



# Social Capital in Africa and beyond - UBUNTU -

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# Social Capital

## WHAT?

- The central premise of social capital is that social networks have value
- Collective value of all social networks
- Inclinations that arise from these networks in doing things for each other [RECIPROCITY]

(Harvard Kennedy School)



# Social Capital

## HOW?

- Works through variety of specific benefits that flow from: the trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation of social networks

## CHANNELS?

- Information flows
- Norms of Reciprocity
- Collective Action (Civil Rights Movement, Anti-Apartheid Movement)



# Social Capital

'I' mentality → 'WE' mentality

WHERE?

Friendship networks, neighborhoods, churches, schools, clubs,  
associations, communities...even bars



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WHAT?

- World view of Bantu peoples of South Africa
- African Moral Philosophy (Guides social behavior)
- African Humanism (Philosophy of humanness)
- Leadership Philosophy
- Cultural Value System



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Central Tenets:

- Society and goods as communal enterprises
- Shared vision – common goals
- (Inter)connectedness
- Collectivism and solidarity
- Relationships ( esp. Family)
- Spirit of caring and community (beyond the individual)



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*“Only in terms of other people does the individual become conscious of his own being, his own duties, his privileges and responsibilities towards himself and towards other people...*

*Whatever happens to the individual happens to the whole group, and whatever happens to the whole group happens to the individual. The individual can only say: **“I am, because we are; and since we are, therefore I am”** This is the cardinal point in the understanding of the African view of man”*

(Mbiti, 1989: 106)



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## APPLICATION

As A Framework For:

- Management, governance, citizenship and leadership
- Global challenges
- Tool for inclusive discourse
- Embrace marginalized non-western traditions → new modes of thinking

*Also,*

- Foreign Policy
- National, Regional, Continental and Global
- Post -1994 Nation-Building; Truth and Reconciliation Process
- Communal Conflict Resolution (Conflict resolution as a communal affair)









# SERVANT LEADERSHIP

## SEEKS TO:

- Respond to societal challenges and changes
- Serve or be of value for the community/society
- Give back
- Focus on the social responsibility of leaders
- Considers cultural diversity and sensitivity

*“Valuing the worth of others and showing deference to others’ potential to make a contribution” (Mangaliso, 2001)*

Ex. Servant leadership applied to global challenges that could draw on philosophies such as *UBUNTU*



# PITFALLS & CHALLENGES

- In-group

- Discrimination?
- Exclusive?

→ Servant Leadership can help to mitigate this, instead promoting difference as a valuable resource

→ “Valuing the worth of others” ...



# VU AS CROSS-VALUE COMMUNITY

- How does/can the VU function as a CROSS-VALUE community?
- Ensuring that the VU is in service of the broader community (not exclusivist), how?