STORYTELLING WITH MAPS

open-source community mapping for rural development in India

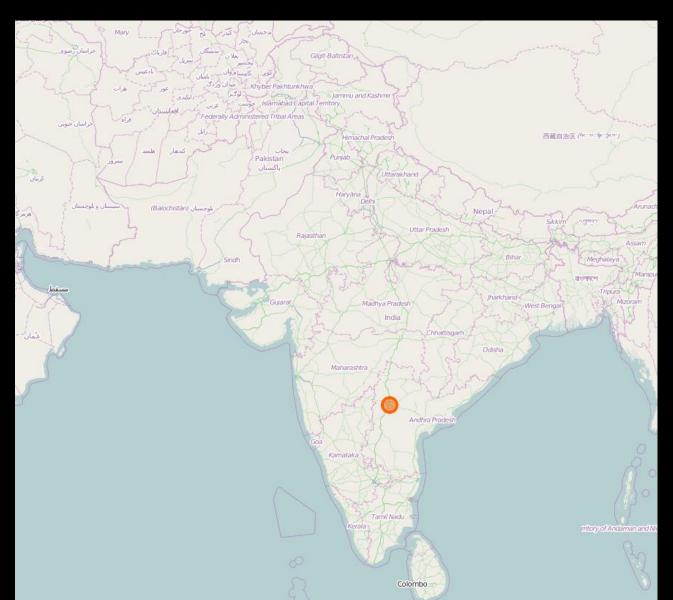
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What would I like to tell you today?

- What is community mapping?
- Why do we use GIS in development cooperation?
- What it is actually good for?
- How much does it cost?

What would I like to tell you today?



Why do we need community mapping?

- Maps have been used throughout history as weapons of imperialism (Harley 1988).
- Based on the idea that cartography is "the science of princes," it was used by governments and elites to stake claim to valuable land and resources (Chapin et al 2005).
- But there is more to this than just the drawing of boundaries, maps were used to legitimize the reality of conquest and empire. They helped create myths which would assist in the maintenance of the territorial status quo (Harley 1988).

What are community maps?

- Development + community + participation =
- How do you conjugate the verb "to participate"?

I participate,
You participate,
He participates,
We participate,
They decide.

(Alperovitz 2004)



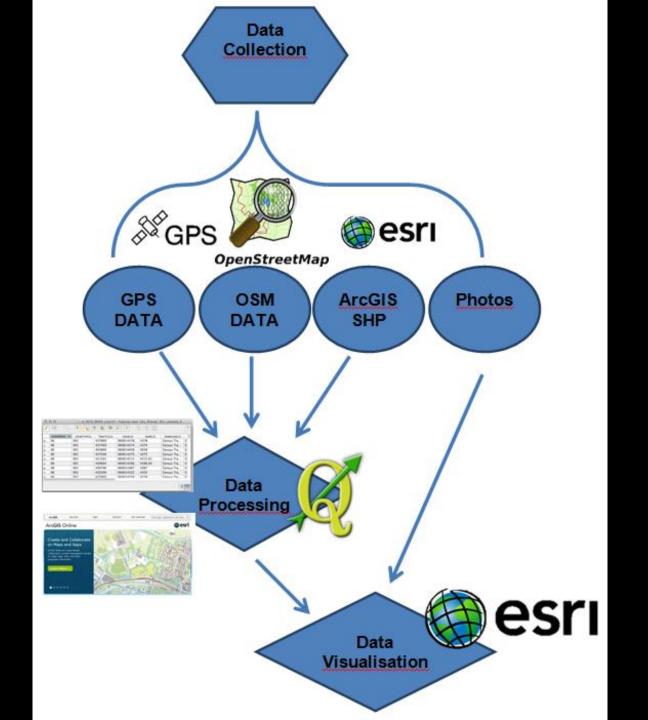
Methodology

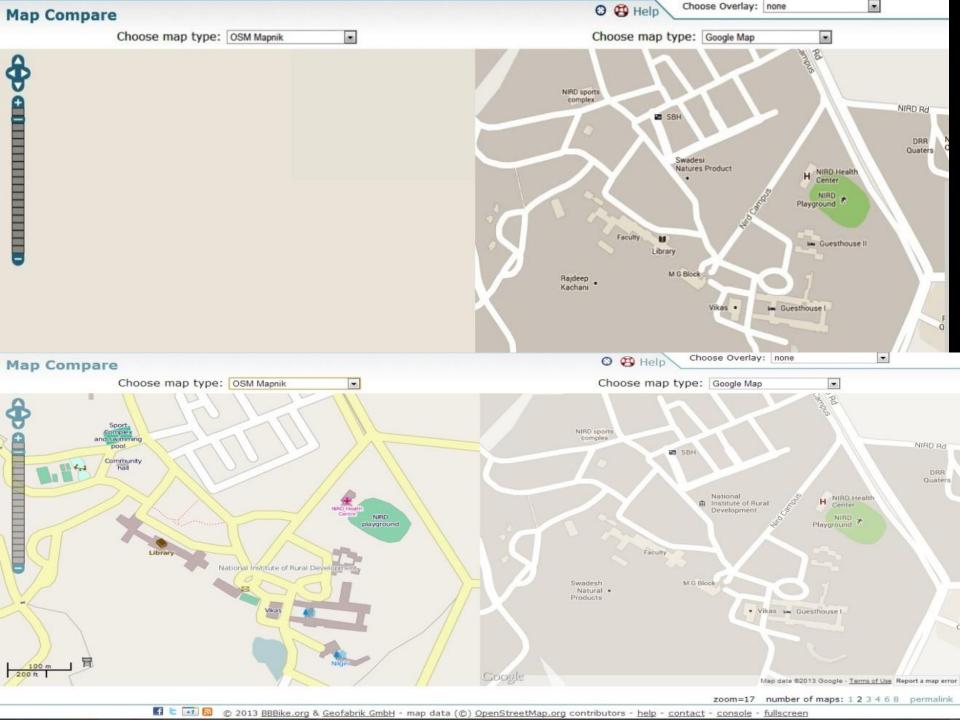
Goals of the study

 To create a multimedia community map based on the example of the NIRD campus in Hyderabad, using only free or open-source technologies.

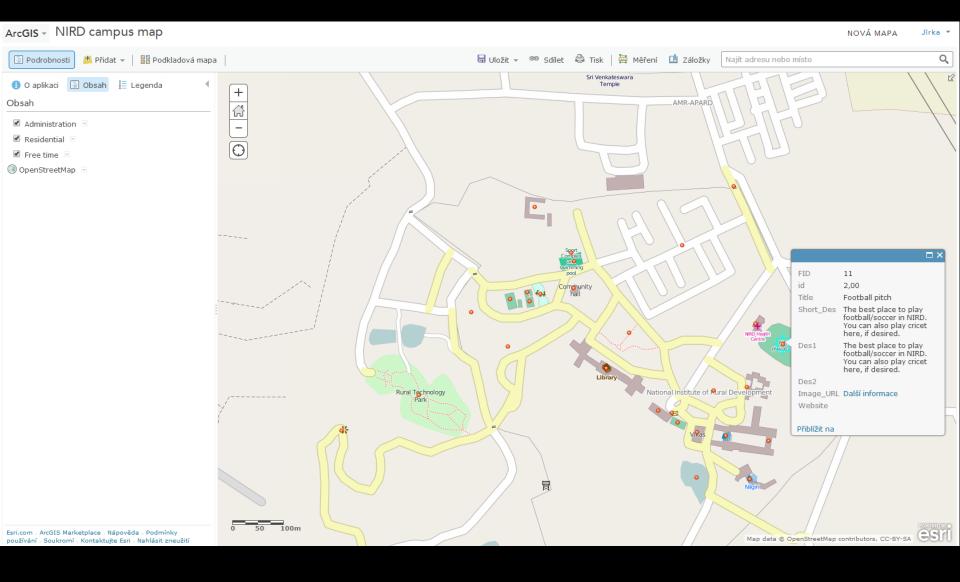
Hypothesis

- Multimedia web-maps can serve as tools for rural development if prepared with participatory approaches.
- Free and open-source technologies are better suited to community development, due to their easier accessibility and adaptability.

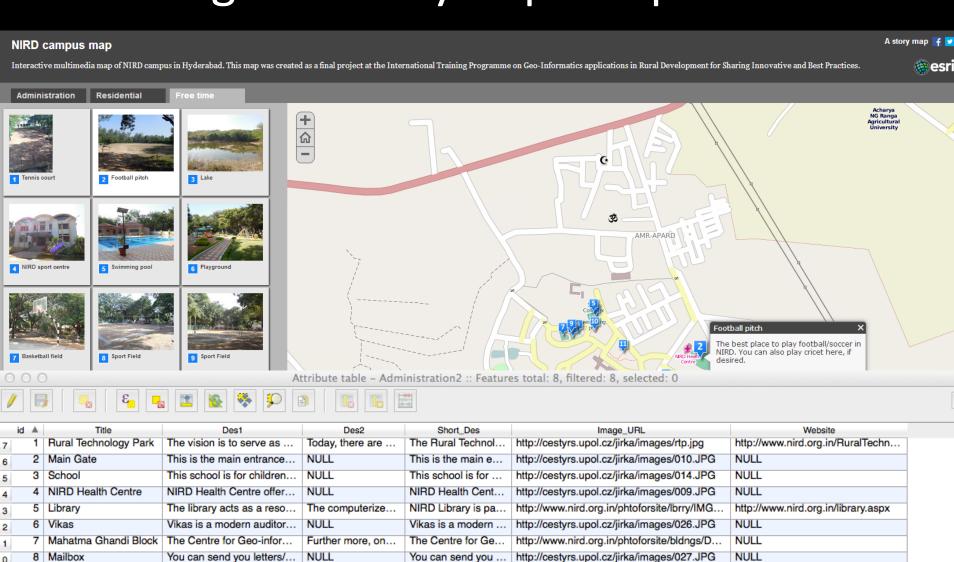




Technologies – ArcGIS online



Technologies – storymap template shortlist





Conclusion

Creating an own map within a community has an empowering effect, because members of the community have the opportunity to think spatially about their environment and literally put their community on the map.

The process of creating the data triggers feelings of belonging to the community and ownership of the process.

With ownership comes the empowerment leading to sustainable development, driven and run by the community itself (Vlok & Pánek 2012).

Thank you for your time!

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