

ROLE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL ON HOUSEHOLD RECOVERY FROM FLOODING

A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY IN RURAL AREA, CAMBODIA

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

- Over 80% of the land is exposed to seasonal flooding.
- Disaster recovery largely depends on informal networks rather than formal aid.
- This study aims to identify the types of social capital (bonding, bridging, and linking) mobilized by households during the post-flood recovery process.
- To analyze and examine how the presence or absence of social capital affects recovery outcomes.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How does social capital influence household recovery from flooding in Kampong Leang District, Kampong Chhnang Province?

- What types of social capital are mobilized by households during the post-flood recovery process?
- In what ways does social capital enable or limit household access to resources and support during post-flood recovery?

STUDY SITE



Toul Rolous Village



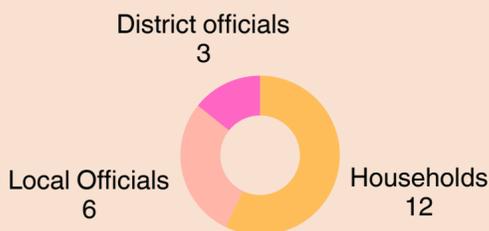
Koh ka'ek Village

RESEARCH METHOD

PURPOSIVE + SNOWBALL SAMPLING

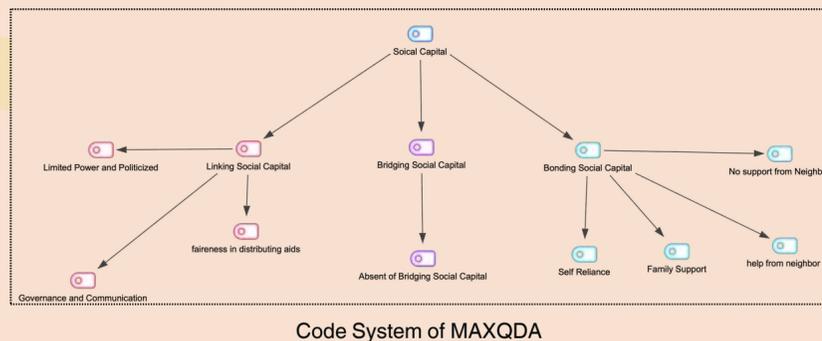
- ≥5 years of continuous
- Directly affected by flood event
- Above 18 and consented to participate

21 SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

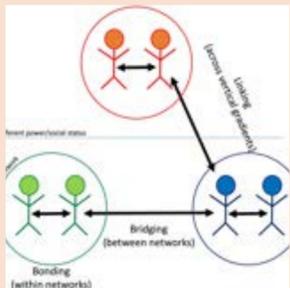


THEMATIC ANALYSIS

- Thematic analysis was conducted using Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework.



FRAMEWORK



Aldrich's (2012) social capital framework

INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

- Conducted in Khmer
- Duration: 30–45 minutes
- Audio-recorded, transcribed, translated
- Location: Commune Hall and Participant Houses, and designated meeting spaces

RESEARCH FINDING

<p>Bonding Social Capital Most Common, But Limited</p> <p>All households relied on close family for support. Neighbor help was minimal due to shared poverty. Bonding ties offered emotional support and small repair assistance, but not enough for full recovery</p>	<p>Bridging Social Capital Structurally Absent</p> <p>Bridging social capital is Largely absent across the community. Lack of horizontal ties hindered collective recovery efforts.</p>	<p>Linking Social Capital Limited Power and Politicized</p> <p>Some accessed aid through village chiefs or local authorities. Chiefs were active but had limited control over distribution. Aid access was influenced by favoritism and personal relationships.</p>	<p>Socioeconomic Status Patterns of Recovery Across Different SES Levels</p> <p>All households that achieved full recovery were from the middle socioeconomic group, while those from low socioeconomic backgrounds only achieved partial or no recovery</p>
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KEY INSIGHTS

<p>Bonding capital = Emotional & short-term support</p> <p>Bonding capital provided emotional and immediate support, but lacked the material capacity for sustainable recovery.</p> <p>Bonding social capital can reinforce cycles of deprivation rather than break them. (Tierney, 2006; Hossain & Martin, 2018)</p>	<p>The Missing Layer of Community Resilience</p> <p>Communities remained fragmented post-flood, with reduced information flow, minimal mutual aid, and no coordinated recovery mechanisms.</p> <p>Bridging SC is the "connective tissue" that enables communities to scale resilience beyond the household (Woolcock & Narayan, 2000).</p>	<p>Unequal Access and Institutional Bias</p> <p>Linking SC existed, failed to deliver equitable outcomes. Supporting the idea that SC alone isn't enough without accountable governance.</p> <p>Bridging SC is the "connective tissue" that enables communities to scale resilience beyond the household (Woolcock & Narayan, 2000).</p>	<p>SES shapes access to effective social capital</p> <p>Households with higher SES had stronger links to institutions, while lower-SES households struggled to convert social ties into meaningful support.</p> <p>"Socioeconomic status explains the greatest variance in social vulnerability." (Cutter et al., 2003)</p>
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CONCLUSION

- Primarily bonding capital (family, neighbors); bridging was minimal; linking was selectively accessed.
- Bonding enabled emotional and immediate support but lacked scale. Linking enabled access to aid only when mediated by powerful actors. Lack of bridging capital left households isolated.
- SES shaped both the type and effectiveness of social capital. Low-SES households relied on bonding but struggled to access linking networks. Middle-SES households accessed multiple layers and recovered better.

PUSH FACTORS

- Rebuilding Bridging Social Capital: From Symbolism to Structure
 - Adopt the principles of effective implemented policies such as: Ward-Level Reconstruction Committees, and Community-Driven Recovery Forums (CDRFs).
- Promote Inclusive Representation to Reduce Elite Bias
- Inter-Village Networks for Collective Resilience