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TUL 560 – Community Economics

Level 2 Reading Log

February 19, 2012

**LEVEL 2:** Poverty Assessment

**Greer, P. and. Phil. Smith. (2009). The Poor Will Be Glad. Grand Rapids, Zondervan. Chapters 5,6.**

Pages: 35

Abstract:

* *Summary:* “It takes money to make money” – capital often required to start business/savings but in many parts of the world interest rates and fees make loans, savings and bank accounts impossible (also, obligation to help family members). Simplicity of rotating and saving solution should not be dismissed: Rotating Savings and Credit Associations. Many advantages, model can be expanded, tweaked to mitigate risk (founders, contributions increase over time, modify to work like a credit union, church-centered RSCA’s).
* *Quotes:* “For many in the developing world, everything revolves around today…Beginning to accumulate savings helps shift an individual’s focus from today to tomorrow. A family’s timeline begins to change.”

**Laura Camfield, Gina Crivello and Martin Woodhead. *Wellbeing Research in Developing Countries: Reviewing the Role of Qualitative Methods.* Social Indicators Research. Volume 90, Number 1, 5-31**(available for free online through APU libraries)

Pages: 28

Abstract:

* *Summary:* Qualitative methods should be used alongside quantitative research in measuring well-being of people in developing countries, though they are sometimes in tension with one another. Challenges: qualitative must be sensitive and require more time and care in their execution; some researchers do not find it accurate or meaningful (i.e. public policy). Research moving from “survival” to “well-being” (more holistic) though defined differently by international indicators, local opinion, etc.

**Jon Westover. *The Record of Microfinance: The Effectiveness/Ineffectiveness of Microfinance Programs as a Means of Alleviating Poverty*. Electronic Journal of Sociology (2008)** [**http://www.sociology.org/content/2008/\_westover\_finance.pdf?referer=http%3A%2F%2Fscholar.google.com%2Fscholar%3Frlz%3D1T4GZAG\_enUS447US447%26q%3Dmicrofinance%2Beffectiveness%26um%3D1%26ie%3DUTF8%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN%26tab%3Dws#search=%22microfinance%20effectiveness%22**](http://www.sociology.org/content/2008/_westover_finance.pdf?referer=http%3A%2F%2Fscholar.google.com%2Fscholar%3Frlz%3D1T4GZAG_enUS447US447%26q%3Dmicrofinance%2Beffectiveness%26um%3D1%26ie%3DUTF8%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN%26tab%3Dws#search=%22microfinance%20effectiveness%22)

Pages: 9

Abstract:

* *Summary*: Many studies prove the effectiveness of microfinance in specific circumstances and regions and are promising. However, the universal effectiveness of microfinance has yet to be proven so more research is needed to determine if microfinance actually helps to alleviate poverty, and NGO workers involved in microfinance should exercise caution and funding should be provided for further research.

**Julian May. *Smoke & Mirrors: science of poverty measurement and its application (working paper).* School of Development Studies University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban**

[**http://www.sds.ukzn.ac.za/files/Wp%2057%20web.pdf**](http://www.sds.ukzn.ac.za/files/Wp%2057%20web.pdf)

Pages: 35

Abstract:

* *Summary:* Measurement is important first step when working in impoverished areas by government, NGO’s, individuals, but deciding how to define poverty (because it is multifaceted) is half the battle. It is also used by governments to adjust nature and level of support to citizens through public policy, working wage, etc, to the disadvantage of citizens. Poverty analysis is both a science and a craft, because of the both quantitative and qualitative nature. Includes: financial poverty, physical poverty, structural poverty, vulnerability, Author outlines methods for both types based on her work.
* *Quotes: “*As with most other forms of quantification, poverty measurement involves deciding upon an appropriate conceptualisation of the issue, deciding upon indicators believed to adequately reflect this vision of deprivation, the collection of data believed to represent these indicators and finally the analysis of the data.”

**S Chen, M Ravallion (2007). *The changing profile of poverty in the world***. **http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/beijingbrief\_ravallion2.pdf**

Pages: 4

Abstract:

* *Summary:* Measuring poverty is becoming easier and more accurate thanks to extensive research on methods and improvements by agencies and governments. There is some sign of reduced poverty, however China skews results greatly (they are reducing poverty and have largest population), while poverty continues to rise in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to increased urbanization, rural poverty fell more than urban poverty across the world. Poverty is becoming more urban and the poor are urbanizing faster than ever before.

**Other online articles found:**

Microfinance: comprehensive view of existing literature

<https://personalfinance.byu.edu/selfreliance/workingpapers/library/997.pdf>

Quantitative and Qualitative Poverty Measurement (Working paper)

<http://dyson.cornell.edu/research/researchpdf/wp/2001/Cornell_Dyson_wp0105.pdf>

Dissertation: Poverty measurement in Nairobi slums

<http://gradworks.umi.com/32/72/3272635.html>

Hunger and food insecurity in Nairobi’s slums

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/48x556375555304t/>

Understanding chronic urban poverty (Ethiopia) crossing qualitative & quantitative divide

[http://eau.sagepub.com/content/17/2/43.full.pdf+html](http://eau.sagepub.com/content/17/2/43.full.pdf%2Bhtml)

Powerpoint: World bank tracking poverty in Kenya

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/padi/tracking_poverty_kenya.pdf>