

Appropriate Technology

What is Appropriate Technology

- Appropriate technology is the appropriate selection of a device or solution to a problem based on the individual needs of an area, or a population; which generally utilizes simple and user friendly products and or systems.

E.F. Schumacher

- Coined the term Appropriate Technology.
- Based the philosophy of appropriate technology on his experiences in developing nations.
 - He worked around the world as a Economist.
- His 1973 publication “*Small Is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered*” outlined Appropriate technology.

Goals for appropriate Technology

- Non-Violent / sustainable (no damage to the environment)
- Renewable Sources of Energy
- Create Job opportunities
- Created locally
- Use Local skills
- Use local materials
- Simple, small scale Appropriate to the community
- Low Cost

Cost of systems and Solutions

- In traditional systems the initial building cost / cost of production is only 20 to 30 percent of the total lifetime operational cost.
- Appropriate technology aims to increase this to a high percentage as an aim is to make systems that are low cost to operate and relatively maintenance free.

Maintaining the System

- Monetary costs
- Material requirements
- Labor requirements
 - Skilled or unskilled?
- Frequency of maintenance

Other Costs

- Environmental costs
 - Pollution
 - Environmental impacts
- Economic implications & Social costs

Main Question: How to optimise the costs? - make it appropriate and sustainable?

Cutting Grass/Wood



Making Thread



Solar Cooker



Treadle Pump



Shelling Machine

