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Deepa Narayan, Lant Pritchett, Soumya Kapoor
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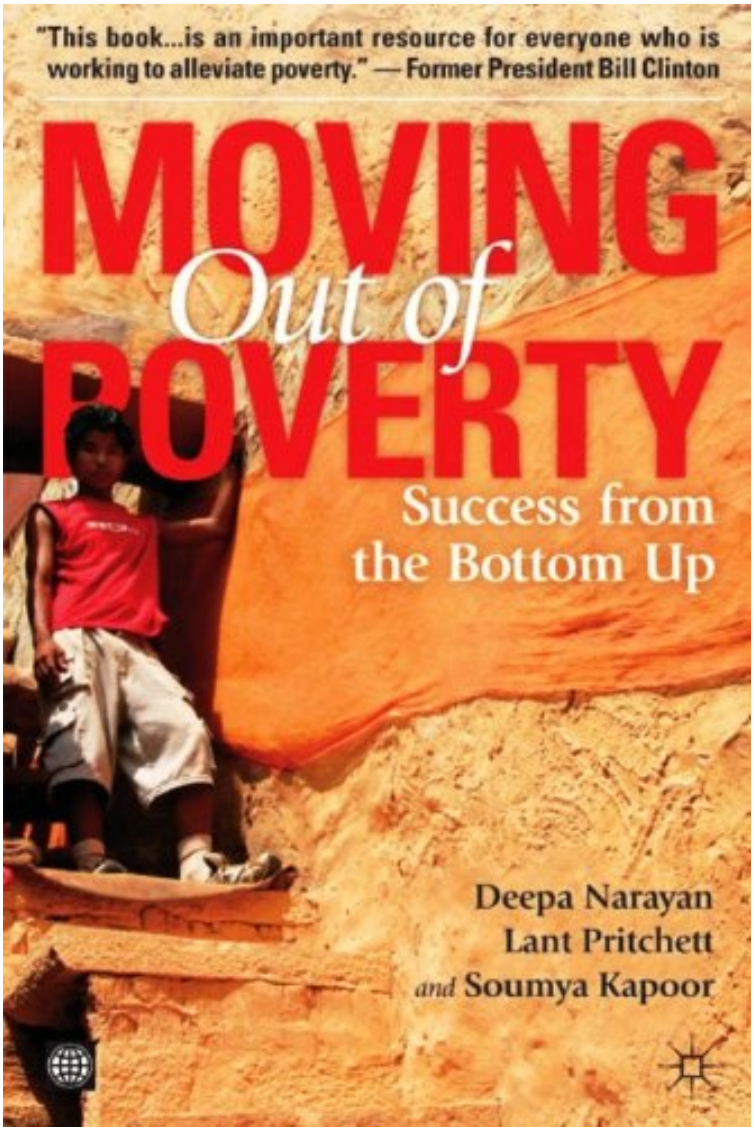

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Deepa Narayan, Lant Pritchett, Soumya Kapoor : Moving Out of Poverty: 2 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moving Out of Poverty: 2:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding new mega-study from the World BankBy D. GreenOne of the best books I have ever read on development was `Crying out for Change', a summary of a massive late 1990s study by the World Bank called `Voices of the Poor'. So it was a delight to pick up the summary of its new and epic successor `The Moving Out of Poverty Study' (I've got the book on order, but this is so good, I wanted to tell people about it right away).If the first book was about the statics of poverty - what it is, what it feels like etc, this is about the

dynamics - how people rise and fall out of poverty and why. To find out, the Bank researchers talked to 60,000 people in over 500 communities in 15 developing countries, using everything from focus groups to collecting life stories and asking people to design their own local definitions of poverty and wealth.The results are fascinating. Voices of the Poor generated a big discussion over the extent to which the Bank was imposing some of its own preconceptions on its findings (something an NGO would of course never do!) and I'm sure the same debate will take place over this book, but taking it at face value, here is a taste of its findings:1. Poor people put the poverty line at around $[...] a day, not $[...]: `In a typical country or study region, more than 60 percent of households were classified as currently in poverty, and in every single study region, the fraction of households classified as poor was more than 40 percent'. When compared to conventional poverty indicators, that came out fairly consistently near the $[...] a day mark2. Oscar Lewis was wrong: there is no `culture of poverty': 'Poor people are not listless, passive and alienated. `Instead, they take initiatives, often pursuing many small ventures simultaneously to survive and get ahead. Some do manage to move out of poverty. In country after country, when we asked movers to name the top three reasons for their move out of poverty, the answers most frequently emphasized people's own initiative in finding jobs and starting new businesses.' In contrast, the reasons for falling into poverty are more varied (see chart).3. Poverty is a condition/experience, not a permanent characteristic. The numbers moving out of and into poverty are much higher than the net result (poverty falling or rising) suggests.4. `Power within' can be a vital first step: `inner strength and confidence emerge time and again as a key factor in moving out of poverty. Moreover, self-confidence increases quickly as poor people experience some success. .... [this is] important for how development is done. Development interventions should be carried out in ways that respect and increase--rather than detract from--people's confidence in themselves and their families. Participatory and community-driven approaches reinforce people's own sense of agency.'5. `Equal opportunity remains a dream... Poor people face agonizingly limited economic choices, very different from the gilded choices of the rich.... Local prosperity offers no protection against exploitation. Even poor people in booming economies may find themselves cycling through a series of low-value, dead-end activities.'6. `Tiny loans usually provided under microcredit schemes do not seem to lift large numbers of people out of poverty. Poor people need credit that enables them to go beyond meeting immediate consumption needs and build permanent assets. Second, credit is more likely to be used productively when it is combined with improved local infrastructure, particularly rural roads, and with help in connecting to and producing for markets. When new economic possibilities open up, whether through construction of roads, liberalization of markets, or introduction of new commercial crops, for approximately two years there seems to be a period of openness to social change. During this time it is possible to increase equality of opportunity and effect change in social relations across lines of caste, ethnicity, or religion. Eventually, however, new elites emerge--and new cycles of suffocation begin.'7. `Communities with more responsive local governments have better access to clean water, schools, doctors and nurses, and public health clinics. Furthermore, the quality of education and health services also registers more improvement.'8. `The paradox of collective action is that while it may enable poor people to cope and survive, it typically does not help them move out of poverty.... Poor people as a group lack cash, assets, education, market know-how, and connections with the rich and powerful. When poor people associate only with each other, they bring only their own meager resources to the table. Poor people understand these constraints and affirm that "there is a limit to how much one hungry man can feed another." The challenge is to extend these positive local traditions of mutual help so that they reach across social lines.'That's just a taste - it doesn't include all the evocative quotes and case studies, or the more subtle debates, but there are rich pickings in here for anyone interested in the reality of poverty and development, big challenges to our assumptions, and blessed relief from all the frustrating generalities about `the poor', `developing countries' and so on.This review first appeared on Oxfam's From Poverty to Power: How Active Citizens and Effective States Can Change the World blog on h==[...]

ldquo;No matter if I fall, I get up again. If I fall 5,000 times, I will stand up another 5,000 times.rdquo;mdash; William, a 37-year-old from El Gorrioacute;n, ColombiaWhy and how do some people move out of povertymdash;and stay outmdash;while others remain trapped? Most books on growth and poverty reduction are dominated by the perspectives of policy makers and academic experts. In contrast, 'Moving Out of Poverty: Success from the Bottom Up' presents the experiences of poor people who have made it out of poverty. The bookrsquo;s findings draw from the Moving Out of Poverty research conducted in communities in 15 countries in Africa, East Asia, Latin America, and South Asia. The authors synthesize the results of qualitative and quantitative research based on discussions with over 60,000 people in rural areas. They offer bottom-up perspectives on the processes and local institutions that play key roles in escapes from poverty.The study finds that there are no differences in the initiatives taken by the poor, the rich, and the upwardly mobile. What, then, explains the difference in outcomes? The authors demonstrate howmdash;in the face of deep social inequalities that block access to economic opportunities and local democraciesmdash;individual initiative and empowerment by themselves are often not enough to escape poverty.This book will be of interest to all concerned with equity in an increasingly unequal world.

Today, too few people around the world have enough opportunity to connect their dreams and their talents with the

outcomes of their efforts to lift themselves out of poverty. As we work to expand these opportunities, we can learn a lot from the voices of the poor themselves, especially those who have lifted themselves up successfully. This book, based on conversations with thousands of people around the world, is an important resource for everyone who s working to alleviate poverty. --Bill Clinton, Former President of the United StatesHere is a treasure trove of stories, data, and creative analysis that no one who cares about ending poverty should miss.... From thousands of interviews in 15 poor countries, the authors extract some surprising conclusions: Most poor people do not feel trapped; local markets and politics and community leadership and institutions matter more than average national income in who escapes poverty. An important complement to the World Bank sponsored Spence Commission Report on growth. --NANCY BIR DSALL, President, Center for Global DevelopmentAbout the AuthorDEEPA NARAYAN is project director of a 15-country World Bank study, Moving Out of Poverty: Understanding Freedom, Democracy, and Growth from the Bottom Up. It builds on an earlier study also directed by Narayan, Voices of the Poor. Formerly a senior adviser in the Poverty Reduction group of the World Bank, Narayan has over 25 years of development experience in Asia and Africa, working for nongovernmental organizations, national governments, and the United Nations system as well as the World Bank Group. Her areas of expertise include participatory development, community-driven development, and social capital, and the use of these concepts to create wealth for the poor. Recent publications include Moving Out of Poverty: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Mobility (World Bank, 2007); Ending Poverty in South Asia: Ideas that Work, co-edited with Elena Glinskaya (World Bank, 2007); and Measuring Empowerment: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives (World Bank, 2005). LANT PRITCHETT is professor of the practice of economic development at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, USA. He is also a consultant to Google.org, a nonresident fellow of the Center for Global Development, a senior fellow of BREAD, and co-editor of the Journal of Development Economics. He earned a B.S. in economics from Brigham Young University in 1983 and a PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1988. He joined the World Bank?s research complex in 1988 and worked for the Bank in Indonesia and India from 1998 to 2007, when he joined the Kennedy School. SOUMYA KAPOOR is a consultant to the World Bank in India. She was a key member of the Moving Out of Poverty study team between 2003 and 2008, coordinating the research in the South Asia region. She previously worked as a corporate banker with a leading bank in India and as a credit analyst with Moody's. Her research interests center on participatory development and finance and on how they can be linked for poverty reduction. She is a contributor (with Deepa Narayan) to Assets, Livelihoods, and Social Policy, edited by Caroline Moser and Anis Dani (World Bank, 2008).