Analytical Methodologies to Guide Interventions in Informal Settlements

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Definitions

**Informal settlement**
“a settlement where land is occupied according to a set of rules and processes that are not entirely legal” (Barry 1999)

**System**
“a set of elements connected together which form a whole, this showing properties which are properties of the whole, rather than properties of its component parts” (Checkland 1999, p. 3)
Systems Theories

Soft Systems Methodology

Other theories:
  • Multi-methodology
  • Post Modern Systems Theories
  • Complexity Theory

Soft Systems Methodology

Meaning

Construction of social reality

Social, political and historical aspects

Weltanschauung
SSM: Four main activities methodology

(Checkland 1999)

Rich Picture: Informal Settlement
## CATWOE: Informal Settlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Customers</th>
<th>Residents of Informal Settlement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actors</td>
<td>Settlement Committee, Local Authority, Land Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformation</td>
<td>From threat of eviction to some level of security of tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weltanschauung</td>
<td>Right to shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>Residents of Informal Settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Constraints</td>
<td>Government policy and laws, political environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Root Definition: Informal Settlement

The residents of the informal settlement believe they have a right to shelter, and mandate the settlement committee to negotiate on their behalf with the local authority and the land owner, to prevent eviction. The environmental constraints are government policy and law, as well as the political environment.
Conceptual Model: Informal Settlement

Conclusions

Soft Systems Methodology

Weakness: Does not address problem situations with extreme coercive behaviour

Potential to be used more extensively in informal settlement interventions
References


Checkland, P 1999, Systems Thinking, Systems Practice, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester.