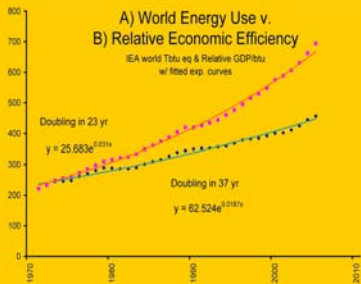


The Up Side of Blind Spots...

Clear Spots

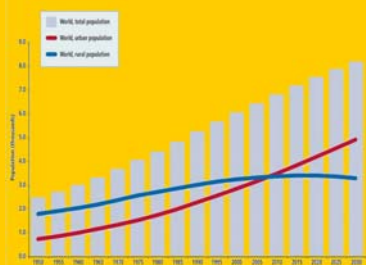
Expanded Notes & Images:
www.synapse9.com/issues/Clear.htm

'Efficiency' is a sacred idea...
but our Learning Rate is slower
than Our Growth Rate¹



The **Clear Spot** in recognizing that it does not physically do what people believe in it for, and hides a 'blind spot', is then finding it would if the economies didn't grow faster than we learn how to do things well.

'Life saving aid' is a sacred idea, but it's not working if it multiplies the number of people living in unstable communities.



Urban, Rural, World Population²

The **Clear Spot** is seeing how to tie life saving aid to success to stabilizing communities, putting the usual 2nd step 1st.

Remarkably most aid organizations, urban planning societies and even the press treat the subject as taboo, blinding us to the harms. So that's the first real dilemma.

Learning to see through 'blind spots' is tricky. They're made of our own stereotypes and snap judgments that rise to the level of 'common knowledge'. **They hide the questions we need to ask to see our choices.** We all effectively make our own, one at a time, so everyone has shared and private ones. The 'clear spots' tend to be what you can see through these holes in our own reasoning, exposing life all around us to care for and delight in... and not just step on by accident. That's important. **If we need a whole new way of thinking we can't do it with our eyes closed...**

- 1) **Looking for Aliens** – Our images of the things are only 'bookmarks' for the world around us, built out of our own mental associations, quite unlike the realities we need them to point to. Their 'sense' in our mind skips over the complex changing realities behind them. So, anything 'real' is a little 'alien'. Discovering the real individuality of your own children, or neighbors, etc, uses your 'dissonance' with who they are as a window to seeing them truly. The '**clear spots**' follow from daring to be open to things beyond imagination, and find more than guesses to connect with.
- 2) **Subjects in Common**– The main reason science comes to consensus and popular press does not is that scientists study subjects they can refer to in common, making them matters of shared discovery not just opinion. It takes real effort to 'see' physical processes, and original thinking to give them meaning. The '**clear spots**' are having simply comparable moral and practical choices. It's not 'superior' meaning, just 'comparable'.
- 3) **Functional Fixations** – When 'explanations' have fixed parts standing for changing environments and living things, it removes the questions about how they'll independently respond. If relied on, scientific models are all 'functional fixations' themselves, hiding nature's separate working parts. The '**clear spots**' are in reversing that, making better skeptical questions.
- 4) **Noticing Change** – Real change tends to follow progressive steps of scale and reversing balances. You can't notice them if you only 'live in the present'. Stereotypes and fixations are a block, but not remembering their changes is too. The '**clear spots**' are in sensing the flow of change to see what's really coming and going, and be aware of the real choices.
- 5) **True Moral Issues** – We emphasize each other's goodness in news and discussion, hiding the conflicting values moral questions are about. It's done by the listener. When we turn off speakers who are forthright their contracts aren't renewed. So when our multiplying '**more good**' turns to '**doing harm**' we don't look and aren't told, so act as if blind. The '**clear spots**' are in sensing the real moral questions and true choices.

The Food Crisis - It helps point to an error in reasoning when mistakes are made by **people with unquestionable commitment, compassion and creativity**, like the leadership community of the environmental movement.

The long promotion of 'renewable resources' is a classic case of 'functional fixation'. Our fixed image of 'good' hid the 'alien' life of food consumers that happened to be in the way. **We were not watching the limits and did not see the point where 'more good' turned to 'doing harm'**. Our 'skeptical questioning' was turned off, as if not needed. All the 'renewable' technologies are actually niche opportunities with problems in the future like that.

Continued: www.synapse9.com/issues/Clear.htm#cont