

## **EXAMINING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND OTHER APPROACHES**

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### **Agenda**

- ▣ The challenges in examining community development
- ▣ Ostrom's Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework
- ▣ Complementing the IAD framework with other approaches
  - Through the "discourse analysis"
  - Through the "actor-oriented approach"

### **Challenges in examining community development**

- ▣ What is community development?
  - What is community?
    - A set of social relations?
      - Bounded to a place or locality
      - Having an ability to bring about a beneficial outcomes (Social Capital)
    - Or an imagined community (B.Anderson)
  - The goals of community development
    - Mobilising collective actions
    - Empowerment
  - The main challenge is how to cover the multiple aspects of community and the goals of community development

### **Challenges in examining community development**

- ▣ Approaches in studying community development
  - Institutional/instrumental approach
    - Prevalent among the World Bank economists
    - Community-based development projects as an instrument to foster an "institutional context" for collective actions
  - Critical approach (discourse analysis)
    - Revisionists' view of participation
    - Turning the emphasis to the roles of politics and power
  - Actor-oriented approach
    - Proposing that a development intervention should be studied from the perspectives of "actors" and how they shape their environment

## Ostrom's IAD framework

- ▣ The context Ostrom was dealing with:
  - The tragedy of commons
  - Finding alternatives beyond “property rights” and “government’s regulations”
- ▣ Using case studies of community self-management of commons, the institutional framework for examining collective actions was developed
  - The IAD framework

## Ostrom's IAD framework

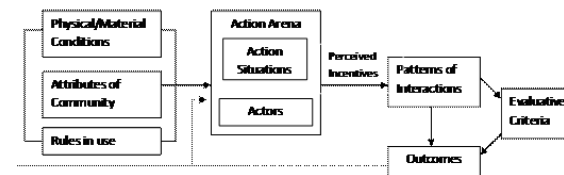
- ▣ The IAD framework
  - Starting with action arenas (realm of interactions)
    - **Action situation (characteristics of interactions)**
      - Comprising of variables such as:
        - Who can participate?
        - Actors’ positions
        - Their scope of actions and the potential outcomes
        - Potential benefits and costs of the outcomes from actions
    - **Actors (resources, pref, information)**
      - Dominated by the assumption of “homo-economicus” (complete information, ordered pref.)
      - But this assumption can be relaxed in some aspects, such as seeing human as engaging in reciprocal relations, and seeing them as “fallible learners”

## Ostrom's IAD framework

- ▣ The IAD framework
  - Starting with action arenas (realm of interactions)
  - The characteristics of an action arena unpin the incentive structure for interactions
    - Resulting in “patterns of interactions”
  - But the characteristics of action arenas are determined by three set of factors (could be seen as institutional factors)
    - Rules
    - Attributes of community
    - Attributes of physical/material conditions

## Ostrom's IAD framework

- ▣ The IAD framework



Source: Ostrom (2007)

## Ostrom's IAD framework

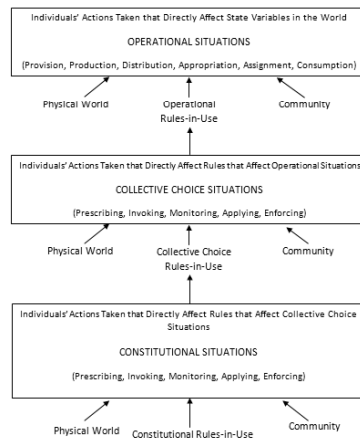
- The IAD framework
  - Factors shaping action arenas
    - **Rules**
      - Enforced prescriptions about what actions are allowed or prohibited.
      - Need to be think about as “working rules”
      - Example: entry/exit rules, position rules, scope rules, authority rules, pay-off rules.
    - **Attributes of community**
      - Norms, shared understanding, homogeneity, distribution of resources.
    - **Attributes of physical/material conditions**
      - Such as whether the resource of concerned have the characteristics of being the public goods.

## Ostrom's IAD framework

- Additional features
  - Different layers of “action arenas”
    - Operational level, collective choice level, constitutional level, and meta-constitutional level
  - The lower layers are nested within the higher layers

## Ostrom's IAD framework

Figure 3.2. Different levels of action arenas in the IAD framework



Source:  
Ostrom  
(2007)

## Ostrom's IAD framework

- Subsequent developments of the IAD framework
  - In examining the system of development aid
    - Collective action problems in the making of rules for development
    - See work: The Samaritan Dilemmas
  - In examining the policy process
    - Example: monitoring public services



## Ostrom's IAD framework

- ▣ Shortcomings and rooms for improvement
  - Underemphasising the roles of power and politics
  - The importance of the “normative” frame that governs interactions is also overlooked
    - For example, Thailand’s community culture school of thought can be seen as an “ethical” proposition rather than a positivistic observation
  - Homo-economicus inadequately capture the roles of human agency
  - Yet the IAD provides a scope for extension, through its potential to be applied with different disciplines

## Enriching the IAD framework: through the discourse analysis

- ▣ Discourse analysis
  - The social constructivist view of social reality
  - Different variants, what will be discussed here is the found in the policy analysis
    - Influenced by the works of Michel Foucault
- ▣ The concept of discourse is defined as:
  - *"as an ensemble of ideas, concepts, and categories through which meanings are given to phenomena. Discourses frame social problems; that is to say, they distinguish some aspects of a situation rather than others...discourse provides the tools with which problems are constructed"* (Hajer, 1993:45).

## Enriching the IAD framework: through the discourse analysis

- ▣ Performing discourse analysis
  - Analysing the “texts” in order to unravel the “frame” in which the meanings are constructed
    - For example, understanding how certain aspects of social reality is problematised, and the solutions are proposed
  - “Discourse” can be unpacked through exploring:
    - Storylines
    - Narratives
    - Arguments
  - For example, the stories of the subsistency of Thai communities

## Enriching the IAD framework: through the discourse analysis

- ▣ Complementing the IAD framework with the discourse analysis
  - Contextualising the making of rules within the web of meanings (as influenced by discourse)
  - Alternatively, discourse can be recognised as a different type of structure governing social interactions
    - It can be recognised, in addition to the incentive structure, as a “subjective” structure
- ▣ The challenge in understanding “community” as discourse remains

### Enriching the IAD framework: through the actor-oriented approach

- ▣ The actor-oriented approach
  - Turning the focus to the roles of “human agency”, looking instead to the capacity of actors to take advantages of the constraints and shaping the nature of social reality
- ▣ This means the policy process (particularly in a development intervention) needs to be conceptualised differently.
  - *"The concept of (development) intervention thus needs deconstructing so that it is seen for what it is —an ongoing, socially constructed and negotiated process, not simply the execution of an already-specified plan of action with expected outcomes"* (Long and Long, 1992:35)

### Enriching the IAD framework: through the actor-oriented approach

- ▣ The actor-oriented approach
  - Ethnographically examining actors' uses of strategies in 'negotiating' their differences, and 'consolidating' disjuncture in the working of a development intervention
  - Looking at their interactions at “social interfaces”
  - Examples of strategies (by development middlemen)
    - ▣ Brokerage strategies
      - Strategies in channeling resources to the recipients
    - ▣ Translating strategies
      - Strategies in creating representations of “progress” and “successes”

### Enriching the IAD framework: through the actor-oriented approach

- ▣ Relating the actor-oriented approach with the IAD framework and the discourse analysis
  - Seeing actors as exerting agency within the context of social structure
    - ▣ Two types of structure can be portrayed through the institutional analysis and the discourse analysis: incentive structure and subjective structure
  - Actors' uses of agency can be seen as the process in which the structure is being reproduced
    - ▣ Giddens' theory of structuration → merging the distinction between agency and structure, seeing their relationship as recursiveness