

PART THREE: CO-PRODUCTION: THE CORE VALUES

CHAPTER 10 THE PARABLE OF THE SQUARES AND THE BLOBS

Kettering Foundation identified a phenomenon: Squares (funded institutions and foundations) had difficulty trying to partner with Blobs (community groups), to solve problems. With Co-Production, Blobs could earn Time Dollars and gain access to grants.

Co-Production is a framework, a process and a set of core values (see Ch 2)

CHAPTER 11 CORE VALUE ONE: AN ASSET PERSPECTIVE Basic Principles

1. People are Assets
2. There is Always a Way - finding new ways, or old ways, of putting people to do useful things for each other, so finding their own strengths
3. We Have Enough – If We Use What We Have –the experience and memory of the elderly should be utilised
4. Use It or Lose It – mutual brainstorming often more productive than lengthy “training”
5. Lamenting That a Glass Is Half Empty Will Not Fill It – find a way to use our expertise to unleash the capacity of the person we are helping
6. Don’t Build on Quicksand – a focus on present capacity supplies a foundation; a focus on incapacity builds on quicksand
7. Counting Counts – counting what people do is a way of valuing what they do
8. People as Assets Require a New Accounting System – enabling people to redefine themselves as contributors

CHAPTER 12 ASSETS: A SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

Schools and Throw-Away Kids

Cross-age peer tutoring (older kids tutoring younger kids) works better than teacher tutoring, especially with special education kids, attention deficit kids, problem kids. Both tutors and tutees gain in strength.

Courts and Throw-Away Juveniles

In Washington D.C., where youth crime was very serious, a Time Dollar Youth Court, with a jury of offenders’ peers serving their own sentences, was established to divert non-violent first offenders from entering the juvenile justice system.

Child Support and Throw-Away Fathers

Absent fathers of children on welfare – community-based Time Dollar enterprises can employ these fathers part-time in security patrols, tutoring playgrounds, and licensed child care centres.

CHAPTER 13 CORE VALUE TWO: REDEFINING WORK

We are used to equating work with employment in the market economy. But the market and government rely on a hidden, largely unacknowledged labour subsidy from home, neighbourhood and community.

Work – a flawed definition

1. The definition is incomplete – it excludes the vast range of social contribution made in the non-market economy by families, seniors, children, and neighbours. The organisation Redefining Progress estimated household work in 1994 at \$1,233.8 billion.
2. The definition devalues real work – no society can afford to buy at market prices the services that the non-market economy has historically provided
3. The definition misleads through omission – if we need a future work force that is able to pay for Social Security and Medicare and to pay off the vast public debt, we had better invest in the parenting needed to produce that earning capacity.
4. The definition yields bizarre results - parents are required to work, which means the child is removed from the parents, or the mother is sent away from the child.
5. The price tag is too high - foster care and adoption assistance cost more than parental care.
6. The definition masks inadequate performance – foster care and welfare systems often result in poverty, domestic violence, homelessness.

A definition of work that works

Activity that creates value for others is work, including volunteering and market wages. The Time Dollars system intensified the psychological rewards associated with volunteering. The greater that reinforcement, the less important the actual purchasing power associated with Time Dollars.

Alternatives to Market Wages – in many centres, members with Time Dollar earnings can “buy”, cash in, get special rates with products and services in the market system: e.g. gift vouchers, discounted rates for tours, lectures, children’s summer camps, food banks, etc.

Who Pays for Rewards That Cost Money? – organisations that use Co-Production principles and Time Dollars pay for them, but also gain.

The Issue of Scale – Co-Production provides an engine that can drive a different kind of e-commerce, one that puts people together in new kinds of families, who can feed and care for, teach, support and help each other to cope with life’s uncertainties. Time Dollar Web Stores being developed.

CHAPTER 14 REDEFINING WORK: A SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

- No more taking the contribution of the client community for granted.
- No more taking women’s labour, exacted by subordination, for granted.

- No more taking money given to rebuild the non-market economy and turning it exclusively into salaries in the market economy.

- No more free rides for the market economy.

CHAPTER 15 CORE VALUE THREE: RECIPROCITY

“What goes around comes around” is a law of nature in the Co-Production universe.

1. Reciprocity reinforces self-esteem – it obliges a recipient of service to contribute in order to be a paying customer – equal value in giving and receiving.
2. Reciprocity bridges the two worlds, market and non-market. It enables each to secure help from the other
3. Reciprocity multiplies the value of each hour given, stimulating greater generosity
4. Reciprocity converts the rendering of professional service into a catalyst that empowers the recipient – professionals charging Time Dollars
5. Reciprocity alters the status of a recipient from “charity supplicant” to paying customer
6. Reciprocity turns an isolated exchange transaction into an on-going relationship
7. Reciprocity structures the Co-Production relationship between market and non-market economies
8. Reciprocity supplies the funding rationale, strategy and imperative to underwrite the cost of Co-Production

The example of Elderplan – saves on costs, promotes health, builds market share through good publicity.

CHAPTER 16 RECIPROCITY: A SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

The Workplace Project in New York trains exploited people to learn the laws and their rights, and take action to bring changes. Later Time Dollars were built into the system.

If helping professionals, agencies, and funders get the message, they will halt the unilateral transactions, cease the assertion of hierarchy, and change course so that their respective journeys end at their intended destination.

Examples given of U.S. professional organisations’ resistance to Co-Production, but some taking it up.

CHAPTER 17 CORE VALUE FOUR: SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social capital is composed of trust, reciprocity and civic engagement – these are Time Dollar staples.

To create new social capital, one must believe that one’s actions have consequences, that there is a future, and that one can affect that future.

Examples given of U.S. cases of groups fighting distrust, fear, despair through Co-Production, building on tradition and culture. Stepping in to help others breeds collective efficacy.

CHAPTER 18 SOCIAL CAPITAL: A SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

A social justice perspective says: stop the disinvestment in families and neighbourhoods, which has been going on in the name of progress.

Examples given of U.S. cases of strip-mining communities, depopulating neighbourhoods, atomising families, and civic attempts to use Time Dollars and Co-Production principles to rebuild communities.

CHAPTER 19 THE FUTURE IS NOW

Time Banking is still spreading through many countries. International Time Banking Congresses held.

EPILOGUE

The challenge our species now faces is to create a healthy ecological niche: communities that nurture, space that is non-toxic, exchanges that do not deplete, relationships based on love and caring, transactions powered by the renewable energy of compassion and empathy and reciprocity.

POSTSCRIPTS FROM THE UNITED STATES 2004; AND FROM ENGLAND 2004

Details given of further developments. The “non-market economy” now renamed as the “Core Economy” – the foundation, the substratum that underpins the private sector, the public sector and the independent, non-profit and philanthropic sector; family, neighbourhood, community, civil society. Examples of how Time Banking’s range of services is widening.

End of summary.