life at home should be built on equal partnership. As women are increasingly involved in employment, it is crucial to observe the sphere of home, to avoid a situation where new possibilities would mean double burden for women. Home Economics as a professional discipline, want work-life balance to be a reality for both women and men to secure the basics for decent work especially for women.

- Understanding gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities. This task is related to the critical need for sex-disaggregated data.

- If one is not empowered one does not see oneself as valuable as others.

- When they get their rights to participate in all activities.

- Inequality is being uneven which in this case implies social disparities among people. Social disparities occur by virtue of one's association with another in relation to their social status or class. Empowerment has a lot to do with such disparities because with empowerment comes power to influence others based on the economic muscle. The economically stronger become the influencing factor in any social interaction. This can be seen in the relations between men and women in society, where traditionally men have had more access to education and economic opportunities than the women and as a result this has greatly made women so vulnerable and are mainly victims of abuse. Empowerment should therefore be to all so that everyone is able to participate in matters of community and nationwide benefit without intimidation or coercion.

🔱	The basic assumption is that given a chance people will make good, sound decisions for themselves and their lives, including attempting to remove some of the inequalities they experience. We have to ensure that this is the kind of 'empowerment' we are aiming for, not just giving people a vote or a voice but no tools or resources.

🔱	Inequalities increase the disadvantaged population and this is one of the barrier of empowerment.

🔱	People live in society with different caste and creed which is the main problems of creating inequality among the masses.

🔱	Access to opportunities relates to inequality.

🔱	Societies that are unequal usually have a high number of people who either are disempowered or feel disempowered. If more people are empowered, it doesn't necessarily mean the inequality will go away, but it means that there is hope that change will happen. People have to feel as if they can make a difference. People who are empowered in their own lives feel that they can have an effect on something greater than themselves.

🔱	If people are viewed as lesser or seen in a certain way it then becomes the looking glass-self and will start to believe that they are as others perceive them and cannot in-turn set their own viewpoint.

🔱	Empowerment and inequality share an inverse relationship. The more the marginalized people are empowered to live with dignity and exercise their rights without being socially degraded by the communities the lesser will be the social inequality arising out of unfair treatment. Thus empowerment is a unconditional step in reducing the social inequality in societies.

🔱	People who feel that they have a stake in their society are not apathetic and will seek to redress gross inequality.

🔱	Upper or at least stable income individuals, when so inclined, have access to financial and other resources. That, often can lead to the mentality of "I achieved wealth and power, why can't you." They forget or don't want to know that someone else provided the money and access to

good contacts for them. Or, in a lot of instances, race, family background, or education can limit the ability to see other people's circumstances.

♣ Inequality exists and is exacerbated by the financial divide. In today's world, the divide is growing. Those who are not empowered remain on the lowest part of the social ladder because they cannot sustain employment or a decent living. If we continue to empower social groups, especially those living in poverty, we will close that divide. It stands to reason that once people are gainfully employed and can provide for their families, that empowerment will help them to move into other spheres of society. I believe in the ideal of hard work and decent wages along with education can lift anyone up from poverty. Once that has happened, people are empowered.

♣ I think inequality in societies is due to lack of empowerment. As some section of the society is having less resources of information, earning opportunities as a result those who are already well empowered exploit them as they are unaware of their rights and the empowered class exploit this disempowered class to such an extent that they think it is there destiny to be in that state but once we start to empower them there state of mind and standard of living will both change which will bring a sense of equality of being a human being amongst the societies.

♣ Empowerment of the underprivileged is likely to reduce inequality.

♣ Women and girls must be given the ability to engage in education, training and then job opportunities that pay well. Breaking the generations of poverty only comes about when everyone is encouraged to achieve their potential.

♣ Increase self esteem may address the problem of the socially unequal treatment.

♣ People coming from the groups living in poverty are very often deprived from basic tools that could enable them achieve decent and sustainable work, which puts them automatically in a lower classes of society. Lower classes have no or very limited influence on economical and social developments, thus an empowerment of these groups would help overcome their inequality in society.

Empowerment helps to reduce social inequality by leveling the playing field - someone born with four limbs, for example, has an advantage over someone born with three. Policies that address this gap help to ensure equality of opportunity.

🗡️   Economic inequality is related to social and political inequality. More empowerment, more social and political equality, so more economic equality.

🗡️   Inequality allows some segments of society that are strong and without conscience to intimidate and swindle the weak.

🗡️   Inequality isn't something that remains within the confines of a single generation, it passes from generation to generation. If parents aren't educated, then it is more likely that the children wouldn't get the privilege either. The gap between the literate and illiterate increases. Therefore, empowerment is necessary to reduce this gap.

🗡️   It is human nature to have inequalities and this too should be respected. Empowerment can be used to ensure the ability of disadvantaged to be heard but in most societies there will always be inequalities. It is more important to handle inequalities with respect rather than try to eliminate inequalities.

🗡️   One of the ways is the distribution of wealth, resources and the access to necessary information and resources that up to now has been linked with wealth or lack of it.

🗡️   Empowerment is a rich source of growth and societal wealth when the least powerful have the idea and the courage to empower themselves. That can lead to more benefit than just doing the normal work of each group in its own area.

🗡️   When people are empowered, it bridges the gap created by inequality.

🗡️   Empowerment happens where inequality does not exist. In empowered societies, barriers are broken down, people set free from bondages of culture, religion and traditional imprisonment. In essence, inequality disenfranchises people. Wealth kills poverty, freedom kills inequality in rights, education eliminates ignorance and on and on. For instance if societies develop the economics of youth empowerment, that will drive public awareness and education – consistently at local and national level and give a platform for the youth voice.

🗡️   Empowerment means that people -both women and men – can take control over their lives: set their own agendas, gain skills (or have their own skills and knowledge recognized), increase self-confidence, solve problems, and develop self-reliance. It is both a process and an

outcome.

- A very wealthy man in a third world country drives and beats the traffic and is not apprehended. A poor man does same but would be arrested and penalized Empowerment gives a higher hand economically and otherwise to the individual just as the government systems in third world countries favors major those in the wealthy class. There will always be inequality as people differ in rate of understand, location, market power, skills etc. Empowered people gradually move to a higher economic class.

- If people felt self-confident and supported, they would not feel threatened by others.

- Lack of education and knowledge.

- Those who have education, internet communication, health care, employment, sustainable food and water, do not always reach back to assist others. They become complacent and perhaps jealously guard their position, leading to inequality in society.

- When people's comfort zones are limited to those who are like them and, when they are ready to do anything to maintain that comfort zones, inequality rises.

- In societies, individuals who are empowered are heard, and it is more likely that their rights and demands will be respected. A disempowered individual is at a disadvantage.

- Much of the power in the world today is based on wealth. People in vulnerable minorities are generally not part of the wealthy class of a country. People of wealth currently can pay for the help needed to meet their service needs, e.g., education, health, proper housing, water and sanitation, etc. People who cannot afford to pay for these services must rely on the government or charity to provide these services which lowers their self esteem and leads to hopelessness. This perpetuates the inequalities in society.

- It is instrumental in to create the means and opportunities that help individuals and social groups work towards uplifting their socio-economic and political development. Without empowerment, fragmentation along the social groupings as evident correlates to majority of the socio-economic and political ills is guaranteed. Inequality strives in such conditions.

✤ I think it is a matter of lack of self-esteem; the circle of insecure youth who just needs to be invited and feel welcome.

✤ Empowerment of the wrong people, such as nationalistic, racist, and dictatorial people and groups, can have an extremely negative impact on societies.

✤ It seems that empowerment is pre-determined according to the way government is set up. In a democracy or a republic, which many consider the better word to explain our system of government, power is more equally distributed among the people---it is not a system of control by the few from the top (consider the pyramid shape) where power resides in the hands of the few and control is assured. It would seem obvious that empowerment is not encouraged in societies that limit freedom since empowerment could become a threat in such places. We have seen this in the tragic uprising in Syria and in the various countries where freedom has been limited and control is in the hands of the few.

✤ Economic Conditions, Political inequalities, Job Inequalities, etc..

✤ If we continue to talk about education helping to "empower" people we are also saying that much of the inequality we see and feel can be reduced through access to good education.

✤ If we had true equality there would be no need for empowerment. But as we do not - most certainly - and lack of empowerment causes so much human misery, degradation and waste, it is essential for a more just world that we address inequality and work for empowerment.

✤ If people are not empowered they will lack a sense of belonging in their society and they will always feel alien in their societies.

✤ Empowerment to be takes some step in the societies, like as : 1.Any celebration in the civilization stage 2. Educate programming 3. Art & culture gathering 4.Group discussion sitting 5. Social expansion scheme 6.Social teaching mission 7.Contribution & Gift for the objective peoples.

✤ Those in power do not readily want to share it. Instead of encouraging the talents of all, the powerful tend to hold on to it as if by right.

- The persons need to be active in creating and achieving own destiny.

- If people feel disempowered they will not have the motivation to instigate change. This may result in them continuing to remain on the edges of society, where other people, who do not represent their interests, making decisions for them, which may hinder their ability to grow and develop as a people.

- Empowerment can break down the inequalities. Existing inequalities are barriers to empowerment. If empowerment can occur in ways that are not threatening to those currently benefiting from inequalities, the empowerment may long term erase the inequalities.

- The powerless have suffered inequality for most of history.

- I believe that inequality is directly related to disempowerment.

- Societies that want to maintain a two class model seem to intentional deprive sections of their society with less in the way of basic human needs.

- The empowered are more powerful; therefore, usually richer, more educated, more traveled, more esteemed, more popular, etc. Those who are not empowered (or not as fully empowered) are the opposite; i.e., poor equivalent to the lack of opportunity, lack of education, lack of income, lack of socialization.

- We need only to look at the youth in our cities and compare their opportunities to the youth in the suburbs.

- Disempowered persons have little or no access and thus are stagnant in inequality. This become debilitating of the human spirit and depresses society and creative endeavors as a whole.

- It seems that the more people are empowered, the less inequality there is.

- The relation becomes more evident if one looks at the slow progress generated by four development decades, during which the importance of supporting people to fight for their rights and determine their own future has been often underestimated.

✠   If a person or group is not empowered they do not have the same opportunities to education, employment and other resources.

✠   Inequality in society creates the need to empower individuals as many do not have the education, skills and tools that they need to take part in the economy.

✠   If you define empowerment as economic power then there is a large disparity in people's ability to have a voice with or without feeling empowered.

✠   The rich has all the access to information, technology, education, resources and facilities. Unless we empower the poor and vulnerable inequality can never be overcome. At the same time I wonder if we ever achieve equality through empowerment. We seem to be talking and doing surveys etc but the situation of the poor and the marginalized does not improve at all. The poor are helped because of the few committed people in the world.

✠   Not everyone has the same opportunity and talents which usually cause inequality. With empowerment, people would have more equal opportunities.

✠   Clearly for all the above reasons they are inversely proportionate – more empowerment = less inequality Happy to speak more and more about all this.

✠   Those who are in power, have all the tools that promote power--education, etc.-- while those who are "out" are OUT of luck....

✠   Empowerment is related to inequality in societies in that the most disadvantaged feel and are often disempowered - they lack choice, are ignored, often lack education (which empowers). The situation is often repeated from one generation to another, so perpetuating disempowerment. Governments often contribute by maintaining the status quo. Current attitudes to economics contribute to inequality by seeking profit at cost to humanity and the rest of creation.

✠   People who are poor, homeless and/or unemployed often feel very powerless.

✠   Lack of empowerment promotes poverty and exclusion. The consequent separations foster a strong sense of inequality.

＋	If there is a low level of empowerment, different groups will not have the same access to a quality future.

Please provide any additional comments?

+ Our hope for a better future to all people can be achieved by providing them with good education and health, by improving their confidence and self esteem, and that start at a very early age.

+ Considero que el empoderamiento es un proceso. Que se necesita de liderazgo político carismático, para invertir en las personas, y conocimiento en Derechos Humanos. Creer en las personas, a veces no creemos que una persona pueda cambiar su situación, sin embargo, hay personas que necesitan de un pequeño empujón para dar el paso. Y es admirable todo lo que las personas son capaces de cambiar y transformar sus vidas y su entorno cuando se les brinda las oportunidades.

+ Empowerment should also consider not only giving power for the political, social, economic aspects, but also the moral and spiritual aspects and specially the affective and emotional aspects of a person. Societies that allow and protect those values empower more the people and their life satisfaction, specially protecting them from depression, the illness of the XXI century in developed societies. Empowering people would also mean that he /she is able to find physical and psychological balance mostly with love and affection with their family members and friends. Therefore policies that protect families (constitution, duration) and social policies that allow having time to meet with their friends and family and this is something missing today and more work-family balance policies should allow this. Also regarding education, the policies concerning right to education and education of ethics are important, access to education and freedom to chose the education without economic discriminations are also important.

+ As a youth organization based here in Sierra Leone, we are involved in different programmes related to empowerment of youth, older person, person with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples in Sierra Leone. We are looking forward to any organization who wishes to help us to win our cause. I hope our on line survey will help on promoting empowerment of people.

- We would like to request you to discuss the role of Culture (intangible cultural heritage) in social empowerment, fostering inclusion and augmenting livelihood options by developing creative industry and address developing appropriate policy framework.

- More opportunities and platforms for the minorities is crucial.

- It is a fascinating subject and I wish I had more time to reflect on this subject. I simply believe that anyone can make a difference in his/her life, that empowerment is about realizing our own capacity to change a situation. Empowerment is a universal concept and the world is full of examples of individuals, groups, communities who have brought about transformational change in their own society. It does however require an enabling and supportive environment that governments/regional and international organizations can promote Empowerment is an positive/affirmative action to bring change in societies. Volunteerism, civic engagement are all forms of empowerment.

- In many countries the main hindrance to development, equality and social inclusion is the scourge of corruption spread at all levels. Funds allocated to improve the wellbeing of the citizens in different fields don't reach their destination, but they are appropriated by people who handled them. Lack of accountability and transparency perpetuate this practice. The pressure from Northern countries on developing ones to implement family planning policies (like the recent London forum promoted by Bill and Melissa Gates) does not help the situation. Family planning is not a synonym of development but instead giving priority to it offers governments the chance of hiding their deficiencies in providing education, health services infrastructure, housing without accountability.

- I am grateful to the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for offering this opportunity to people to share their views on some of the global challenges the international community and communities are facing.

- Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express some thoughts, hope they can bring some measure of hope to those in need.

- Society plays a major role in people's empowerment and they must respond effectively to the needs of individuals, their families and the communities.

✤   These types of Survey are really helpful for your organization as you get in touch with people from all walks.

✤   We cannot emphasize enough how much we would encourage DSPD weaving the cooperative model into their ongoing work. The UN General Assembly in 2009 and again in Rio Plus 20, 193 countries spoke loudly and clearly on how vital cooperatives are for poverty eradication and sustainable development. DSPD has a chance, a golden opportunity, to advance this model which countries large and small know from firsthand experience through credit unions, cooperative banks, agriculture projects; housing, transportation systems, medical systems and a long list of other cooperatives- build a better world. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

✤   Engaging with faith based civil society partners is important in any work for empowerment. Religious leaders can be effective voices of change in places where change is difficult. The freedom of expression and the freedom of religion or belief are important tools in the empowerment of people around the world.

✤   If the poor rural and women are empowered by good education, health and are provided the required capital, they will help immensely in the fight against hunger and poverty
.

✤   Happy to provide more background on related approaches and examples of UNV's work. Thank you.

✤   The core values which empower any group are: the equality of women and men, free universal compulsory education, honoring all faiths and cultures, recognizing the principle of unity and diversity, the elimination of the extremes of wealth and poverty, and recognizing that we are all here to advance civilization.

✤   I am of the sole opinion that empowerment should be left in the hands of social groups. Social groups on a closer look are formed with the interest of the other people at heart. It is brought forth out of pure passion for the cause in which they were formed and any fund in their possession will be utilized perfectly in fulfilling that dream.

✤   The U.N. was founded on principals of democracy and requires all nations to live up to the charter of the U.N. which they have agreed to follow. Nations should be penalized when they treated their people unjustly. Perhaps these kinds of nations should be deprived of all their

membership rights and not be allowed to speak or vote at the U.N. until these nations become democratic.

♣   The 90's produced great far seeing documents like the Copenhagen Declaration among other rooted in ethical values and principles like - people centered development, poverty eradication, gender equality, inclusion, right to dignified work. These were further enhanced with the Millennium Declaration. However, the ongoing development of financial markets and economies with the rise of globalization seems to be informed by profit only. These engage in exploitative activities, violating human rights and human dignity, exploiting labor, exploiting natural resources, and disregarding the effect on the environment and climate issues. Greed and the unethical accumulation of wealth by a few at the expense of persons, the environment and the common good have led to today's situation of gross inequality.

♣   Empowerment is much needed in this age of globalization where reforms are not adequate to meet the minimum requirements of people. There are many people who still lives under the veil of ignorance and reaching out to them in every possible way is a challenge which the government's and its people can only fulfill by little cooperation and sincere efforts.

♣   I am aware that the work of empowerment has to begin all over again in every generation. I am also aware of the hard lesson there is in George Orwell's "Animal Farm" where the oppressed eventually become the oppressors. Human nature is imperfect and it takes a long time to discover that looking after others' interests is the best way to ensure one's own happiness.

♣   If entire community or society gets empowered the Nation will develop, poverty will be eradicated and all citizens will have full employment and decent work.

♣   United Nations Conferences create empowerment by bringing people together. When people come together peacefully people learn from each other and bring back information to their people.

♣   On the empowerment of people, women in particular, it would help to empower women if the UN obeyed its own injunctions and chose a woman to be the next Secretary General. It would help to empower women if officials in the UN suggested to the UN Catholic representative that the Pope should announce that women were able to serve as priests. It would empower women if the Catholic representative appointed to the UN was a woman. It would help to empower women if the major religions were invited to send either men or women to the UN to sit in as representatives. It would help to empower women who find themselves in prison, slums,

or refugee camps, if their human rights to education and respect were observed. It would help to empower the women in Africa if their property and legal rights were equal to the property and legal rights of the men in their countries.

⚜ Good luck in your endeavors. And, thank you again, for the nice video.

⚜ We will strongly recommend that Empowerment should be included in the MDGs and other UN strategies at all level. Some people think Empowerment is not measurable, but now it proved wrong.

⚜ The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is an international development organization working with individuals and communities affected by leprosy, disability and other neglected tropical diseases. Over the last 10 years it has had a much greater focus on programmes that approach poverty reduction and social integration through facilitating the empowerment of its target group.

⚜ Thank you for taking time to put together this survey. I would have liked to write more, but I am pressed for time.

⚜ Four types of fundamental social bonds link the individual to society: - the family bond, which links the individual to her/his family in the narrow sense and the broad sense and plays an important role in the construction of his/her identity from birth; - the bond of community membership which characterizes socialization outside the family whereby the individual learns to manage his/her relationships with neighbors, local communities, religious, sports and cultural institutions, etc. It also enables individuals to experiment with mutual help and solidarity; - the bond of organic participation which is established at school and continues into the work environment; each individual learns a social position likely to provide her/him with basic protection and the feeling of being useful; - the bond of citizenship based on the principle of belonging to a nation that acknowledges the rights and duties of its members and is obliged to enable them to function as fully-fledged citizens. These bonds can be seriously altered or destroyed by social exclusion, without these bonds empowerment and access to human rights cannot be achieved.

⚜ Home Economics knowledge basis for everyday life competences and income generating Home Economics is a field of study and a profession, situated in the human sciences that draws from a range of disciplines to achieve optimal and sustainable living for individuals, families and communities. Home Economists are concerned with the empowerment and wellbeing of

individuals, families and communities, and of facilitating the development of attributes for lifelong learning for paid, unpaid and voluntary work; and living situations. Poverty alleviation, gender equality and social justice concerns are a priority of Home Economics professionals (IFHE Position Statement 2008). Home Economics is multidisciplinary and is in the position to contribute to the increasing of productive capacity, decent work and employment.

♣ Empowerment programmes should be evenly distributed to the nooks and crannies of any society. It should be the programme that will enhance social integration, help people in penury and create a lot of Business Owners.

♣ It is vital to note that gender and disability is mainstreamed in the process of facilitating empowerment to all vulnerable groups.

♣ In any attempt to empower the marginalized we have to be very careful to not be merely imposing one view or concept of what that looks like. This is one of the biggest challenges I think.

♣ Empowerment of the disadvantaged population will increase participation in the development activities and this will ensure Peace and Development and we will be able to get a beautiful Earth.

♣ Without Human Rights no empowerment of all.

♣ This is a complex issue and there is no simple solution. It is hopeful that the UN keeps speaking for those who often have very few or no one to speak for them. Their own governments often oppress them and the wider world community is silent or does not know how to intervene. The UN at times is the only organization that can at least draw attention to things without being accused of a motive of self interest.

♣ Empowerment is the foundation towards development of a consolidated Nation. It is required not only from the point of social and economic justice, but also to further the nation's development. Till the time empowerment of weaker sections of the society is not achieved, economic prosperity of the country is far sighted.

✦ I believe that we must strive for the empowerment of social groups, and we must also provide sustainability for the improvements that are made. In every sphere, whether it is urban problems or rural problems, agriculture or manufacturing, the world must see that poverty should not exist. With all the riches of natural resources, no one should live in poverty.

✦ People are poor not because they choose to be so or they are lazy. The circumstances and the socio- political system of our society is keeping them so. We need a structural change beginning with shift in mind set. Value of a person is to be measured not by what she/he possesses materially, but who she/he is as a human being. Poverty should not be tolerated in this 21st century. Rewrite the MDG 1. Eradicate total poverty globally, not to half the number. We need to deal with living human beings not mere statistics and numbers. Thank you for conducting this survey.

✦ There must be some sort of method to implement government policies regarding empowerment of underprivileged people. Develop methods to measure the empowerment and announce the results of achievement every year.

✦ We would like to encourage rural people, especially rural women, to be an especial population of concern to DSPD. Of course, Indigenous Peoples often live in rural areas, but the two groups are not the same. It is important that rural people are not neglected in the ever-accelerating rush toward urbanization and technology.

✦ I believe that all problems can be transformed by self-empowerment. The whole world is open for change and the UN is the most important focal point for a range of activities to make this happen.

✦ Empowerment is very necessary at all level if sustainable environment will be achieved.

✦ I love the quote 'Ideas like viruses are contagious, what ideas are you spreading about Africa Today!' The fight for empowerment of all people should not be left to professionals and politicians alone, all hands must be on deck for it to succeed.

✦ The United Nations should work directly with NGOs and they should be part of policy making from the start.

- I feel so concerned about the third world countries, maybe because I am trapped in the claws of its uncertainties and bad leadership. I believe if this world will turn around for the better and it will start with a change of heart; in a way those in power perceive the 'weak'. I strongly believe education will be a strong tool for this change. If 'weak' are educated and empowered, their relevance will be seen and even lead them to be economically relevant. This can heighten their ambition for leadership and in the long run build a new crop of value driven leaders who will seek to give all equal opportunity to rise through any empowerment scheme.

- Not much is achievable without the political will of governments and elites. Governments make promises, but getting them to follow through on their promises is far more difficult.

- Comfort zones will always exist. What societies can do is stretch those comfort zones, especially when people are young.

- Although I am not an expert on the issue, I find it compelling. It is so important to empower people; empowerment is the energy that fuels people's development.

- I commend this theme. Poverty, aggravated by lack of decent employment opportunities continues to divide societies along the various social groupings. Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment is indispensible to create the threatened social cohesion that will see our societies thrive.

- I hope the United Nations Commission for Social Development gives to Youth, decision making capabilities in areas that would affect them; I also wish the Commission the best of luck in their work.

- Empowerment is at most vision and mission.

- Education, adults, children, whole families, books, libraries, movies, conversation outside the insular group, church activities. Becoming convinced that all of this can make a difference.

- Involve everybody in the empowerment process and procure goodwill from all the stakeholders.

I did not have the time to formulate many of the comments I would have like to have given, but do appreciate the opportunity to have said what I did. Inequality will always exist...but how we treat each other does not have to be a part of that inequality.

L'autonomisation est le seul moyen de combattre bon nombre de problèmes.

Here, it is appropriate to recall the Resolution on Social Integration adopted by the 48th Session of the Commission for Social Integration as follows: Recognizes that poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration are interrelated, and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously, and that policies to pursue these objectives must promote social justice, social cohesion, economic recovery and growth, and be economically and environmentally sustainable;… Recognizes that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger. ECOSOC Resolution E/2010/INF/2/Add.1.

Women are of their nature enterprising and if they are given the proper access to employment, they will be empowered and they will empower others.

I please plead the international organizations committed to the cause of the poor to take your work seriously. We seem to be spending so much money to keep up the institutions and organizations at local and international level in the name of the poor, but very little change is experienced at the grassroots level. Can we work in such a way some concrete difference if made to the lives of the people we are talking so much about? Thank you.

Many people want to empower others, but they do it separately, causing less impact. To achieve great empowerment, much collaboration is needed among the three sectors and in each sector itself. Nations need to unite and work together.

It is hard to feel empowered in a society where the wealthy have an inordinate say in matters of policy. An example of this was the mining tax. The wealthy mining lobby got their way with a very watered down version of the tax.