

The other side: Non-Engineering aspects of engineering projects in developing countries

Ryan W. Webb

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Colorado State University

Abstract. Often times engineering projects in developing countries can overlook the cultural and NGO partnerships that are necessary. This presentation will discuss two projects conducted with Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Both projects dealt with water resources issues in a developing community. The first assessment will concern the design and implementation which took place during the spring and summer of 2012 in a Tsimane community of Bolivia with the University of New Mexico student chapter of EWB. Comparisons will be made with the implementation of a design in La Criba, El Salvador with the Colorado State University student chapter of EWB during January, 2014. Each community offers quite different levels of development and cultural isolation. This presentation will offer observations and opinions of successes and failures when dealing with NGO partnerships and cultural aspects of each project and community. The primary focus is on improving the assessment and implementation processes of engineering projects within developing communities.