

AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT EMOTIONS? DO THEY MATTER FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADEQUACY

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LOCAL SOLUTIONS - GLOBAL IMPACT

Overview



- background
- theoretical approach (capability approach)
- institutional adequacy
- measurement concerns

Background: policy

- NWA 1998 (Ch 7 Sec 80 (e)) “to promote community participation in the protection, use, development conservation, management and control of the water resources in its WMA”
- “to take into account the needs and expectations of existing and potential water users “ (Chap 2 Sect 9 (h))
- “The Act prescribes **suitable** water management **institutions** to promote **social** and **economic** development through the use of water”

What is sufficiently developmental?



- Policy advocates **meaningful** engagement with stakeholders: what is meaningful?
- What does a sufficiently developmental institution look like?
- Need certain goods but these can't be distributed – they are the result of processes in public spaces
- Processes need to be intact and they can't be de-linked from outcomes
- Idea of missing dimensions captures the idea of 'meaningful' engagement

K5/1971: Objectives



- Establish a set of indicators to measure the adequacy of institutions
- Increase dialogue between different disciplines bringing more rigour and numeracy to the social science dialogue
- Bring more rigour to discussion about poverty and put the spotlight on intangible assets and human well-being (QOL)
- Introduce the Capability Approach (CA) and notions of multi-dimensionality into discourses on IWRM

Development is freedom



- A framework developed by Amartya Sen (1999)
- 'Development is freedom' – individuals achieve freedom (or fail to) due to social, political and economic opportunities (or constraints)
- It is **multi-dimensional** because it engages with multiple domains of development
- A developmental institution would be one that brings more freedom

QOL of prime moral importance



- It is **normative** – freedom to achieve well-being and QOL is of prime moral importance
- QOL of individuals can't be considered separately from the structures in which they are embedded
- Certain social environments promote QOL – others perpetuate deprivation
- An institution that provides the opportunity to gain intangible goods would be adequate or healthy

We measure concrete things ...



- The risk of diarrhoea decreases by 17% with water supply, 36% with improved sanitation and 48% with hand washing with soap (Bhutta et al 2013)
- These are concrete things – we can measure them. But what about those intangible goods that are more difficult to measure

Inequalities matter



- Inequality in distribution of intangible goods (missing dimensions) is like any other inequality and it emerges in institutional spaces
- Poverty (deprivation) is not having material goods (taps, pumps, etc) but also not having goods that people have reason to value (self esteem, dignity, hope)
- Emotions (intangible goods) affect and are affected by social structures
- The most commonly occurring emotions in a society can be seen as markers of the points of tension (or fulfilment) generated by its structures (Lutz and White 1986)

Public reasoning



- CA values public reason and the idea of reason(ing) is of intrinsic importance
- QOL is about practical reasoning in these (public) spaces

Challenges around complexity



- How do we distinguish between affects or emotions at the individual level that reverberate through the institution but that are the effects that are carried on the bodies of these individuals into public spaces from elsewhere?
- How do we set boundaries around emotions?
- How do we establish indicators that tap into these emotions?
- How do we decide which emotion deserves our attention and which does not?
- Realism pushes towards complexity, indexing towards simplicity

Several things matter at the same time



- Hope (critical not naïve hope)
- Self-esteem
- Pride
- Joy
- Feeling valued
- Dignity
- Empowerment
- Understanding

Emotions propel to action



- Hope is a mental state that helps command (protect, manage, use, conserve etc) commodities
- Can propel people to action even if the hopes are unfounded

Towards an index ...



- Emotions help us understand why people do what they do
- Linked to power – powerless less likely to feel hopeful
- Someone risk averse unlikely to command hope
- Emotions shape the development agenda

- Qualitative (intangible) aspects of management are important and should be measured

- Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted (Einstein)

Measurement concerns



- Submersion factor
- Time bounded factor
- Thin description
- Explicit, discussed and defended
- Pragmatic
- Non reductionism

Emotions engage our bodies ...



- In contrast to purely cognitive patterns, emotions engage our bodies and ready them for action and they are 'experiences, forms of participative awareness that reflect the concrete, sensuous, and ever-changing aspects of existence (Henriks 2012)

Unashamedly normative



- When one brings intangible goods into the equation, the poverty assessment at any given point might change
- Development and ethics cannot be separated
- Promote positive social change
- Both materiality and intangible aspects of human well being
- Like commodities, hope (or other emotions) has instrumental and intrinsic importance

Hope (an essential component of human well being)



hope (1)

When they look at us they think we are playing. But when they see the results they will be motivated to get involved ... they come and help us with the work that we do. The only thing that will stop us is to be sick or die (Gogo August 2011)

hope (2)

When I see my children eating, well dressed - I am very happy... my heart rejoices. I do not want my family to ever lack food or clothing. As long as I have these two hands I will make sure of that. Now I want my children to go to school so they do not have to work as hard as I do...

Empowerment (1)



empowerment (1)

It (the meetings) helps a lot because we sit down and give each other advice when there is a problem. I'll keep quiet now, someone else talk... we really get inspired ... we succeeded (saphumelela). We are going to eat a two rand potato (it means you are rich - laughs) (Gogo August 2011)

empowerment and self-esteem (2)

Now I can provide for my family...the whole world can no longer see there is no man in the house...Vukani has hidden that for me. My neighbours now realise there is a family living next to them, they now even talk to me when I pass by. I am no longer ashamed to be alive...they have forgotten I am a widow... now I am just like them

Empowerment (2)



empowerment and self-esteem (3)

If you are a woman it is actually possible for you to stand on your own two feet meaning if you join the group... farm with others... using your own two hands... it will come as a surprise that one day after you have sold your produce you can buy meat, bread, sugar... take home to cook for the family... without even realising it your husband would have eaten the proceeds of your work, what you would have brought home... you would have provided for your family...

empowerment and self-esteem (4)

...we can start income generating projects instead of sitting at home and gossiping all day ... we can build tanks around Dwaleni...we can do it as youth...we have to do the jobs ourselves, in the case of Sinovile to put the taps there... to get something to eat...'

Empowerment (agency)

If you disagree with what everyone else agree on, would you feel free to speak out	Freq	Percent	Cum
No not at all	215	29.33	29.33
Yes definitely	445	60.71	90.04
Yes, but only on certain matters	73	9.96	100.00
Total	733	100.00	

Empowerment (locus of control)

How much in control do you feel you have in making decisions that affect your everyday life	Freq	Percent
Control over all decisions	140	19.20
Control over most decisions	155	21.26
Control over some decisions	262	25.94
Control over very few decisions	81	11.11
No control	90	12.35
Total	729	100.00

Feeling valued



Overall, how much impact do you think you have at this current time in making	Freq	Percent
A big impact	336	46.15
A small impact	207	28.43
No impact	177	24.31
Total	728	100.00

Agency



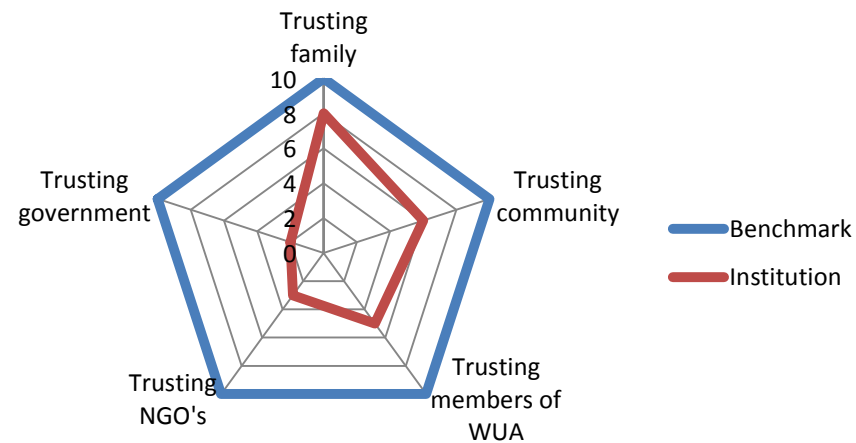
Do you feel that people like yourself can generally change things in your community	Freq	Percent
A lot	418	58.79
A little	177	24.89
Not at all	113	15.89
Total	711	100.00

WMA promoting adequate thresholds

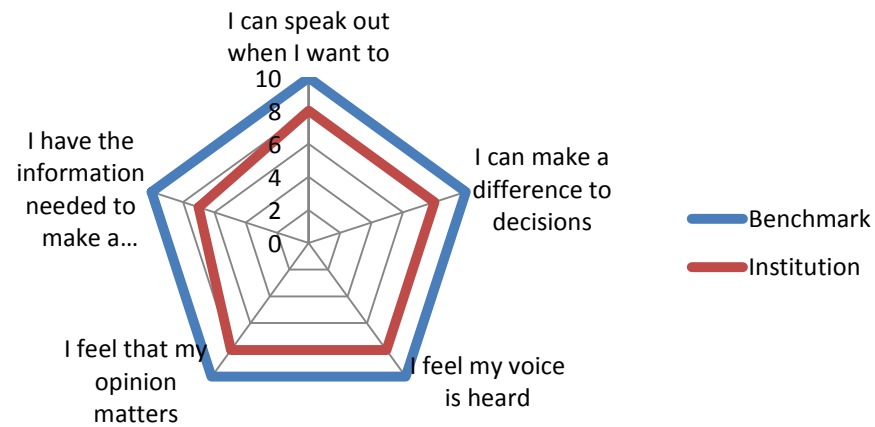


What role, if any, can water management institutions have in promoting minimally adequate thresholds of recognition and advantage that allow for the flourishing of hope, trust, self-esteem, pride, feeling valued, dignity, empowerment, understanding and general human well-being

Trust as an indicator of adequacy



Voice

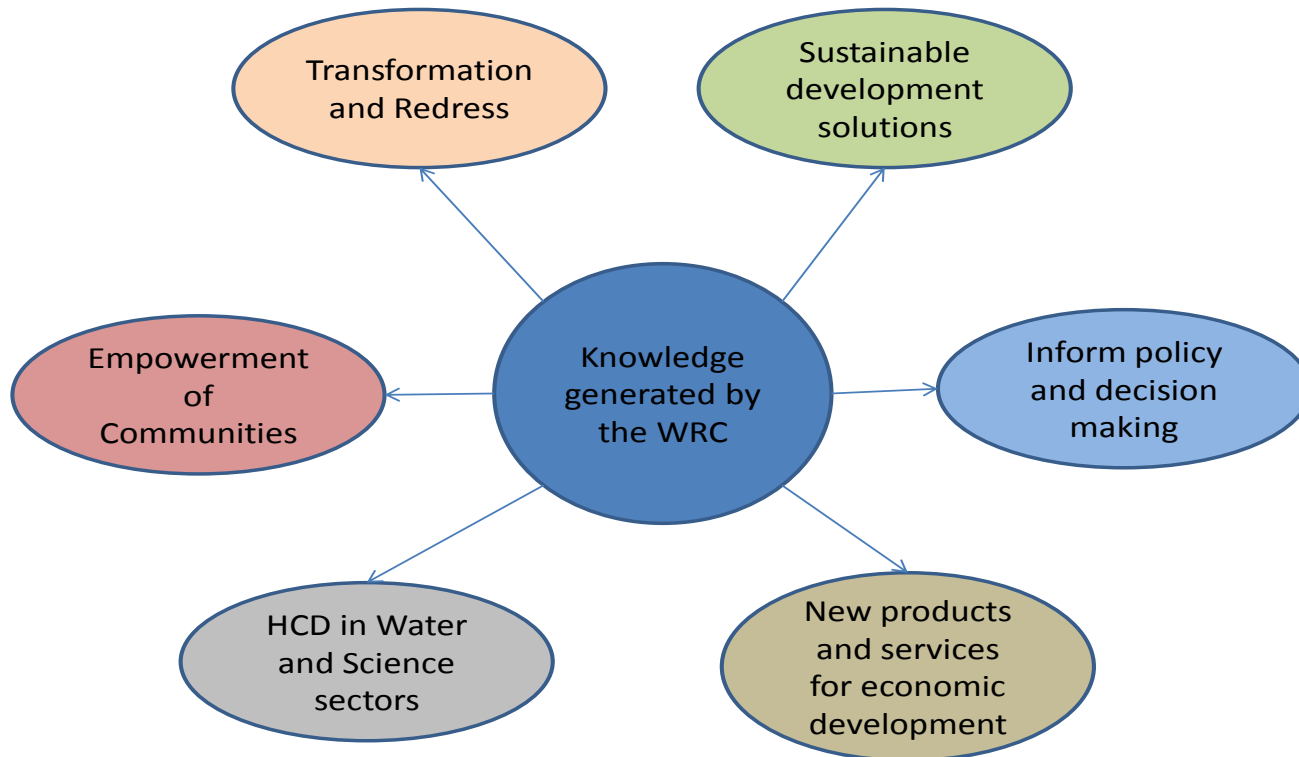


Impact

Sustainable development solutions

Transformation and redress

Empowerment of communities



THANK YOU

