7 Development Myths

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Independent Evaluation ADB

What is a myth?

Development myths

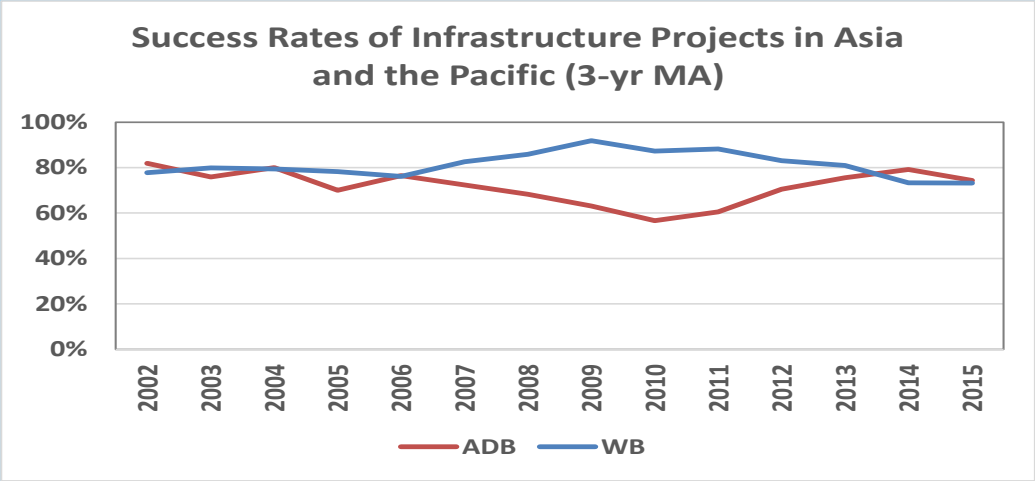
1. ADB projects lag competitors in success
2. Simple is always better
3. Private sector is just for profit-making
4. Implementation is (almost) everything
5. Gender work is mainly for soft sectors
6. Knowledge is less important in LICs
7. Environmental efforts detract from social inclusion

1 ADB projects lag competitors in success

Also said: Evaluation of ADB is getting tougher

Evidence

An example:



- Asia and the Pacific
- Infrastructure: ICT, water and urban, energy, transport
- WB energy sector includes mining, WB rating excludes sustainability

Takeaway: **Evaluation of ADB projects is getting more favorable**

2 Simple is always better

Also said: Any complexity weakens results because of coordination problems and weak country capacity

Evidence

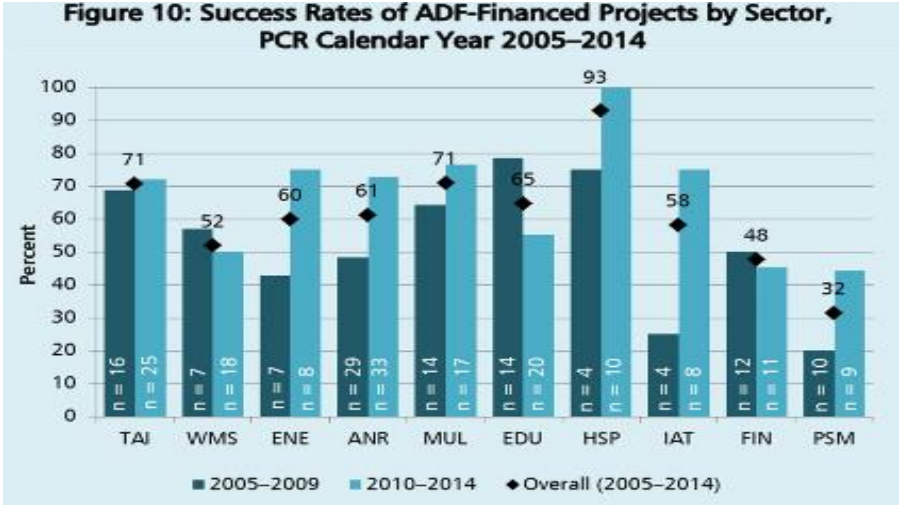
Category A vs B

Success Rates by Environmental Safeguard Category

	A	B	C
Success Rate	84%	62%	57%
Number of Projects Rated	64	263	166

Source: Asian Development Bank Independent Evaluation Department.

Success Rates

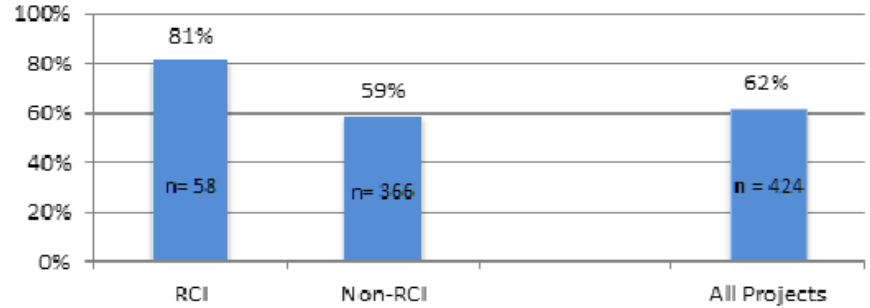


2 Simple is always better

Evidence

RCI

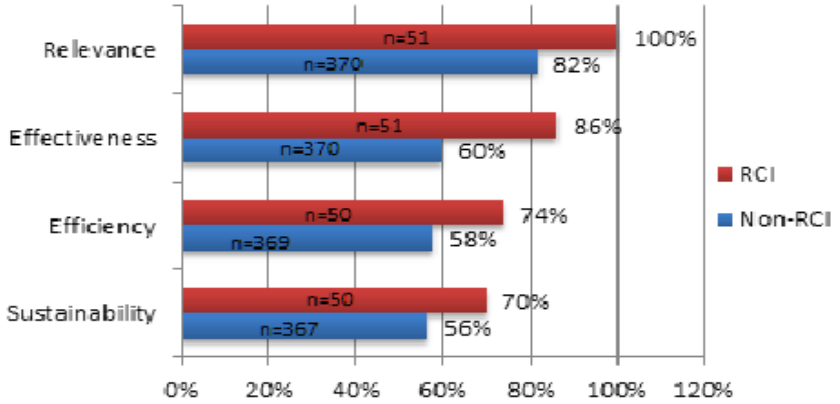
Percentage of Successful Projects



n = number of projects evaluated

Source: Project performance evaluation reports, project validation reports (PVRs), and project performance audit reports of RCI projects.

Percentage of Successful Projects by Evaluation Criteria



Takeaway

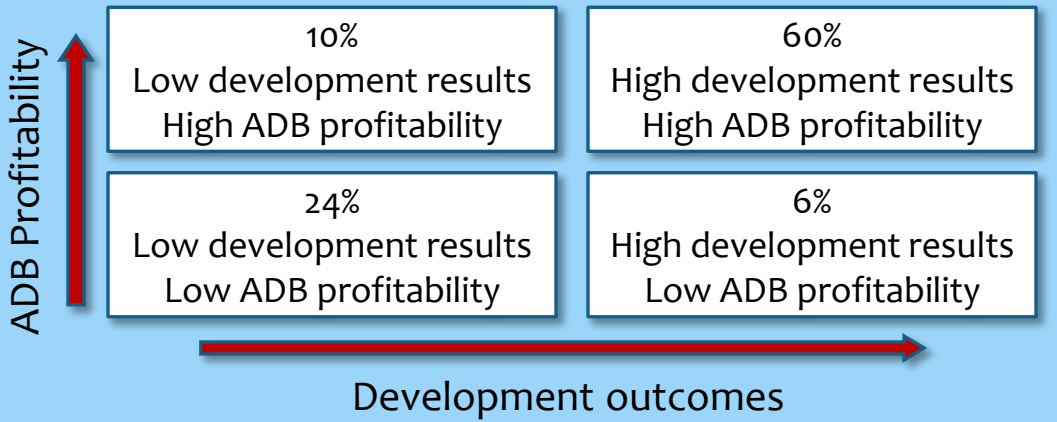
Good complexity, like good cholesterol, can help

3 Private sector is just for profit-making

Also said:

Profitability is hurt by socio and environment work
Development impact is a luxury in early stages

Evidence



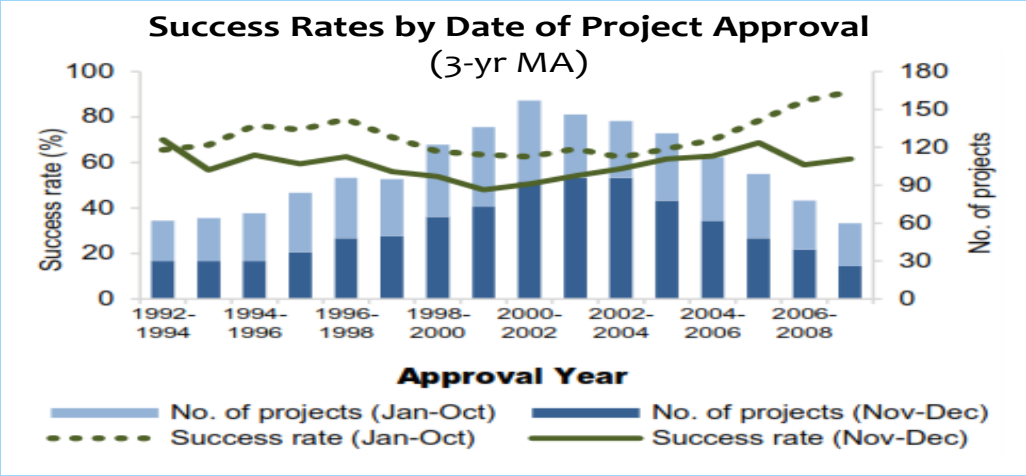
Takeaway

Private profitability and development impact can go together

4 Implementation is (almost) everything

Also said: Country conditions dominate and quality at entry doesn't matter

Indirect Evidence

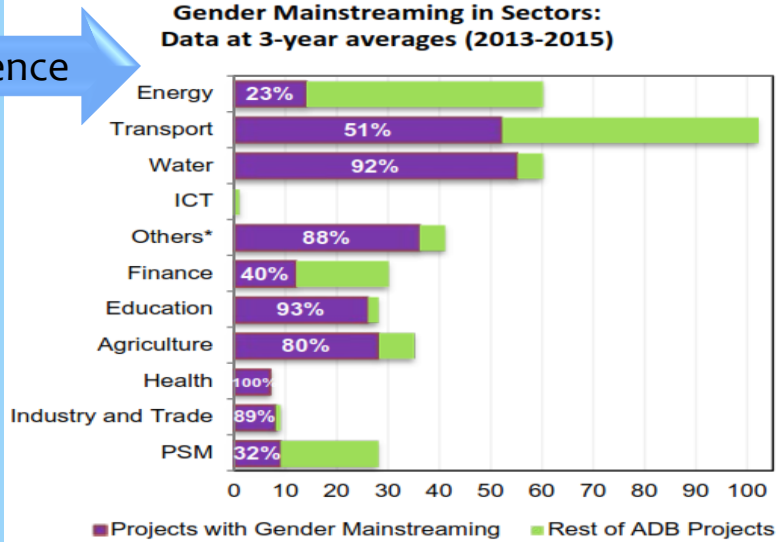


Takeaway: **Both project design and implementation are important**

5 Gender work is mainly for soft sectors

Also said: Gender is difficult to integrate in hard sectors

Evidence



Rural Roads Improvement Project in Cambodia (2011)

Outputs

- Recruitment of women
- Women's participation

Impact

- Maternity mortality rate
- Rural girls' secondary enrollment rate

Takeaway: **Outcome-based indicators are key to promoting gender equality**

6 Knowledge is less important in LICs

Also said: LICs demand knowledge less than MICs

Evidence

* Studies for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (2016)
  * Countries as diverse as Bhutan, Lao PDR, Philippines, Viet Nam
  * High impact for statistical systems that are still maturing

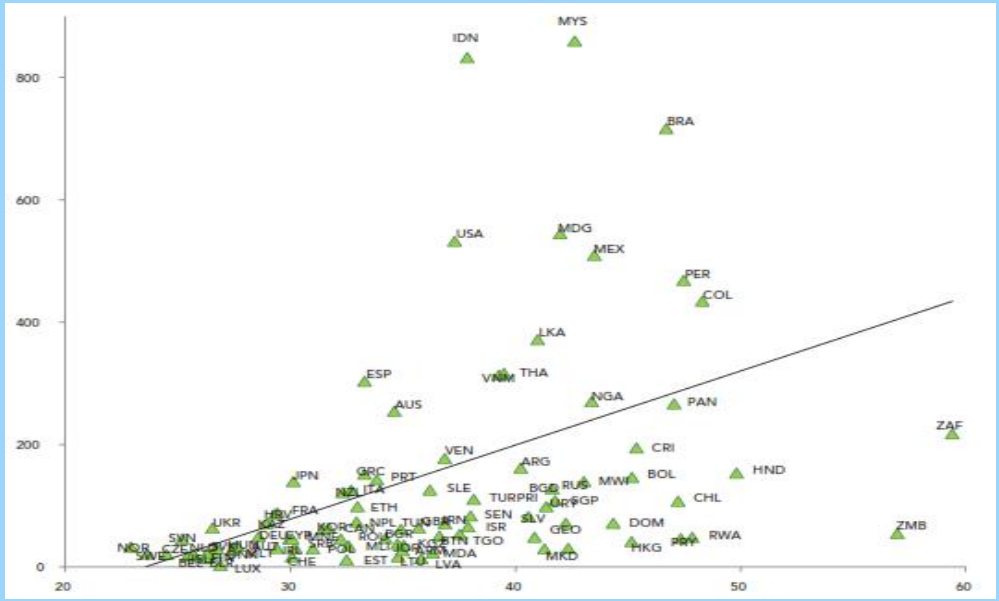
* Urban Project in Bangladesh (2012)
  * Community-driven development knowledge sharing
  * "…What has made the project a beauty are governance improvement, citizen participation and sustainability."

Takeaway: **Invest in knowledge in poor countries as much as in MICs**

7 Environmental efforts detract from social inclusion

Also said: The environment is a low priority when resources are tight

Evidence

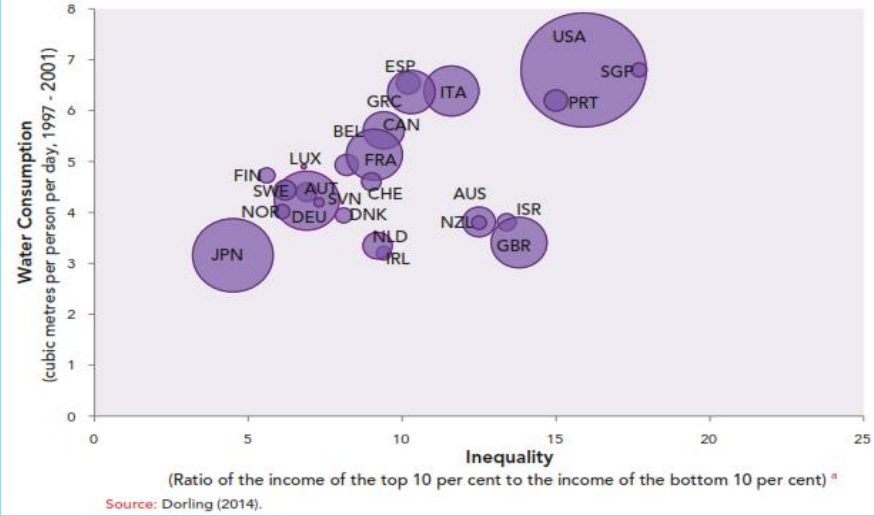


Biodiversity and inequality

7 Environmental efforts detract from social inclusion

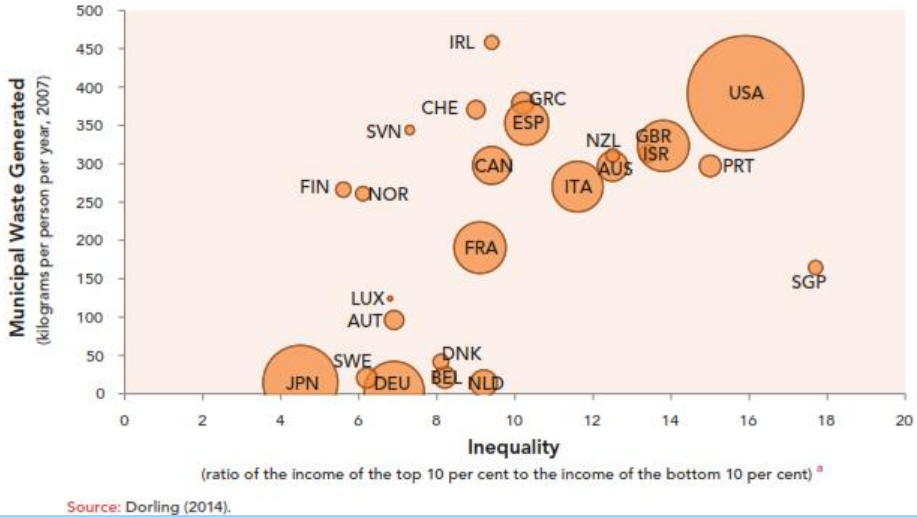
Evidence

Inequality and water consumption, 1997-2001



Source: Dorling (2014).

Inequality and municipal waste, 2007



Source: Dorling (2014).

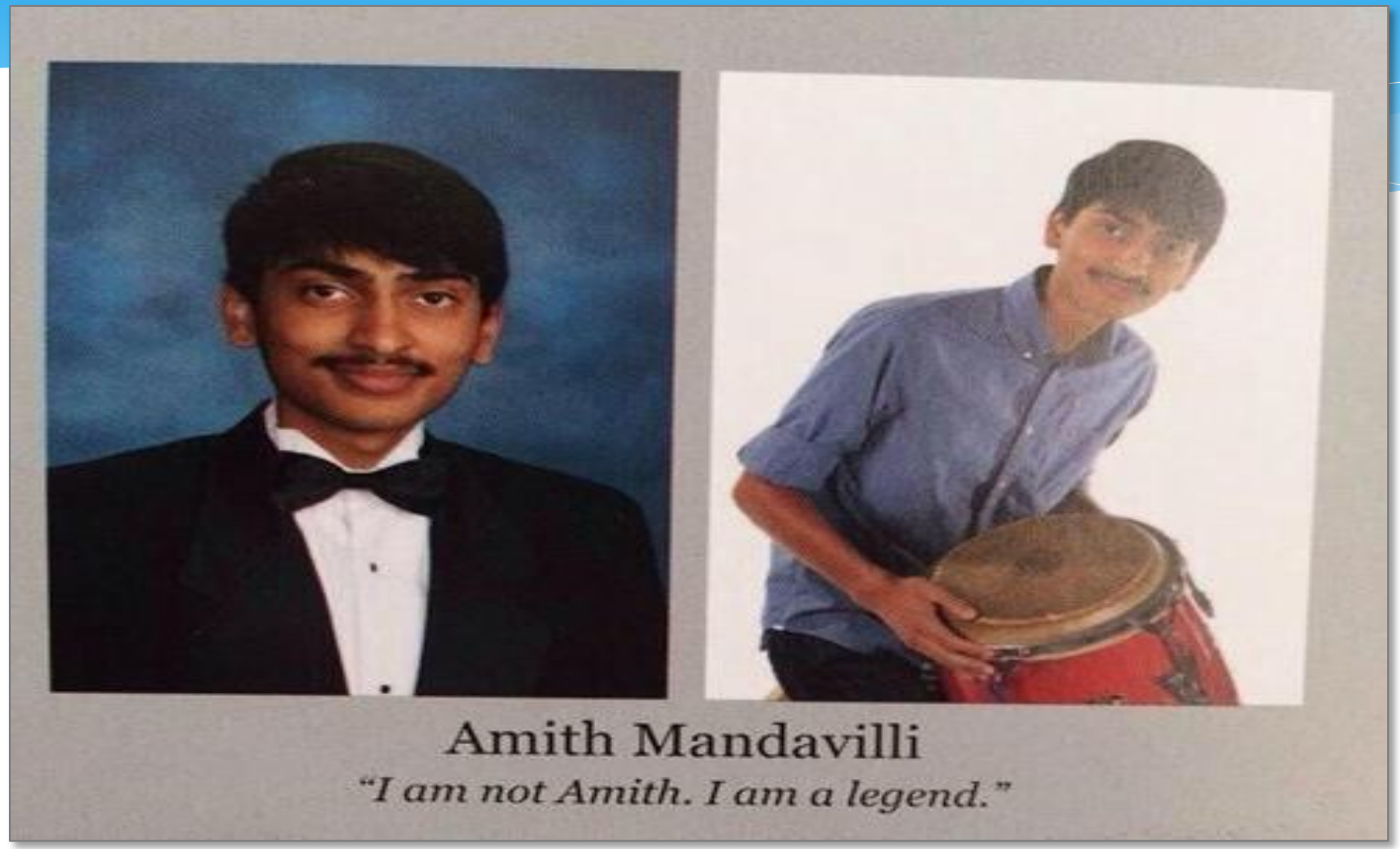
Takeaway

ADB is well-positioned to address environment and inclusion

Seven takeaways

1. Evaluation of ADB projects is getting more favorable
2. Good complexity, like good cholesterol, can help
3. Private profitability and development impact can go together
4. Both project design and implementation are important
5. Outcome-based indicators are key to promoting gender equality
6. Invest in knowledge in poor countries as much as in MICs
7. ADB is well-positioned to address environment and inclusion

Thank you!



Thank you!

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Global Increase in Climate-Related Disasters:
http://www.adb.org/documents/global-increase-climate-related-disasters

Evaluation Documents:
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