

## Structure of social network observed in communities affected by the resettlement project in Vietnam

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Resettlement is inevitable for many infrastructure development projects. People's attitude is important for the success. In order to make people have positive attitude, previous researches (Cernea 2000; Scudder 2006) and resettlement policies (WB 1990, ADB 1998) mainly consider substantial condition. However, it may not be enough because the process how the community develops their attitude toward the project is complex and sensitive to many factors.

Attitude and social network are not independent but related (Erickson 1988; Snijders 2007). The co-evolution between attitude and a network of social relationship, such as a friendship network or a kinship network, has been discussed in previous researches. However, when a community is affected by a project event, tentative communication regarding the event may also have a role in the formations of attitude and social network. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify how the dynamics of social network influence in attitude formation of a community, which is affected by a project event, by considering the role of tentative networks of communication about the event.

### 2. INTERVIEW SURVEY

For the above objective, interview survey has been conducted in affected-communities at different project stages to investigate about: (1) social network of affected-households: Relationship Network (RN) – a network of closest relationships; (2) their communication of formal information about the project: Knowledge Sharing Network (KSN) – a network to exchange the knowledge; (3) their communication of informal information about the project: Affectivity Sharing Network (ASN) – a network to share the emotion; and (4) their attitude toward the project.

### 3. STUDY CASE

Selected survey sites are two affected-villages, namely V and B, in a resettlement case accompanying the Noibai-Laocai highway project funded by the ADB's loan in Vietnam. In this project, affected-households changed attitude toward the project as the project progressed. At the early stage, most of people had positive attitude and trust on the government. After compensation program started, they changed to have negative attitude and complained about compensation fee. Then, after land acquisition, experience of resettlement effects contributed to their negative attitude. In the later stage of income restoration program, some people recovered their positive attitude, but because of the program's delay, they again got disappointed with the project.

### 4. CORRELATION OF ATTITUDE WITH COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

It has been found that the attitude toward the project is affected by not only substantial condition or formal information; it is affected by informal communication.

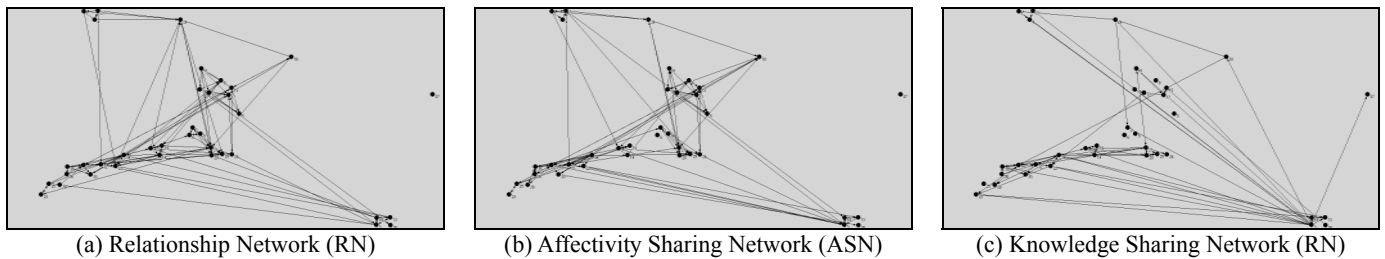
Through project process with the change of attitude, it is found that attitude has correlation with the network of emotional communication (ASN), but not with the network about knowledge exchange (KSN) and the social network (RN). Network analysis result showed a correlation between attitude and ASN's network properties, including both locational and structural properties, but no such correlation with other networks. When households had communication of complaint of compensation fee with more other households, they were more likely to have negative attitude. In addition, interview data also showed the influence of informal communication on people's attitude. For instance, before land acquisition, people did not have sufficient knowledge about the project, most of them did not determine the attitude based on accurate information, but they were affected by informal information such as other people's opinion.

## 5. MULTIPLEX NETWORK STRUCTURE

It is found that there is multiplex network structure, and the social network change is caused by not only relocation but also other factors. We will discuss the relationship, temporal change among the networks (ASN, KSN and RN), and influence of external effects on the networks in following sections.

### (1) Relationship and temporal change among the networks

It is showed that the networks are not individual but related; there is a multiplex network structure. The networks of communication (ASN, KSN) are tentative. It raised and fell as people's concern about the project event. However, ASN and KSN show different dynamics. ASN's development is constrained by the network of closest relationship (RN) and homophily property. Network analysis result showed that majority of links of ASN exist in RN and there are network similarities between the two networks. Fig. 1a and 1b show one of the comparison cases of these networks. Similarity in network structure and centralities in ASN and RN can be observed. Interview to the residential people also showed that people tend to share the emotion with close relatives and households who have similar attitude and property loss. On the other hand, dynamics of KSN (Fig. 1c) is not limited on RN. Its development is based on official provision of information such as meeting and document, and people's interest in other information sources such as local authorities. Although RN is relatively stable, more than the tentative networks of communication; however, it is also affected by ASN (e.g. frequency of informal communication created and broke some closest relationships) and external effects, which will be discussed.



**Fig.1** Relationship between Relationship Network and communication networks about compensation fee in village V before land acquisition

### (2) Influence of external effects on change of social network

As for the change of social network, relocation has been discussed as the dominant reason in previous researches regarding resettlement. However, in this research, it is found that the change of social network is also caused by other external effects. In these study cases, after people experienced land acquisition, its social network drastically shrank. The shrinkage was caused by not only geographical change but also necessity of job. Because of losing of rice field land, households had to find alternative jobs, therefore, they rarely met and talked with households who they used to work and meet together before. Based on a comparison between the two villages (V and B), the result showed that job availability, which is related to distance from the near city, caused differences of the social network change.

## 6. CONCLUSION

For the successful completion of a project, which requires resettlement and land acquisition, people's attitude toward the project is an important issue. People's attitude is affected by informal communication regarding the project. This report also shows that social network associated with the people's attitude has a multiplex network structure. Networks of communication about project are tentative and transitional. Network of informal communication (ASN) is based on the network of close relationship (RN), while network of formal communication (KSN) has another rule. It is also shown that RN is relatively stable but not fixed.

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