



Community and Community based Approaches

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Community and Community based Approaches

**"Local people know how to get out of
their own mess because they live in it."**

**Although outsiders have good intentions
to help, it takes them much longer to
understand the local conditions and
come to a sustainable solution without
involving local community.**



Definitions

Community:

- **A group of interacting people, living in some proximity (i.e., in space, time, or relationship).**
- **Community usually refers to a social unit larger than a household that shares common values and has social cohesion.**



Definitions Community

Sociology:

- **German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies distinguished between two types of human association: Gemeinschaft (usually translated as "community") and Gesellschaft ("society" or "association").**

- **State, market and community (Walzer)**

- **Community, civil society and the Third Sector**



Definitions

Social Capital:

• **Social capital is defined by Robert D. Putnam as "the collective value of all social networks and species (who people know) and the inclinations that arise from these works to do things for each other (norms of reciprocity)."**



Definitions

Definitions: Community-based Approaches (CBA)

CBA is an umbrella term for approaches to programming which involve beneficiaries in their identification, design or management.



Definitions

Participation:

A process through which stakeholders influence and share control over the development initiatives, decisions and resources which affect them



Objectives of CBA

- **Empowerment of people and communities**
- **Improve efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of interventions**
- **Build organisational capacity at local level**
- **Strengthen local governance**



Types of community level institutions:

- **Association**
- **Cooperative**
- **Civic Association**
- **Community-based organisation (CBO)**
- **Village leadership**



Why community participation?

- **Efficient:** essential information is made available and important issues identified quickly – (Local Knowledge)
- **Financial:** beneficial-costly mistakes and obstructions may be avoided
- **Interactive:** helps build up the community's commitment to and continuing involvement with initiatives
- **Ethical:** more justice and respect for human rights



Characteristics of Community based approaches

- **People centered**
- **Community oriented**
- **Resource based**
- **Partnership based**
 - **APPROACH** Is to focus on community but also to recognize the need for horizontal and vertical links to sustain such action.



Problems

- **Arranging participation and cooperation of large and diverse groups of people**
- **Much time needed for extensive rounds of consultations and discussion**
- **Participants do not fully understand the issues (f.i. technical and scientific implications of options and proposals)**
- **Requires significant capacity building and dependent on external facilitation and support.**



Qualitative Indicators of Participation I

- **Organizational growth at the community level**
- **Growing solidarity and mutual support**
- **Knowledge of the project's financial status**
- **Desire to be involved in decision making at different stages**
- **Project group is increasingly able to propose and undertake actions**



Qualitative Indicators of Participation II

- **Representation in other government or political bodies with relation to the project**
- **Emergence of people willing to take on leadership**
- **Interaction and the building of contacts with other groups and organizations**
- **People begin to have a say in and to influence local politics and policy formulation**



Quantitative Indicators of Participation I

- **Improved and more effective service delivery**
- **Greater numbers of project-level meetings and higher attendance levels**
- **Higher percentage of different groups attending meetings (e.g. women, landless)**
- **Greater numbers of direct project beneficiaries**



Quantitative Indicators of Participation II

- **Increased project input take-up rates**
- **Greater numbers of local leaders assuming positions of responsibility**
- **Greater numbers of local people acquiring positions in formal organizations**
- **Greater numbers of local people involved in different stages of the project**



Conclusion

- **Participation is an ongoing process.**
- **Community participation must go beyond participation to community management.**



Ethics

**Ethics means promoting integrity
and preventing wrongdoings.**

This definition includes the development
and maintenance of interrelated
mechanisms:

- Adequate Control
- Adequate Guidance
- Adequate Management



Ethics Infrastructure

- **Political commitment**
 - **Workable codes of conduct**
 - **Professional socialization mechanisms**
 - **Ethics coordinating body**
 - **Supportive public service conditions**
- **State, market and community (Walzer)**
 - **Efficient accountability mechanisms**
 - **Active civil society**



Questions for group discussions

What is your understanding of community?

What kind of social programmes related to CBA do you know?

Which practical examples of CBA can you give?



Ethics Infrastructure

Thank you 😊