

Measurement of Structural linkages (Social Capital) in the FDA villages in Madhya Pradesh.

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Social capital is a way to measure the aspect of structural linkages. Social capital enhances co-management regimes through which the resources can be utilised on a sustainable basis. Its development may result in amicable solutions of the issues that involve interests of various stakeholders. The Forest Development Agency and joint forest management committees are one such institution through which structural linkages can be enhance resource management amicably. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India created Forest Development Agencies under its ninth five-year developmental plan. The rationale for the constitution of FDA was the timely and effective implementation of Afforestation schemes.

The study is both qualitative and quantitative. The study was undertaken three villages for an in-depth study of social capital in Hoshangabad division. Our ethnographic findings show that the change in relationships between and among the different stakeholders of the JFM process is not just because of the policy itself. There are many other factors, such as increasing awareness of the people, increase in their educational standards, economic status, political involvement and like things that have influenced the process. 34.3% households saw positive changes happening because of the policy and 61.1% of the respondents in three villages do not see any change occurred by the JFM process. Thus, it would be a narrow approach to take the JFM policy as the only indicator of seeing the structural changes. Findings in all the three villages show that there is a good amount of horizontal solidarity among the villagers and between the villages. The vertical linkage between the villages and the government, the NGOs, and other stakeholders outside the village is low.

The structural linkages of the villages with the government offices, NGOs etc. show less positive frequency than to the interpersonal and inter-ethnic relationships in the village. The bonding between the members of individual ethnic groups are strong but the bridging capital between the

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two ethnic groups are weak resulting in an overall linking capital of the village with government and development agencies less strong.