


Chapter 3

Contingency Framework of Structural Factors for Public Participation Spaces and Consultation for Improved Governance

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ABSTRACT

This study has the aim to analyse the structural factors for public participation spaces in a contingency framework for consultation and improved governance. It departs

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-7001-8.ch003

from the assumption that the structural factors framed by a contingency construct can support the public participation spaces for consultation and improved governance. The method employed is the meta-analysis supported by the reflective and descriptive analysis based on the conceptual, theoretical and empirical research literature. The analysis concludes that the creation and development of some structural factors such as the infrastructure, structure, power, resources, methods, and tools framed in a contingency model contribute to enhance the public and political participation spaces and consultation for governance in any organization, community, and society.

INTRODUCTION

Participatory governance emerges as a descriptive notion more than a methodology (Mosse, 2000:32). The efficiency of public participation is being explored in some research studies (Callahan, 2007) from the standpoint of how to achieve a more effective public participation. The emerging form of public participatory governance creates new possibilities of power forms suggesting productive anticipation and implying a state both reflective and public participatory (Rogoff and Schneider, 2008: 347). The transaction costs of rational actors determine their form of governance. As transaction costs decrease, agencies tend to spend more on advisory committee. The relationship between members of advisory committees and the agency is very close.

The theoretical perspectives of the institutional participatory governance arrangements as the object of research are based on the traditional politics and government framework (Peters & Pierre 2001). Configuration of the participatory framework and the legal entity results in the founding and operating format of the organizational and institutional framework. Tendencies of change in institutional participatory governance are related to the creation of institutional frameworks attempting to meet the political interests and the needs of citizens to incorporate new forms. The regional participatory governance is supported by an analytical framework. Some sources to develop a framework of participatory governance arrangements and practices for local implementation can be used sources such as document analysis from governments, interviewing, participatory observation, knowledge generated in research institutes and the organizational sectors.

Notions of state and public participation as dominant issues in political science are on the shift from government to network and participatory governance arrangements under a relativist perspective and the conditions of unstable status of universal truths and permanence. In the perspective of the last century the state was the manifestation of the politics as the dominant entity intrinsically manifested in the will and reason, assuming contingency between nation-state, governance,

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