CONTENTS


1.1 The book identifies 'four core questions' (p.5) to analyze social movements.
   a) The first seeks to investigate 'the relationship between structural change and transformations in patterns of social conflicts' (p.5)
   b) It examines the way social movements are represented culturally.
   c) It addresses 'the process through which values, interest, and ideas get turned into collective action' (p.5)
   d) Social movements are posited in the social, cultural and political context.

1.2 It proceeds with the identification of three mechanisms of social movements: opponents clearly defined in a relation of conflict; groups 'linked by dense informal networks '; and groups which 'share a distinct collective identity'. (p.20)
1.3 They look at changes in the social structure through transformation in the economic and political spheres (a) growth of the service sector at the expense of the industrial sector (b) the situation of the state caught between globalization, localization, and multi dimensional social demands.

1.4 If social movements are identified as a form of 'collective action' its associated symbolic dimensions take the form of role of values, identification of social problems and their modes of expression.

1.5 The process and role of identity formation in collective action involves:

   a) the individual becoming a part of the collective action through social networks that play the role of mobilization, participation, and learning of political skills.
   b) Psychological traits needed to sustain the movement are supplied by culture.
   c) New technologies such as 'computer mediated communication' have their unique problems and prospects. (pp.132-134)

1.6 Most important is the analysis of organizational factor: mobilizing membership and resources; providing co-ordination, and establishing identity of the social movement. Organizational structures, participation, 'lifecycle' of social movements and factors leading to change are also covered. Social movements get institutionalized in to political parties or interest groups, or into non-government organizations. Also how violence is used in social movements and its ill effects. (August 2007 Review p.11-27) The various state institutions that interact with social movements in a variety of ways and the multi dimensional ways.

CHANGES DUE TO CIVIL SOCIETY

1.7 Competency and proficiency as a requirement in civil services is of recent origin. The key questions about competency management: how and why has it become popular and what are the implications of the spread of the 'competency' approaches?

1.8 Three interpretations of its development include viewing it as a passing fad, as a 'difference' interpretation, with varying patterns and
practices and the 'sameness' interpretation that treats it as a symptom of broader political-administrative developments.
1.9 By synthesizing recent works on government and governance arrive at important conclusions in terms of civil society… Differences will always remain in interpretation of the historical processes of the identification of the causal mechanisms therein (Storm, Servass 2007:764)
1.10 Movements relate to democracy are also examined.


2.1 The Book raises major questions on trust and rule. It makes a case for trust as a historical product instead of just a causal phenomenon that might be explained by alluding to history (p.26)
2.2 A vast array of anecdotes, letters, examples and historical facts are presented for both objectives of this book. New ideas, new notions such as 'public politics' and new frameworks explain theoretical constructs or offer political interpretation.
2.3 The objective seems to be to unsettle the existing literature for a more innovative thinking on the debate on trust networks.
2.4 His purpose is 'not to test competing theories or to clear away debris. Instead of comparing systemic, dispositional, and transactional approaches step by step throughout the book…[the objective] is to simplify by concentrating on development of a consistently transactional account of social processes that enhance and diminish trust - trust considered as distinctive form of human relationships' (p.26)

2.5 What is a trust network? The conditions leading to the transformation of the trust network, the role of predators or political regimes, the variety of trust networks and the
manner in which they are shaped through segregation and disintegration, and the future implications for democratization are explored.

2.6 How do trust networks survive? They survive and hold off predators when they generate resources and reproduce themselves, solve problems for their more powerful members, give others strong incentives to maintain the boundary, and erect strong defence mechanisms at the boundary.

2.7 How can trust networks and rulers benefit mutually? This aspect is yet to be researched. However, it is suggested that some sort of democratic power and resource sharing between the rules and trust networks contributes to the building of a mutually beneficial system.

2.8 How do trust networks thrive over great distances and not just in close physical proximity? The argument is that too much proximity or even the wrong kind of proximity can destroy trust networks.

2.9 How do trust networks respond to changes such as globalization, fundamentalism, and military or economic hegemony? The dominant trend is the partial integration of trust networks into public politics that may result in a 'more of the same' trend in the analysis. Shows the use of history for explaining the major problems and the comparative theoretical side.

3.1 In practice, inclusive citizenship might mean 'the building of a new citizenship was to be seen as reaching far beyond the acquisition of legal rights, since it would require the constitution of social subjects' (Kabeer, pp 149-150)

3.2 This emphasis on agency is echoed in more than one work, whether the agency is notable by its absence or presence. Finding ways to promote the voice and control of the excluded over social provisions (such as the right to water) and other forms of citizenship rights, is the central concern in both studies.

3.3 As socially excluded groups struggle to define their rights, they use notions of citizenship to help bring about inclusion on their own terms in processes of state and collective accountability for well being and basic entitlements. 'Their demands include not only work, education, health, water, housing, political participation, gender equality, freedom of movement but also dignity, self respect and the right to speak in public.' (14 of 27 Review August 2007)

3.4 The goals of most movements of the excluded is more about reforming the state than getting away from it, 'since rights are not sustainable without duties, duties have to be regarded as prior to rights and the condition for rights.' (Kabeer p.17) 'It is reforming the erring state rather than abandoning it (is) what people stress upon'. (Mohanty and Tandon p.17)

3.5 Yet the same people look to the state for protection while criticizing the political elites for manipulating ethnic and religious identities for their own ends. They demand that the political leaders and the state institutions should be accountable to all, even the most socially excluded such as the forced settlement of nomads in Rajasthan and the struggles for citizenship of lower castes and tribal people in Bengal. (14 of 27)

4.1 'The record of development professionals, to date in reducing urban poverty is not very promising. Too many initiatives have offered too little to too few people.' (p.19).

4.2 The book includes eight case studies of a broad range of bottom up projects with claims of strengthening local capacity of both governments and communities, thereby contributing to sustained improvements in the situation of the poor.

4.3 The studies present 'good principles' to demonstrate that it is possible to make a difference to a large number of deprived people with relatively limited external funding. They also deny the having selected the best practices under the 'cult of the "success story"' (p. 12, 248).

4.4 All studies make an effort to present the contextual factors and also look at weaknesses and limitations their optimism appears exaggerated. Cases in which initiatives did not or could not benefit the poorest members of the participating communities need to be included. Critically analyzing the empirical material to draw some more robust conclusions is left to the editors.

4.5 The gap between the cost of reasonable quality housing with the infrastructure and services …. Has been 'resolved' by high levels of overcrowding and deficient services (p.250).

4.6 Strategies proposed for closing the gap are quite convincing but no longer innovative, except for a significant suggestion for donor agencies to shift from the 'conventional project cycles, which feature exit strategies' towards 'continuous support for local initiatives' (p.295) to move much more slowly and steadily in slum upgrading.

4.7 Concluding discussion reflects the state of art in urban poverty analysis, but unlike Squatter Citizen it does not suggest how to change it.

5.1 The ways in which the poor are identified are being increasingly questioned. For instance how credible are the poverty lines? Which ones are more credible, the regional or the local poverty lines? The simple linear explanations of poverty and environmental nexus have been demonstrated as being weak.

5.2 Now it has been assumed that micro-level collective action may enhance conditions of resource building. These assumptions have also been laid bare.

5.3 The book is relevant to policy formulators as it grapples with the issue of heterogeneity in project design and evaluation as the impact of a project is felt by a disparate group of people possessing different preferences, needs and values. (p.2) It also emphasizes imperfect societies where the state is not always trustworthy and does not always optimize on behalf of its citizens (pp. x-xi)

5.4 The book is important for :
   a) Placing the concept of well being in a pre eminent position in economic theorizing and thinking.
   b) In justifying the need to measure well being.
   c) Important ideas such as 'why measure groups?' are raised. This issue is confronted in the process of designing, executing and evaluating poverty reducing development projects.
   d) Questioning the centrality of groups also leads on to questioning the usefulness, of the conventional log frames and social cost benefit analysis, as tools in designing effective interventions in sectors as varied as irrigation, water supply and forestry.

5.5 Another important issue raised is of 'comparing localities' that is a part of the debate on the relevance of the national versus
regional poverty lines that has so far raged within the multi lateral development organizations.

5.6 Thirdly, in chapter 12 the author uses the analytical apparatus developed in this book, to examine non-market interactions, which is an important issue in developing countries. Examples of growth versus redistribution policies, management of local irrigation systems and structural adjustment programmes 'to interpret the reactions the policies have elicited from commentators and non-governmental organizations.' (p.196)

5.7 The book is highly recommended for those with interest in collective action and development.

Select Bibliography

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