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Panel

T01P14 - Implementing Public Policies through Policy Networks in East Asia

Author

Mr. Chu-Chien Chu, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Public Administration, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Co-Author

Mr. Huan-Sheng Lin, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Public Administration, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Title

Understanding Collaborative Networks in Emergency Management: A Network Analysis Perspective

Abstract

This research analyzes the interactive and collaborative relationships through Social Network Analysis (SNA) to draw the graphs among the organizations which had evolved in educational reestablishment after Morakot disasters in Taiwan in 2009. The analytic indicators to the collaborative networks include centrality degree, betweenness degree, cluster group, transitivity and structural holes. This research bounded 24 organizations to be the network actors via deep interviews and semi-opened questionnaires to select first group for involved stakeholders which are from public, foundations affiliated with big enterprises, and (I)NGOs. This SNA questionnaire includes five perspectives to thirteen questions and one semi-opened question.

This paper aims to understand the importance and correlation between trust and collaboration among different organizations in the process of disaster reestablishments. The five perspectives are norms, autonomy, governance, administration and mutuality to discuss one challenge of trust among NGOs. Meanwhile, this research expects to response the arguments to the proposition that effective response and recovery require well-coordinated interorganizational networks.
and trust between governmental agencies at all levels and between the public and private sectors (Kapucu, 2005:33).

First, based on formal interactions among organizations, the privatized organizations which possesses governmental resources and expenditure support (GONGO) are important actors of the formal networks, including the external authority and task coordination of administration, resource and brainstorm collaboration of governance, partner resource and information-shared collaboration of mutuality, and long-term and dependence collaboration of norms. The GONGOs in Taiwan are powerful organizations in the collaborative networks, especially they have recessive power to affect domestic policy-making and important connections.

Second, under the informal relationships, Taiwan Red Cross is also a crucial actor in the networks. Otherwise, Taiwan World Vision become a key actor of the informal networks, including informal personal relationship of governance, respect collaboration of mutuality, trust, dependence and long-term collaboration of norms. Although, it’s difficult to connect other small organizations to local NGOs, they form a group to discuss and connect to each other in informal collaborations.

Based on this research, large organizations are the coordinative targets in the networks because of its leadership in resource acquirement and reputation. It’s not absolutely related to the organizational accountability. Otherwise, public sectors possess the policy and administrative power to be the central actors in the formal network. However, resource-dependence relationship is occurred in the networks of formal power, resource and funding acquirement, but located in the peripheral and isolated positions in the networks of professional knowledge, informal relationship, respect and trust to large organizations, foundations affiliated with enterprises and public sectors. The relationship of informal interactions is more critical to build up trust and cooperation.

The main considerable question is that how do actors who lack of resources connect to each other to affect the project of disaster reestablishment. The large organizations don’t share their resources, but intervene in other organizational operations. Therefore, collaborative network needs to consider the approach to obtain resource, the actor involved is the important element of power and accountability among public and NGO sectors.

Reference


Hu, Qian, C. Knox, and N. Kapucu. 2014. “What Have We Learned since September


Keyword

Collaborations, Post-disaster recovery, Emergency management, Nongovernmental organizations, Networks, Social network analysis