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Fostering Multi-lateral Knowledge Networks
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to Tackle Global Challenges

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Field Trip 8: **Dams in the Mekong and Local Livelihood**

A presentation by the ‚Mekong 8‘

29 July 2018

Content



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1. What did we do?
2. Methodological Framework
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4. Reflection
5. Women for Change / Khiang Rim Khong



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1. What did we do?

What did we do?



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Research Area: Chiang Khong, Chiang Rai District



What did we do?



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Research question: „What are the most important issues that people in the Chiang Khong area deal with?“



What did we do?



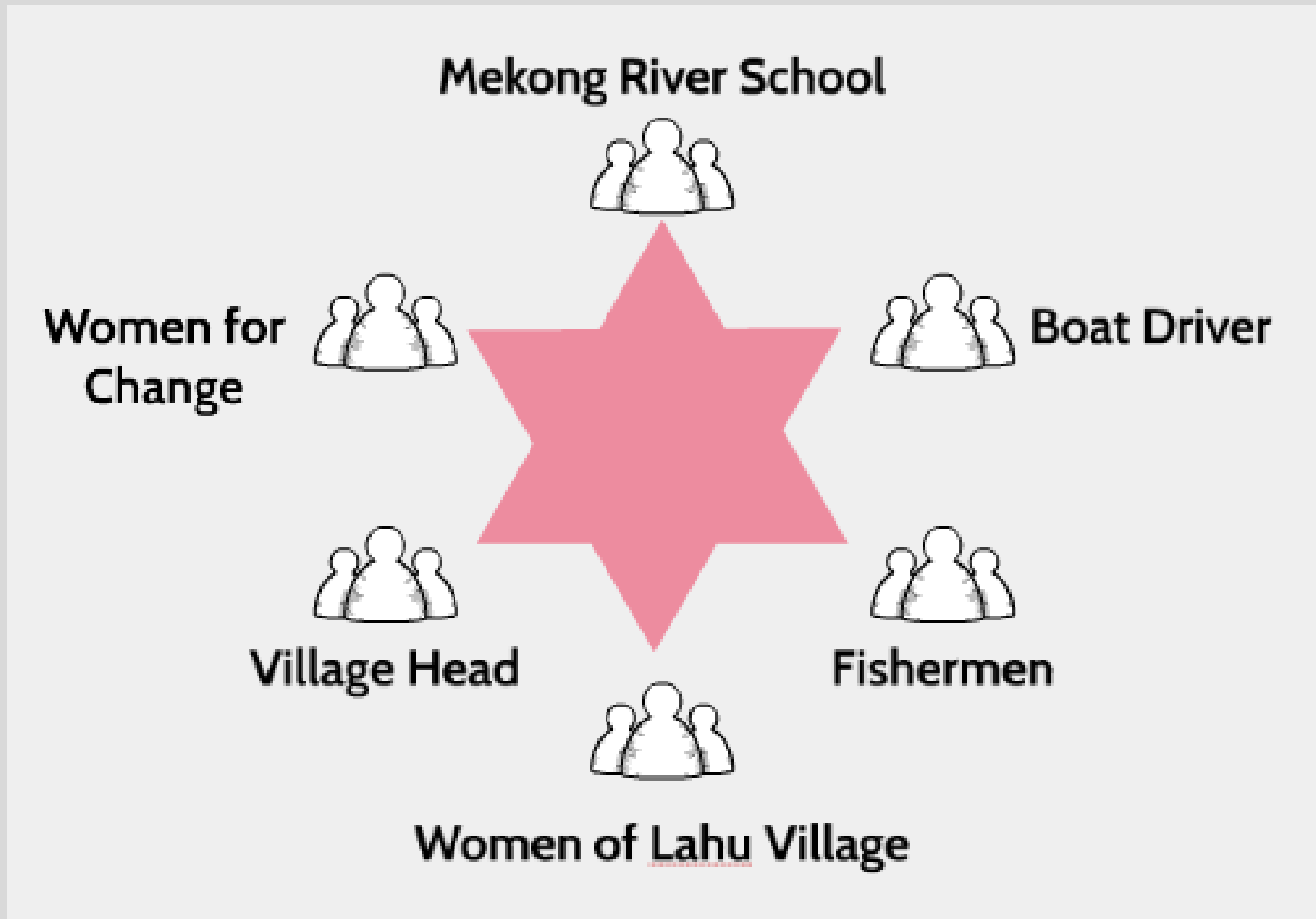
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Interspaces:





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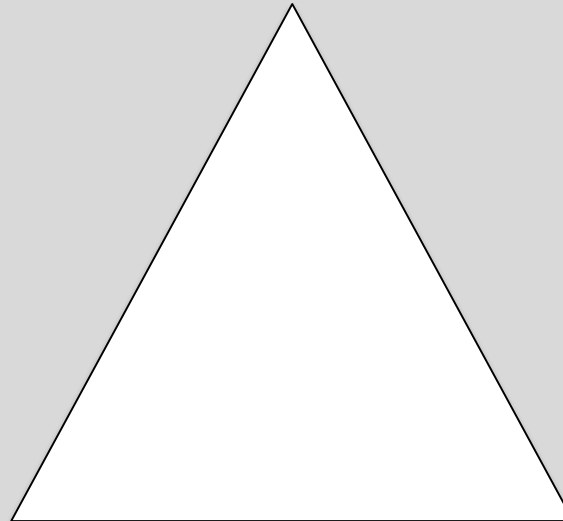
2. Methodological Framework

Research Methods

- During the Field Trip we focused on Phase A of TDR
- We applied the following methods:

(Non)Participant Observation

Transsect Walk



Open Interview

Research Methods



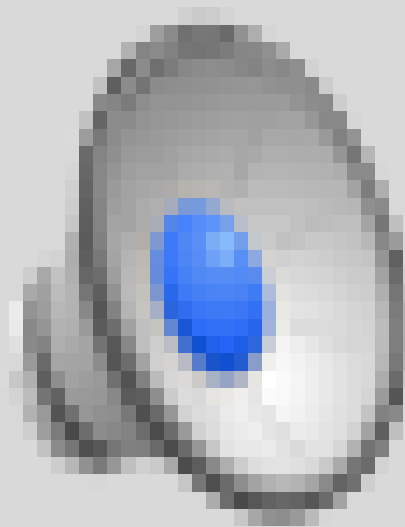
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Open Interviews



Research Methods



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Open Interviews



Research Methods

(Non)Participant Observations



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Research Methods



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Transect Walk





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3. Major Findings

Major Findings



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Mentioned Issues	Interspaces	Mekong River School	Boat Driver	Women for Change & Lahu Women	Fishermen & Assistant of Village Head	Local Translators
Unpredictable Water level		X	X	(X)	X	X
Water pollution		X		X	X	
Youth moving away		X		X	X	X
Bridge			X			X
Gender inequality				X		X
Citizenship				X		
Education		X		X	X	
Cross-border Trade (Regulation)		X	X		X	X
Loss of local Identity & knowledge		X	X			

Major Findings



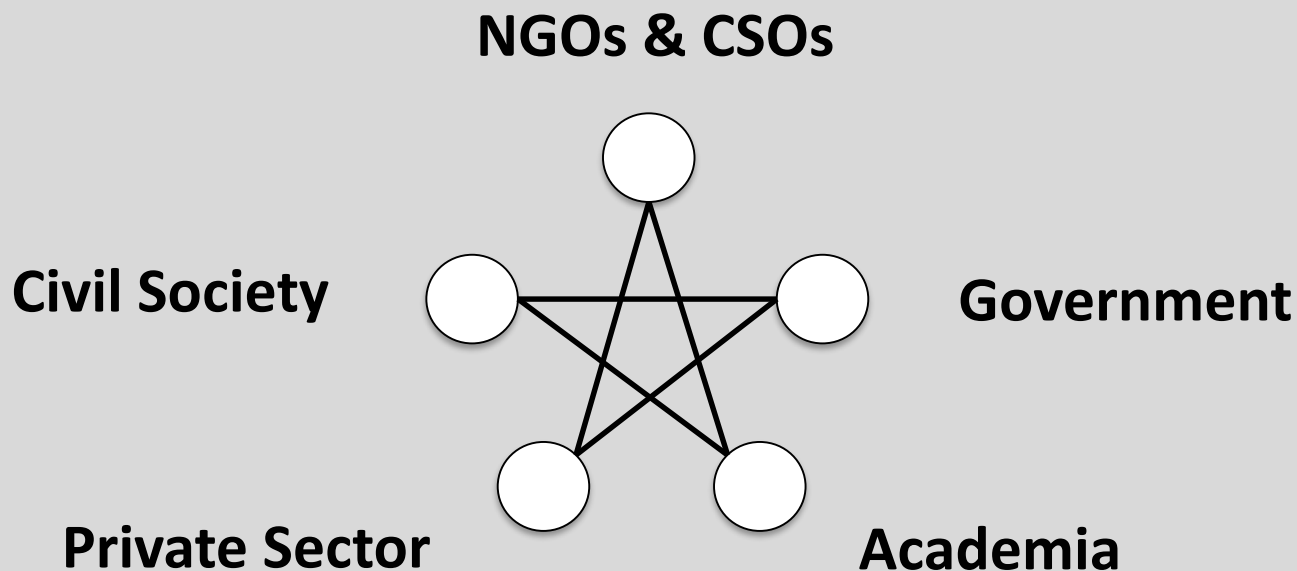
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- Social movements, NGOs etc. already practice TDR
- There are various networks of actors tackling social and environmental issues of the region

Actors in TDR of River School:



Major Findings



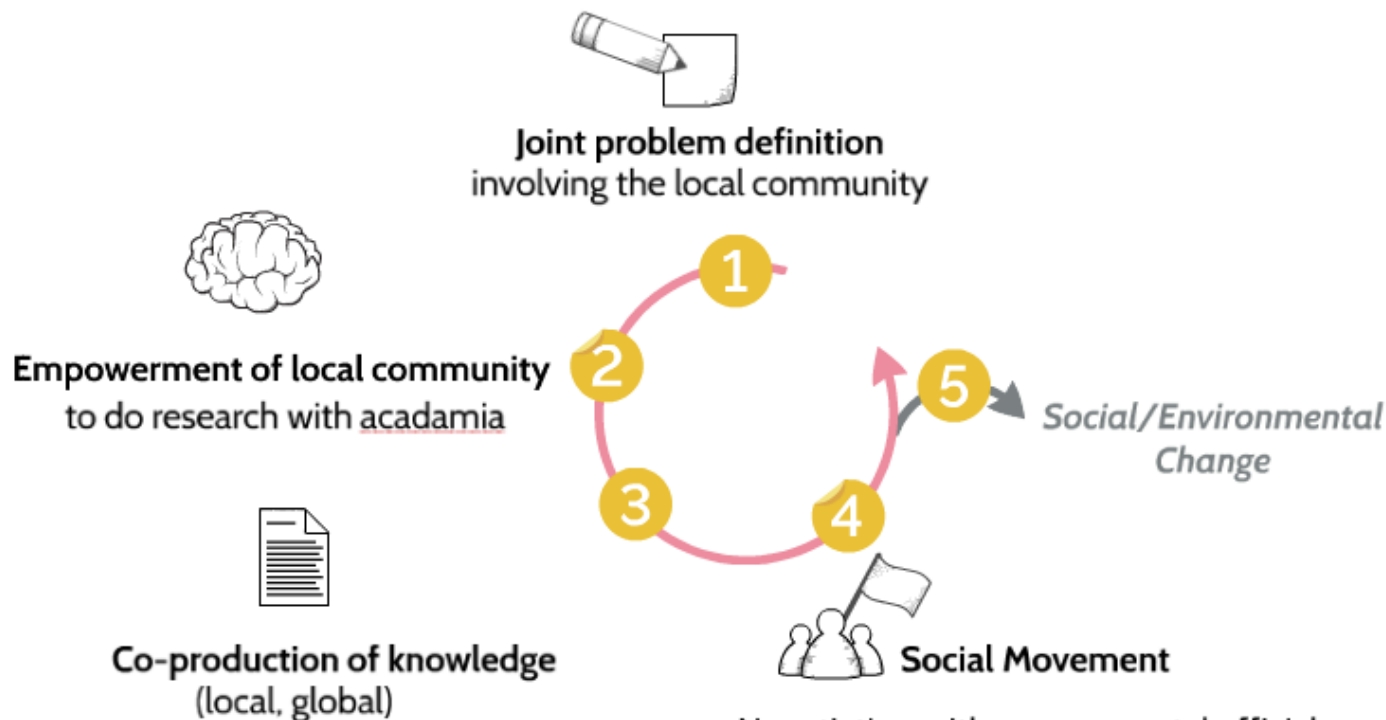
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Bottom-Up-Research Process (“TDR”) of the Mekong River School:



*„Social Change should benefit local people,
[thus] research [...] must involve the
participation of locals“*

- Negotiation with governmental officials and private sector
- Dissemination
- Regional and international network of Mekong Civilians
- Local education system



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4. Reflection

Reflection

- Mediated Communication:
 - Language (Loss of information through translation)
 - Gatekeeper
- Our group size in comparison to non-academic actors
- Timing not met with local livelihood and strict schedule
- Power Relations → hard to hear the voices of the affected people
- Answers were partly prepared, general statements and selected



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5. Center for Girls / Khiang Rim Khong

Center for Girls



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Vision: Center for Girls envisions a world where women and children are safe to live their lives in equality, with dignity and humanity.

เด็กและผู้หญิงทุกคน มีความปลอดภัยและสามารถใช้ชีวิต บนความเท่าเทียม มีเกียรติ และมีศักดิ์ศรีความเป็นมนุษย์

Mission: Center for Girls' mission is to work within Chiang Rai Province to empower women and children, reduce instances of violence, – particularly domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV) – and educate the populace about human trafficking issues. CFG seeks to prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and all forms of abuse against children. We are committed to creating sustainable participatory projects that equip people in the surrounding communities with the necessary life skills to become independent leaders who strive towards human rights for all, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status.

Khiang Rim Khong



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VISION

A world where people live without fear of suffering discrimination or ostracization as a result of their medical condition, and are able to lead healthy and happy life.

MISION

Raise HIV awareness and combat the discrimination, promoting inclusiveness and acceptability, in a secure judgment-free space where people can share and learn about safe sex, prevention of underage or unwanted pregnancies, and protection from HIV/AIDS and STDs. Working closely with the local community to educate, counsel and assist all those who seek help, catering to the different needs of every individual, be they financial, logistical or emotional.





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Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

