**CLASS NOTE (26.3.20)**

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Course Code : **ANT124 (SA)**

Course Name : **Anthropology of Development**

**Topic - Social Impact Assessment -II (13.3)**

**Contd…(From previous class note dated 24.3.2020)**

**Activities in SIA**

SIA comprises most of the following activities. It:

* participates in the environmental design of the planned intervention;
* identifies interested and affected peoples;
* facilitates and coordinates the participation of stakeholders;
* documents and analyses the local historical setting of the planned intervention so as to be able to interpret responses to the intervention, and to assess cumulative impacts;
* collects baseline data (social profiling) to allow evaluation and audit of the impact assessment process and the planned intervention itself;
* gives a rich picture of the local cultural context, and develops an understanding of local community values, particularly how they relate to the planned intervention;
* identifies and describes the activities which are likely to cause impacts (scoping);
* predicts (or analyses) likely impacts and how different stakeholders are likely to respond;
* assists evaluating and selecting alternatives (including a no development option);
* assists in site selection;
* recommends mitigation measures;
* assists in the valuation process and provides suggestions about compensation (non-financial as well as financial);
* describes potential conflicts between stakeholders and advises on resolution processes;
* develops coping strategies for dealing with residual or non-mitigatable impacts;
* contributes to skill development and capacity building in the community;
* advises on appropriate institutional and coordination arrangements for all parties;
* assists in devising and implementing monitoring and management programs.

**Core Values/Tenets**

In the IAIA-endorsed “International Principles for Social Impact Assessment, the SIA community of practice believes that:

1. There are fundamental human rights that are shared equally across cultures, and by males and females alike.
2. There is a right to have those fundamental human rights protected by the rule of law, with justice applied equally and fairly to all, and available to all.
3. People have a right to live and work in an environment which is conducive to good health and to a good quality of life and which enables the development of human and social potential.
4. Social dimensions of the environment – specifically but not exclusively peace, the quality of social relationships, freedom from fear, and belongingness – are important aspects of people’s health and quality of life.
5. People have a right to be involved in the decision making about the planned interventions that will affect their lives.
6. Local knowledge and experience are valuable and can be used to enhance planned interventions.

**Fundamental Principles**

In the IAIA-endorsed “International Principles for Social Impact Assessment, the SIA community of practice considers that:

* Respect for human rights should underpin all actions.
* Promoting equity and democratisation should be the major driver of development planning, and impacts on the worst-off members of society should be a major consideration in all assessment.
* The existence of diversity between cultures, within cultures, and the diversity of stakeholder interests need to be recognised and valued.
* Decision making should be just, fair and transparent, and decision makers should be accountable for their decisions.
* Development projects should be broadly acceptable to the members of those communities likely to benefit from, or be affected by, the planned intervention.
* The opinions and views of experts should not be the sole consideration in decisions about planned interventions.
* The primary focus of all development should be positive outcomes, such as capacity building, empowerment, and the realisation of human and social potential.
* The term, ‘the environment’, should be defined broadly to include social and human dimensions, and in such inclusion, care must be taken to ensure that adequate attention is given to the realm of the social.

**Principles related to Practice**

1. Equity considerations should be a fundamental element of impact assessment and of development planning.
2. Many of the social impacts of planned interventions can be predicted.
3. Planned interventions can be modified to reduce their negative social impacts and enhance their positive impacts.
4. SIA should be an integral part of the development process, involved in all stages from inception to follow-up audit.
5. There should be a focus on socially sustainable development, with SIA contributing to the determination of best development alternative(s) – SIA (and EIA) have more to offer than just being an arbiter between economic benefit and social cost.
6. In all planned interventions and their assessments, avenues should be developed to build the social and human capital of local communities and to strengthen democratic processes.
7. In all planned interventions, but especially where there are unavoidable impacts, ways to turn impacted peoples into beneficiaries should be investigated.
8. The SIA must give due consideration to the alternatives of any planned intervention, but especially in cases when there are likely to be unavoidable impacts.
9. Full consideration should be given to the potential mitigation measures of social and environmental impacts, even where impacted communities may approve the planned intervention and where they may be regarded as beneficiaries.
10. Local knowledge and experience and acknowledgment of different local cultural values should be incorporated in any assessment.
11. There should be no use of violence, harassment, intimidation or undue force in connection with the assessment or implementation of a planned intervention.
12. Developmental processes that infringe the human rights of any section of society should not be accepted.

**Ref.** <http://www.iaia.org/wiki-details.php?ID=23> (Acc.on 23.5.18)