COADY INSTITUTE

Asset
Based
Community-driven
Development

"COMMUNITY STRENGTHS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE"

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The banana tree

Aberash Mamo, a 52-year-old woman, resides in a recently built condominium house for the urban poor in the area called Tulu Dimitu. She is a member of Tsinat Saving and Credit Cooperatives established by WISE under its Mission Inclusion Project. In the communal area of the condominium compound, Aberash has planted a banana tree. However, despite being the one who takes care of the plant, Aberash has never felt like the only owner of the banana tree. As a result, everyone in the compound cuts the banana leaves and uses them for their purposes. After Aberash had taken Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) training, she became aware of identifying and using unutilized resources at home and in the surroundings. She realized that the banana tree was her asset that could be used for her benefit. As a result, during one of the Ethiopian holiday events, Aberash earned 447 Birr by selling the leaves of her banana tree.

What is ABCD?

Asset-Based Community-Driven Development (ABCD) is a collaborative approach that empowers communities to drive their development by identifying and mobilizing their existing assets, rather than focusing solely on needs or deficits.
These assets can include:

Human assets: knowledge, skills, and talents.
Social assets: community associations, organizations, and institutions.
Natural assets: resources that support livelihood activities.
Physical assets: infrastructure, household possessions, and land.
Financial assets: resources circulating in the local economy.

Key Principles of ABCD

1.No one has anything. Everyone has something to contribute.
2.No one has everything. Collaboration and resource-sharing are essential.
3.Everyone has something they can share. Communities are best positioned to identify their needs and solutions.

ABCD Application Methods

Appreciative inquiry: Discovering strengths and building on existing assets.
Community mapping: Identifying and mapping community resources.
Community economic analysis: Assessing the local economy and opportunities for development.
Community action planning: Developing a shared vision and roadmap for action.

Key Stages of ABCD

Mapping: Identifying and inventorying community assets.
Building relationships: Connecting community members and organizations.
Mobilizing: Engaging community members in decision-making and action.
Convening: Establishing a core group to guide the process.
Leveraging: Seeking external resources to support community-led initiatives.

Success Stories

At WISE, we have been implementing the ABCD approach in our community-led projects, and some of our success stories are presented as follows.

Community Participation: Social asset

The Tebabren Endeg (let's grow together) SACCO members reside in Danse Village, Woreda Ten, Yeka sub-city, Addis Ababa. To address the water supply problem of the village, the women SACCO members planned to talk to the development committee and visited the Woreda Water and Sewerage Authority to file a complaint. They informed the authorities that their tap water comes only once a week. Based on the knowledge they gained from WISE's ABCD training, the women proposed to the woreda officers to dig deep down to have access to groundwater as a solution to the recurrent problem and store the water in a tanker. The proposal also included a minimum payment bill. Eventually, their proposal was accepted, and a due course of action was taken to curb the water problem of the village. Then women assisted in preparing coffee and tea, participated in labor as much as they could, and hence demonstrated their partnership.