

Transforming structure and process

Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor, Dept. of Fisheries, RU

Concept

- Structures are the “hardware”, the organizations and institutions that establish and enforce policies, provide services and products to households.
- Processes are the “software”, what these organizations and institutions do: establishment and enforcement of laws, trade activities, services (education, health, extension) etc.
- Structures and Processes operate at many levels
 - *International:*
 - International trade (Bangladesh export of prawns)
 - International treaties (international boundaries, fishing licenses to foreign countries)
 - *National*
 - National policies (fishing policies)
 - National markets (fresh and dried fish, inputs)
 - National NGOs
 - *Local*
 - Community leaders and organizations
 - Local merchants and moneylenders
 - Local NGOs

Types of structures

Formal structures

- International companies
- UN
- National government
- NGOs
- Local government
- Village government
- Religious organizations
- Community organizations
- Banks

- Local moneylenders
- Local merchants

Social (informal) structures

- Land inheritance customs
- Labor exchange customs
- Socially defined roles, rights, responsibilities for men and women
- Community governance structures

TSP Affect Household Livelihood Security

They determine how households (and household members) may acquire or dispose of assets

- Land: Formal land laws and inheritance customs

Restrictions on women, ethnic groups, castes from owning land

- Shared resources: local customs and structures for sharing and restricting access to the resources

Exclusion of ethnic groups, castes, etc.

- Human capital: Education facilities provided by government, NGOs

Access to education more limited for females, some ethnic groups, castes

- Financial capital: provided by commercial banks, moneylenders, NGOs

Banking laws and moneylending customs restrict access to credit for households with few physical assets

- Social capital: accumulated and distributed through local groups and organization

Women, ethnic or social groups, castes may be excluded from participating

They determine how households (and household members) may use their assets in livelihood strategies:

- Households in isolated areas face more difficulties to purchase inputs and sell their products
- Limited access to education and training reduces employment opportunities
- Customary restrictions on women to engage in economic activities away from the home

TSP affect conditions of households' livelihood activities

Examples:

- Government removes subsidy on fertilizer, causing the farmers' price to suddenly increase.
- Government bans some types of fishing activities and gear.
- Sudden shock from devaluation (Asia 1997)
- Global business conditions increase or decrease opportunities for emigration