Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

Introduction

- The processes of **analyzing**, **monitoring**, and **controlling** the **intended** and **unexpected** social impacts, both good and bad, of **planned interventions** (policies, programme, plans, projects) and any **social change** processes induced by such interventions are called **SIA**.
- Primary goal is to create a more **sustainable** and **equitable biophysical** and human environment.
- SIA has often been performed as part of the **EIA** approval procedure.
- SIA is increasingly an essential component of **project planning**, particularly for developing Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs).
- SIA is carried out as a **socioeconomic survey**, identifying the social and economic impacts on persons and communities affected by project-induced displacement.
- Furthermore, the data provided is utilized to build **mitigation strategies** and monitor mitigation implementation.

Process of SIA

Step 1: Impact Assessment

Step 2: Determine Information/Data Needs and their Sources

Step 3: Identifying Stakeholders

Step 4: Screening

Step 5: Scoping

Step 6: Preparation of Socioeconomic profile

Step 7: Survey

Step 8: Identifying and Assessing the risks

Step 9: Developing a mitigation plan

Impact Assessment

- The first step is establishing the impact area. The area size varies depending on the project. **A dam submerges a broad geographical region that affects multiple settlements. The impact of a highway and other linear constructions manifests as little strips of land on each side of the road along the corridor**.
- The SIA team must get a **map** that delineates the region that will be affected by the project (both directly and indirectly).
- Furthermore, a **field visit** to the region is required to understand the area's **geographic** boundaries and the people that live there.

Data Sources

- Examine **current data** on potential project impacts to see if it may be utilized for assessment purposes.
- Might give disaggregated statistics by **caste**, **religion**, **gender**, and other administrative categories, such as those living below the poverty line.
- The secondary should be tested for both **adequacy** and **dependability**.
- This evaluation will also aid in determining the necessity for **additional primary data** gathering via surveys and **participative** techniques.

Identifying Stakeholders

- All affected **stakeholders** should be provided information and consulted with them.
- Stakeholders are **individuals**, **groups**, or **institutions** who are likely to be affected (either adversely or favorably) by a proposed intervention or who may influence the result of the intervention.
- Create and implement a successful **public participation** strategy that includes all interested and impacted parties.
- Identifying stakeholders participating in **consultative** processes is the first stage in formulating strategy for **consultation** and **participation**.

Screening

- **Screening** is done at the beginning of the project development process.
- The goal of screening is to separate those with "**no substantial effects**" from those with **significant impacts** to obtain a comprehensive picture of the **kind**, **scale**, and **extent** of the concerns.
- This aids in deciding the **scope** of the comprehensive SIA that will be performed later.

Scoping

- This entails visiting the project site and consulting with all parties. It is critical to confirm their **comprehension** of critical problems.
- For **large-scale** displacement programmes, **on-ground** assessment of impacts is essential.
- **Local knowledge** may be necessary in identifying options that helps to prevent or mitigate the number and **severity** of **negative consequences**.
- This is a first evaluation of **potential implications**, not a determination of the amount of impact.

Preparation of Socioeconomic Profile

- It is necessary to assess the **socioeconomic** conditions of the affected people.
- This assessment generally involves conducting a socioeconomic **survey** and **broad consultation** with all concerned groups.

Survey

- A survey is conducted to ensure that enough **land**, **income-generating** possibilities, and other resources are available in the **host region** to maintain more people from the **afflicted area** and that this **inflow** does not **strain** local **resources**, which the **host community** may **resent**.
- Another **critical point** is that the persons being moved and the hosts have comparable **socio-cultural backgrounds**. The shared background considerably reduces **social/ethnic tensions**.

Identifying and Assessing the Risks

- Once the scale of **predicted outcomes** has been discovered, the next step is to assess their **relevance**.
- Many **consequences** need to be quantified, making objective ranking difficult. The **views** of the community and those of the SIA team are sometimes different.
- While ranking affects, the impacted persons should be consulted.
- If the SIA study determines the impacts are **unacceptable**, it must indicate **why**.
- SIA study will produce detailed **mitigation** measures to address critical **social/resettlement** concerns and possible impacts.

Developing a Mitigation Plan

- A strategy to avoid displacement, **minimize** it, and **compensate** for adverse consequences.
- SIA study's main contribution is to assist in **planning**, **managing**, and eventually **mitigating** any negative impacts (or **improving** any good ones) that may develop due to a planned project.

Assessment of Impacts

- Employment and The Economy
- Land Acquisition and Impact on Livelihoods
- Community Health
- Community Safety and Security
- **Environmental Emissions**
- Community Infrastructure and Services

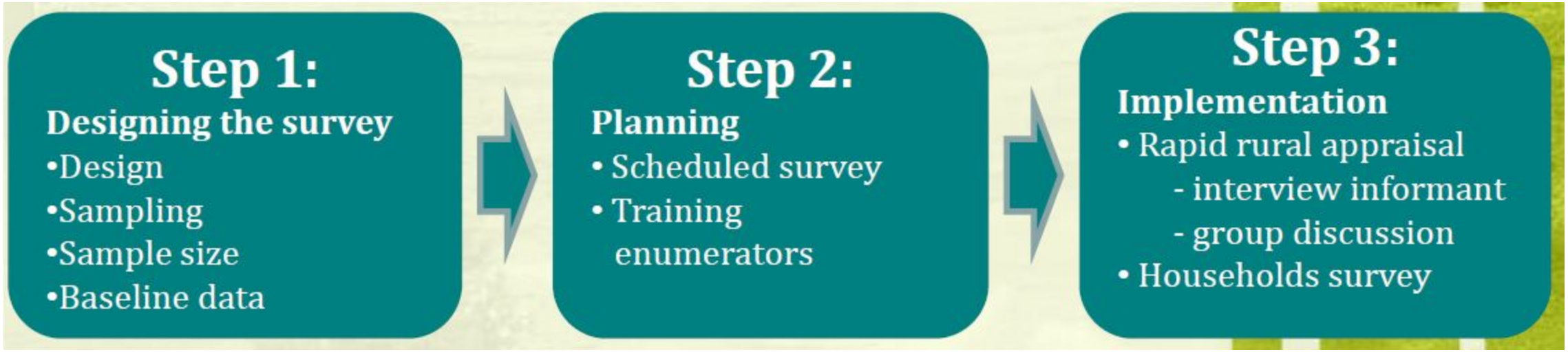
What Is Socio-Economic Survey?

- Aims to provide accurate statistical data that helps in **curbing** the effects of **industrialization**.
- Analyzing the **social** and **economic** consequences of the **pollutants** released during industrial activities.
- Gaining accurate results, the study is conducted prior to the **commencement** of the project.
- Forms a **subset** of EIA that is **mandatory** for certain manufacturing and industrial projects.

Why You Need Socio-Economic Survey?

- Used to **alert** the community, including **residents** and **local officials**, of the impact and **magnitude** of the proposed development on the community's social and economic well-being.
- Help communities to avoid creating **inequities** among community groups as well as **encourage** the positive impacts associated with the development.
- Provides estimates of expected changes in **demographics**, **housing**, **public services**, and even the **aesthetic** quality of the community that will result from the development.
- Equally important, the assessment provides an opportunity for **diverse** community values to be integrated into the **decision-making process**.
- Together, these components of the assessment provide a **foundation** on which decisions about whether to **alter** or **change** a proposed development can be made.

How to Conduct Socio-Economic Survey?



Step 1: Designing the Survey

- It is used to **identify** the types of stakeholders and communities to be **surveyed**.
- Primary data collection involved **individual** and **group discussion**, as well as **household survey**.
- Secondary data comprises information gathered from **published media**.
- Introduction of the project to local people:
  - meeting with the related local **government officers** to explain the nature of the study.
  - meeting with village **headmen**, village **representatives** and **villagers** living in the surrounding area.

Step 1: Designing the Survey

- For a **household (HH) level** survey, a representative of the household should be interviewed,
- Village head or traditional local leader will be interviewed in a **key informant interview** (KII).
- **Focus group discussions** (FGD) include members of the community.
- **Sample size** needs to be sufficient to ensure that the survey results will be statistically relevant.
- **Random sampling** is used to ensure that the sample is **representative** of the study area, while avoiding **bias** in the results and ensuring that all elements of the **population** have an **equal chance** of being interviewed.

Step 2: Planning

- A **well-trained** and **experienced** team is essential for the success of any socioeconomic survey.
- All members of the team will require **rigorous** and **robust training** (combination of workshop and practically field-based).
- Enhance the **communication skills** and ability of **enumerators** to interview during data collection or survey.
- Villages should be given due **notification** prior to survey work and **permission** to conduct interviews should be sought and granted.

Step 3: Implementation

For the purpose of the socio-economic study, three survey methods are used:

- **Rapid Rural Appraisal**
  - -Community meeting
  - -Key informant interview
  - -Group discussion
- **Household Survey**
- **Field Research**

Step 3: Implementation

Community Meeting

- Valuable and useful way for the survey team to meet up with the villagers, explain the survey work – its aims and approach.
- A decision to conduct a community meeting should be made only after meeting the community or village head.
- Information related to the community such as village profile could be obtained through District Office.

Key Informant Interview (KII)

- Key informants will provide the interview team with detailed information and, importantly, interpretation of key issues that other members of the community might not be able to provide.
- Potential key informants should be selected, in consultation with the village head, traditional local leader.

Step 3: Implementation

Group Discussion

- Conducted by researchers to explain the study and obtain comments or reactions of the respondents.
- Focus group analysis is used to identify the issues to be raised in the questionnaire such as land use.
- Draft questionnaire prepared could be tested in the focus group. Focus group thus helps to formulate the questions in simple language and easily understood.

Household Survey

- Used predominantly to collect quantitative and qualitative data, through structured interviews with the head of the household, using both closed and open questions to gather specific information.

Step 3: Implementation

Field Research

- Includes methods of research sometimes referred to as participant observation, direction observation and case studies.
- Provides qualitative data
- Enables better understanding on the socio-economic conditions and activities of villagers.

Questionnaire

- Formation of the questionnaire is the most important component.
- Based on the initial survey to the study area and also by the results of the initial questionnaire test in focus group.
- Categorized based on types of questions to gather basic information such as demographic background, perceptions and level of involvement.
  - Gender and Age
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Asset Ownership
  - Household Income and Expenditures
  - Sources of Freshwater
  - Health Situation
  - Project Expectations

Questionnaire

- **Open questions** provide no options for possible answers and the respondent is able to answer completely freely.
- Example from socio-economic study

”Does the existence of national parks have an impact on your daily life?”

“In your opinion, is the conservation of forest/natural resources important?”

Questionnaire

- With **closed questions**, respondents must choose one of the available answers, and no room is provided for further explanation or elaboration.

Example from socio-economic study

View on the effects of Land Development Planning toward:	*Strongly disagree (1)*	*Disagree (2)*	*Neutral (3)*	*Agree (4)*	*Strongly agree (5)*
There is an increase of social problems in the local community					
Development project generates income households					
Development project helps participants / households out of the poverty situation					

Sample Questionnaire