# Adaptation for Livelihood Security

## Strategic Imperatives and Practical Solutions

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**WOTR**
water gives life

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# The Context

## *A Village Artist's Interpretation of Herman Daly's Triangle*

**Ultimate Ends**

*Priceless*: Its measurement is fraught with difficulties and vaguely perceived

**Intermediate Ends**

Goals that governments promise, that economies are expected to deliver

**Intermediate Means**

Inputs to the Economy: Built and Human Capital

**Ultimate Means**

*Priceless*: Natural Capital - Our Heritage Supporting Everything

# Ecological and Human Pyramids



Ecological Pyramid: Partial Truth Distorting the Reality

Tiger at the top of the Pyramid

Revised Ecological Pyramid: Shifting Paradigms
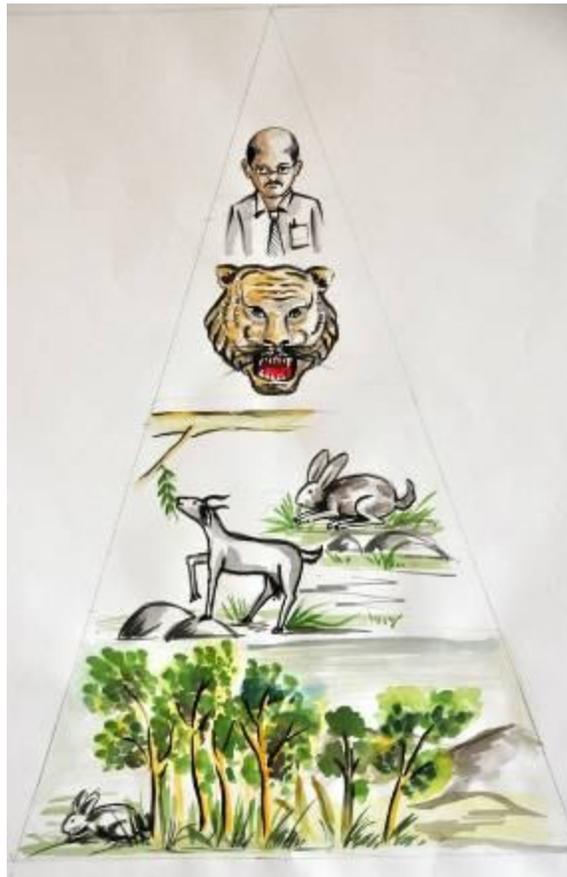
Human Being the Most Vulnerable

Human Ecological Pyramid: Megacities dependent on Rural Ecosystems and Forests

*Under Threat from Climate Change and Resource Depletion*

# In Climate Variability and Change Scenarios

Human Ecological Pyramid



Megacities more vulnerable towards Climate Change. Substantially depends on the base of pyramid.
Response required: a Proactive Adaptation Approach.

Since Megacities are dependent on the base, Proactive Adaptation will come to a naught in absence of simultaneous reactive adaptation.

The Base is immediately vulnerable to Climate Variability. Its robustness directly depends on Natural Resources, which is fast getting eroded.
Response required: A reactive and serendipitous approach.

# Blending Adaptation Approaches

## Climate Variability

- Short Term Events

- Bottom of the pyramid most vulnerable - poor and marginal who live in agrarian landscape

- Sustainable Livelihood Strategy - an inescapable imperative

- Should aim at preventing erosion of Adaptive Capacity

- Reactive Adaptation

## Climate Change

- Long Term Phenomenon

- Top of the pyramid more vulnerable - dependence on all the layers below

- Calls for Ecosystems based Sustainable Development

- All will be effected with varying degree of vulnerability. Should strengthen resource base.

- Proactive Adaptation

# Livelihoods and Drivers of Change

Climate affected impacts are all about changes to
Resource Flows critical for livelihood security

- Climate Variability would create temporary changes in Resource Flows

- Climate Change would create permanent changes in Resource Flows

- Hence, livelihood security calls for measures to protect and diversify resources and their flows

# Livelihoods and Drivers of Change

- Livelihoods is Key to Climate Change Adaptation approaches

- The Livelihood Strategy should look to create opportunity sets

- The approach should focus on building capabilities and assets base of the poor

- Taken together they determine how people will respond towards Climate Change impacts

# Key Livelihood Strategy

In a nut-shell

this should include:

- Ecosystem Restoration and Management

- Elements of reactive adaptation that serve immediate needs and bring immediate benefits

- That which contributes towards long term proactive adaptation – builds capacity for reducing future vulnerability and which deals with even greater threats from Climate Change

# WOTR Engine for Adaptation

**Human Capital**

**Social Capital**

**Physical Capital**

**Financial Capital**

**Natural Capital**

Healthy Interpersonal Relationship

Good Health

Freedom of Choice

Security

Material Adequacy

Dignity

Well Being

Spirituality

Empowered
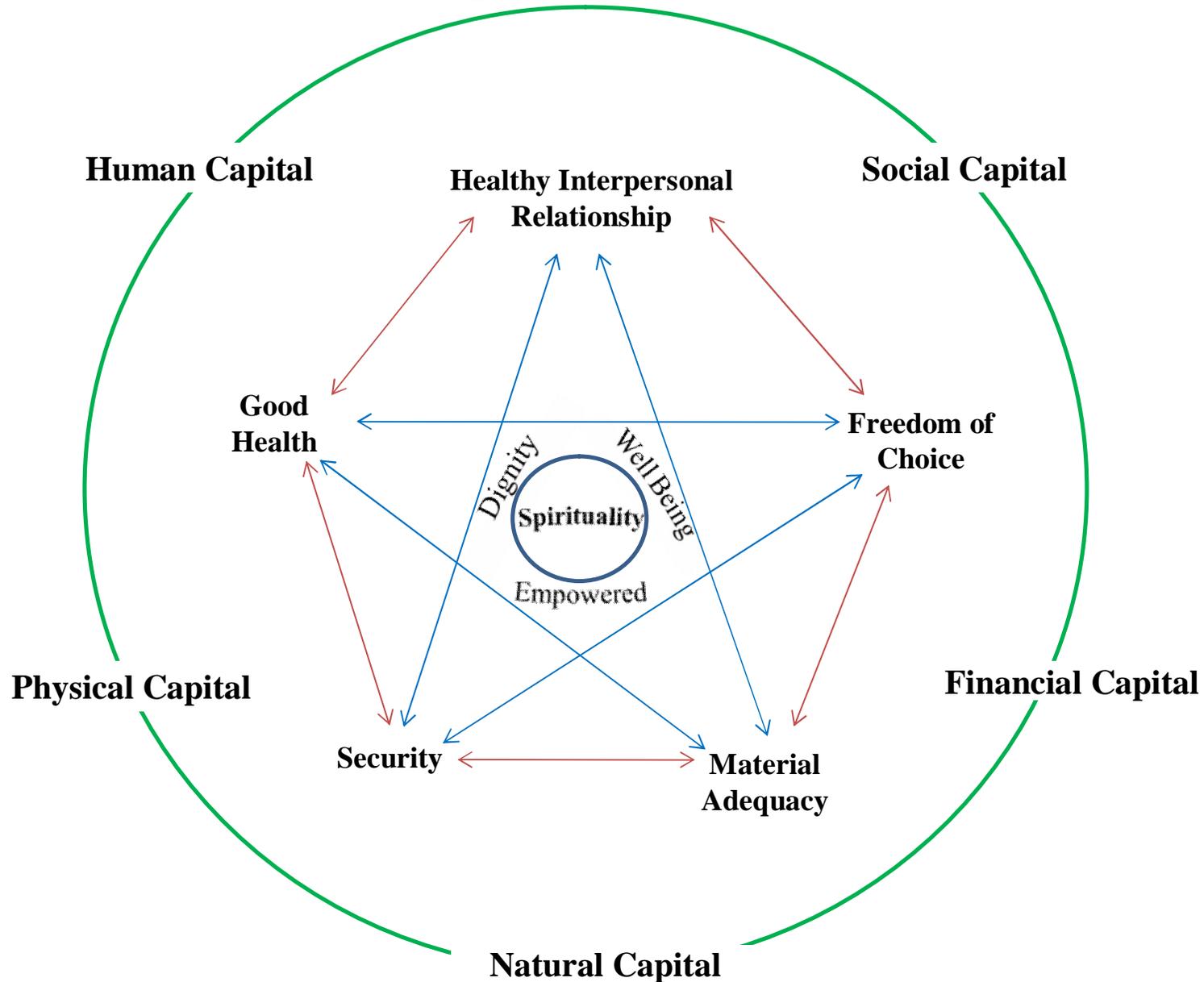
# Policy Implications

- Natural resources are finite, hence <u>enhancing the resource base rather than its exploitation</u> is of urgent priority. Conserving a robust resource base will ensure sustainable livelihoods for our children.

- Resource regeneration and its <u>sustainable management should be done by the local communities</u>, which will in turn occasion livelihood opportunities. This will reduce the stress and violence in urban areas that come from distress migration.

- Policies and pre-conditions for funding, planning, implementation and monitoring must enable locale-specific actions.

- Bottom up 'all-stakeholders' processes for synergies, safe-fail approaches, sustainable livelihoods with flexibility, locale specific planning and implementation regimes could be a viable starting point.

# Thank You

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