



Understanding and Measuring Empowerment



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ESSD Week

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■ Measuring Empowerment

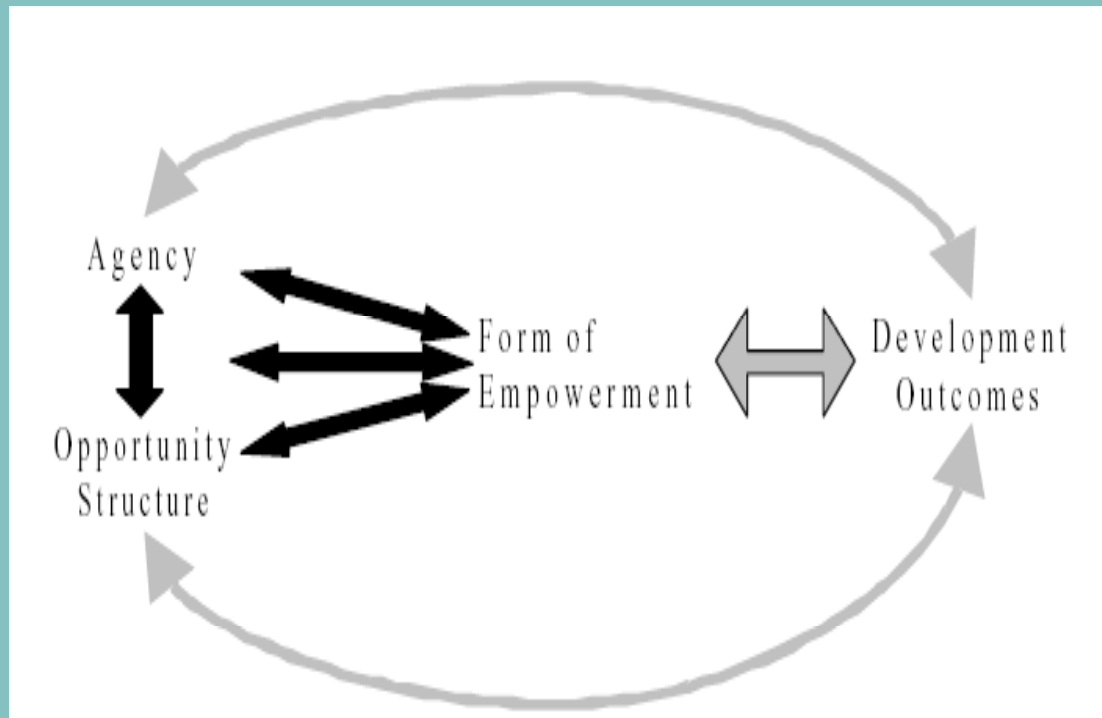
- Why do it?
- What to consider?



■ Defining Empowerment

Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals and groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.

Correlates of Empowerment





Concepts

- Agency – measured by (multiple) asset endowments
- Opportunity structure – measured by presence and operation of informal and formal institutions
- Form of empowerment – passive access, active participation, influence, control

Context -- domains

- state, includes sub-domains of legal, political and service delivery
- the market, includes sub-domains of credit, labor and goods
- Society, includes sub-domains of intra-household and community

Context -- levels

- Local level, immediate vicinity of person's/group's everyday life
- Intermediary level, familiar vicinity but not encroached upon on an every day level
- Macro level, vicinity furthest away from individual/group

Summary of Analytic Framework

DOMAIN		CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR	LEVEL		
	Sub-domain		Macro	Intermediary	Local
State	Justice	Agency (A) ¹	Form of empowerment (FOE) ³	FOE	FOE
		Opportunity Structure (OS) ²			
	Political	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			
	Service Delivery	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			
Market	Credit	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			
	Labor	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			
	Goods (production and consumption)	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			
OS					
Society	Household	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			
	Community	A	FOE	FOE	FOE
		OS			

Applying the Framework to the Community-Based Education Project (PROHECO), Honduras

Background:

- Decentralization project that devolves authority over education matters to community school councils
- Empowerment relationships: (1) between parents and school staff, and (2) between schools and central education authorities

INDICATORS OF EMPOWERMENT: EXAMPLES FROM PROHECO

DOMAIN		CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR	LEVEL		
	Sub-domain		Macro	Meso	Local
State	Service Delivery	A: prior experience with involvement in community matters			Parents' ability to attend and participate in school council meetings (access/participation)
		OS: existence and operation of rules that obstruct/facilitate parental involvement			
	Service Delivery	A: parents' education level			Parents' ability to have a say over text book selection, teaching material and curriculum design (influence)
		OS: willingness of education authorities to devolve this right to parents			
	Service Delivery	A: parents' awareness of the rights and duties devolved to school council			Parents' ability to hold teachers accountable for their performance (influence/control)
		OS: existence/operation of institutional structures that allow parents to file complaints and have them addressed			
	Service Delivery	A: extent of training received prior to establishment of school council			School council's ability to manage funds for school materials and school improvement activities (control)
		OS: timely and efficient transfer of funds from central government			

Background on KDP Conflict Study

Main questions:

- What factors affect local level capacity to manage conflict?
- How do different types of interactions generate and/or resolve conflict?
 - Community-state relations
 - Inter-community relations
- What is the role of external actors in mediating local conflict?
- Do CDD projects influence local capacity to manage conflict? If so, how and under what conditions?

Making the Connection: How the ME Framework & KDP Conflict Frameworks Cohere

- Increased capacity to manage conflict and avoid violent conflict can be seen as a Form of Empowerment (FOE)
- Conflicts unfold and FOE can be understood according to their relation to the pathways that conflicts take (and intervening variables which influence that path)
- What are the “contributory factors to FOE?”
 - **Opportunity Structure (presence & operation of formal and informal institutions) → rules of the game, dynamics of difference**
 - **Agency (assets) → efficacy of intermediaries**

“Rules of the Game” in Justice Sub-domain, Local Level

DOMAIN		CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR (Assets and/or Opportunity Structure)	LEVEL
	Sub-domain		Local: Desa (Village) & (Dusun) Sub-village
State	Justice	relative trust levels in formal (courts, police) v. informal rule systems (<i>adat</i> -traditional law) (Asset)	prevention of conflict escalation, stalemate, and/or violence (FOE: increased influence and control stemming from resulting increased capacity for choice)
		compatibility between and within competing rule systems (e.g. formal courts v. <i>adat</i> law) as they apply in case-based scenarios of conflict	
	Justice	ability of disputants and intermediaries to reconcile competing rule systems (Asset)	
		presence and coherence of "secondary decision" rules for choosing and mediating between competing rules systems (OS)	
	Justice	presence and enforceability (formal and/or informal) of rules (formal and/or informal) (Asset and OS)	

“Dynamics of Difference” in Justice Sub-domain Local Level

DOMAIN		CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR	LEVEL
	Sub-domain		Local: Desa (Village) & (Dusun) Sub-village
State	Justice	willingness of parties in a conflict to seek solutions (Agency)	prevention of conflict escalation, stalemate, and/or violence (FOE: increased influence and control stemming from resulting increased capacity for choice)
	Justice	degree and nature of parties' respective possession of resources (human, financial, administrative) for seeking resolutions (Agency)	
	Justice	degree and nature of parties' shared understandings of the idiosyncratic details of their local context, including technical expertise in devising viable solutions (Agency & Opportunity Structure)	

“Dynamics of Difference” in Justice Sub-domain, Local Level

DOMAIN		CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR	LEVEL
	Sub-domain		Local: Desa (Village) & (Dusun) Sub-village
State	Justice	degree to which villagers define themselves in opposition to another group (to which they don't belong) (Agency)	ability of heterogeneous groups to modify and/or transform their respective group identities in ways that generate common ground on issues and/or foster shared community identity
	Justice	degree to which membership in a group is defined by willingness and ability to perpetuate and build rigid boundaries between other groups (Agency and Opp. Structure)	
	Justice	susceptibility of members of identity groups to mobilization and radicalization by authorities within their group (Agency and Opp. Structure)	
	Justice	degree of fluidity between groups and openness of groups to mediation (Opportunity Structure)	