

Respectful development: Dignity at IDinsight

IDinsight

Research has shown that dignity is something citizens across the Global South value and are frequently denied, and that innovation, learning and improvement are needed for the social sector to fully respect their dignity. We regard these ideas as integral to the right kind of development and social impact practice. Evidence suggests that respectful interactions produce greater wellbeing and self-efficacy, improved health, better functioning democratic spheres, greater cooperation, and increased service uptake and satisfaction.

We aim to create a world in which the global development sector routinely acts respectfully towards those whom development seeks to serve. We'll be reviewing our own practices, and sharing the latest research. But we know true impact comes through partnerships with our clients. We want to support you to incorporate respect for dignity into every part of your work.

Dignity expert Tom Wein

Tom leads our dignity portfolio. He founded The Dignity Project, and has published several working papers on dignity and development, with a book to come. Prior to this, he worked with Raising Voices and the Busara Center on questions of activism, edutainment and cultures of evidence. He holds a Masters degree in Communication for Development from Malmö University.

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Dignity is inherent to all people, regardless of who they are or how they act. Because people have dignity, they are entitled to respect.



Right tools, right time, right way

IDinsight uses rigorous evidence to help leaders improve lives. We tailor a wide range of data and evidence tools, including randomized evaluations and monitoring, to help decision-makers design effective programs and rigorously test what works to support communities. IDinsight works with governments, multilaterals, foundations, and innovative non-profit organizations in Asia and Africa in a range of sectors.

Calvin Ochieng, Jacky Njeri, Kayla Achieng.
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How we can help you:

Dignity workshop

Reflect on dignity in your own work and the existing evidence through a half-day workshop for your staff, facilitated by IDinsight's staff.

Dignity audit

Uncover blockages to being respectful, through a qualitative evaluation of your processes and how they can more closely match dignity best-practices.

Co-creating respect

Your staff and participants join together to imagine a better way of working, through interviews and a co-design session centered on dignity.

Evaluating respect

Using our rigorous measures of Felt Respect for Dignity, we evaluate the impact of your efforts to be respectful, and their consequences for the rest of your program.

Got something else in mind?

Let's talk. Please get in touch:
tom.wein@dinsight.org

Selected research

Measuring people's preferences

IDinsight asked people in Ghana and Kenya what priorities they have for development, supported by GiveWell. They told us that they cared most about averting deaths, especially of children. They asked that donors better respect their preferences through more focus on health rather than livelihoods. This involved extensive methodological innovation to better understand how to frame questions so people's answers illustrate their values and beliefs.



Measuring preferences in Jirapa, Ghana. ©IDinsight/Will Slotznick

Dignity misalignments

Through three studies in Kenya and the US, we map out how individual donors, non-profit professionals and people receiving aid think about dignity. We find that people desire to be treated respectfully and those working in the non-profit sector desire to respectfully deliver services. But often donors are unwilling to pay for the additional cost to achieve this end.



Wilkins Khandali, Rodgers Okeyo, Mildred Kavere, Zuena Khadija. ©The Dignity Project/ Calvin Ochieng

Measuring Respect for Dignity

Tom Wein and Priyanka Khatri developed and validated a measure of Felt Respect for Dignity for people receiving aid. Expert feedback and cognitive interviews helped generate a refined question pool. This was then validated across three countries - the US, Morocco and China - and three situations - policing, healthcare, and financial services. Across all these situations, and for all demographic subgroups, the measure displayed strong internal and convergent validity.