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A Perspective of Architectural Sociology
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Social Impact Assessment: Can and Should It Empower Community?

Penilaian Dampak Sosial: Bisa dan Harus Berdayakan Masyarakat?

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Abstract

Driven by the consequence that any policy or development initiatives create both positive and negative impacts, the conduct of Social Impact Assessment (SIA), or locally known as Analisa Dampak Sosial, for any proposed policy or development initiatives are deemed necessary. Besides guiding developments, SIA is useful to identify the likely benefits and the potential problems and further to provide solutions for improvements. The ultimate aim of SIA is to answer the question of whether there will be a measurable difference in the quality of life of the communities, as a result of proposed projects. Shortly, with SIA, potential negative impacts of a proposed development intervention can be anticipated/predicted while the positive impacts (the benefits and the opportunities) can be identified and documented. However, there is a tendency within the businesses, that SIA is commonly used as a tool for reducing public opposition and for obtaining supports from governments, communities and or non-government organisation. This paper seeks to provide a deferent perspective within SIA discourse, that is, by explaining that as a type of inquiry and analysis, SIA can empower community and indeed it should do so.

Keyword : consultation, participation, empowerment, SIA, potential, impact,

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