COMMUNITIES AS STAKEHOLDERS IN SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

Mary Racelis

Ateneo de Manila University
University of the Philippines

The World Bank, Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice (SSI)
 Philippine Learning Center for Environment and Social Sustainability
University of the Philippines

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THE CHALLENGE

For the World Bank and Government

Identify, assess, and manage the potential social risks and impacts in a project’s life cycle

For the People and Communities affected by the project

They
- Identify: who and how they will be affected?
- Assess benefits: who will gain – who will lose?
- Manage potential social risks, impacts of a project’s life cycle: process?

Co-knowledge Generation

co-production, co-implementation, co-ownership, co-benefits
- Community-Government-Private Sector partnerships
- World Bank: Benefits sharing
IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION in SIA

- People as stakeholders; meaningful participation
- Community identification of issues and stakeholders from the beginning
- Prioritizing and planning
- Information access
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation: who has benefitted? Lost out? Why?
- Feedback as accountability, transparency
IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION in SIA

Communities/People as Primary Stakeholders

● They know their situation and aspirations best; inside view
● They want to improve their lives and wellbeing -- but at what cost?
● They expect or wish the government would listen to their aspirations and priorities
● They are willing to get actively involved if they have a say from the beginning and throughout.
● NGO partners/Social devt workers build people’s capacities to assert their interests and rights
● Co-owning the project promotes trust and sustainability
CASE STUDY 1: URBAN INFORMAL SETTLERS IN METRO MANILA

COVID-19 in BASECO, Manila – (J. Tonelete and M. Racelis 2020 and 2021)

Problem definition

Government – health threat; Community – economic threat

- Government prioritized lockdown and health checks enforced by police; people prioritized economic survival

- Social impact
  - Organized communities led mostly by women took on key community sustainability roles while government was still organizing assistance;
  - PO leaders in the best position to assess social impact of government programs during COVID-19.
CASE STUDY 1: URBAN INFORMAL SETTLERS IN METRO MANILA

COVID-19 in BASECO, Manila – (J. Tonelete and M. Racelis 2020 and 2021)

Community – Government cooperation through PO initiatives/strengths

- PO’s updated community household list helped fair distribution/monitoring ayuda/cash grants and food pack distribution; govt lists outdated 2015
- Shared allocations with those left out
- Accessed food, medicine, PPE support from partner NGOs/faith-based groups/corporation/VP Leni Robredo’s office
- Set up community feeding kitchens
- Created vegetable gardens for hh consumption and sale.
- Did marketing for families quarantined at home; accompanied them to public quarantine facilities or hospital
- Set up income-generating for women: sewing masks, making PPEs; hampered by mothers having to supervise their children’s schoolwork

Photo Source: cnn.com
UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE’S ISSUES THROUGH RESEARCH

Traditional research approaches: extractive

- Externally determined project
- Technical experts know
- Statistical surveys only; no qualitative explanations of why these results
- Implementation decisions made by government: people expected to accept; limited or no feedback to community
- Focus on outputs with limited attention to outcomes and impact: who gained, who lost?
PROJECTS AS PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (PAR)

- Project development as mutual problem solving (Robert Chambers)
- Local people’s capacity building, enabling them to plan and act (Bryman 2008); women’s leadership
- Cyclical process: planning, observing, acting reflecting (Walker 2009);
- Community monitors process throughout; periodic evaluations
- Importance of social development workers, community organizers/facilitators to facilitate the process and address challenges along the way
- Drawback: project is externally defined; people participate in the outsider’s project vs co-developing and owning the project
CO-KNOWLEDGE GENERATION: CO-PRODUCTION, CO-IMPLEMENTATION, CO-OWNERSHIP, CO-BENEFITS

- People define the issues and projects aimed at addressing them
- Priorities and preferences
- Problem-solving approaches
- Mutual learning
- Continuous information systems feedback
- Sustainability
- Rights, dignity, and respect
WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT SOCIAL IMPACT CO-ASSESSMENT?

- Focuses on people and community agency
- Recognizes people are local experts; builds on local knowledge
- Acknowledges communities differ; disaggregation is important
- Supports people’s desire for improved, equitable community wellbeing, especially vulnerable groups; listening approach
- Involves primary stakeholders in monitoring through the changing process cycle; evaluation
- Promotes sustainability through co-ownership
CASE STUDY 2: Alliance of People’s Organizations Along the Manggahan Floodway: Baseline criteria for 5 Community-selected Sustainable Development Goals: EDUCATION during COVID-19

- Every child has ipad
- Signal improvement; wi-fi; load subsidy
- Proper lighting in every household; electricity
- Mothers/caregiver assisted in learning modules
- System of supervision, so mothers can go out to earn
- Children have learned at expected grade levels; promotion
- Alternative programs for youth who have to work to earn

Photo Source: APOAMF

The Manggahan Low Rise Building Project in Pasig City, Philippines
CONTEXT AND PROCESS MATTER

- SIA begins with the project: baseline, monitoring, evaluation as Co-Production
- When and how have the affected people learned about the project? Reactions?
- Rumors vs information
  - Trusted officials
  - Iterative consultations
- Government listening vs telling; meaningful participation;
- Enhancing credibility, legitimacy and trust: conversations; story-telling
- Assessing power relations; if unequal, people will opt for short-term not long-term benefits (Vaclay)
- Time consuming consultative process but more effective in the long run
CASE STUDY 3: PRIETO DIAZ, SORSOGON, BICOL REGION, LUZON

Community-generated resource management plan becomes a local government policy

SAMAMAMU
(Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Muntopar/Assn of Small Fisherfolk of Muntopar)
- PO organized by local priest

Tambuyog
- development NGO, invited to carry out its program on sustainable coastal area development (SCAD) in partnership with SAMAMAMU – 1994

Community Organizing: not only preparatory but continues throughout project
Successful community-owned five-year development People’s Plan for Sustainable coastal area development is integrated into municipal plan and ordinance

- Group self-assessment, teambuilding, running meetings, community assemblies and discussions, information gathering, situation analysis, leadership training, stakeholder dialogues, lobbying and negotiating with local officials
- Resistance to DENR selected contractor with top-down orientation; reorganized
- From Association to Cooperative for sustainability
- SAMAMAMU – electoral campaigning for supportive local officials, who won
- Interagency multi-sectoral task force created to review municipal fishery code
Case Study 4: Claiming the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title - Iraya Mangyan, Occidental Mindoro – AnthroWatch – National Commission on Indigenous People (San Jose, 2012)

- IPRA – Indigenous People’s Rights Act RA 8371 1997
- Free prior and informed consent (FPIC)
- Land is life and identity
- Discrimination and dispossession
- Building trust
- CADT Process: pre- actual- post- survey – submit to NCIP
- Iraya learn; genealogy, kinship charts, census, photos, ethnographic data, land surveys, landmark identification
Focus on marginalized groups: Who benefited? Who was excluded? Why?

People’s perceptions of local power dynamics and alternatives
  - Government
  - Business
  - Big families and clans

Unequal power relations move people toward short-term benefits

Accounts of discrimination and social injustice

Deprivation of dignity and respect

Grievance mechanisms

Claiming successes
Governance partnership generated pro-poor programs and policies:

- Land tenure and housing;
- Local implementation of Urban Devt and Housing Act on anti-eviction and anti-demolition rights;
- Onsite upgrading/nearsite relocation; access to resources
- Urban Poor Affairs Office created
- Reform of City’s internal management, service delivery, and public feedback system.
- Mayor Robredo re-elected unopposed, serving 9 full-term years; DILG Sec’y
CONCLUSIONS: SIA WORKS BEST WHEN

- Affected people and communities are brought into discussion from project conceptualization to conclusion in a continuing partnership through Co-Production, Co-Ownership, Co-Benefits – and CO-SI ASSESSMENT.

- **Community organizers** – NGOs, social development practitioners are key partners

- Informed and empowered people and communities take initiatives and responsibility for the project; resolve community differences
CONCLUSIONS: SIA WORKS BEST WHEN

- Women’s talent, interest and efficacy as effective community leaders are recognized.
- Government partners value and support the efficacy of citizens making their voices heard to increase efficiency, accountability of government; good governance.
- People are enabled to collaborate effectively and sustain project outcomes and impact because their knowledge, interest to learn, and participate are appreciated.
- Marginalized citizenry’s right to dignity and respect is affirmed and valued.
THANK YOU!

Mary Racelis
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International Symposium on Social Impact Assessment (SIA in East Asia And The Pacific)

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REFERENCES


