

Childlessness among Bangladeshi women

Key stakeholder mapping

Issue:

The experience of childlessness among Bangladeshi women

Group members:

Violet, Gertrude, Joe, Ibukun

References:

- Method: Bryson, JM. "What to do when stakeholders matter". Public Management Review. Vol 6, Issue 1, 2004, 21-53.
- Content: Nahar P and van der Geest S. "How women in Bangladesh confront the stigma of childlessness: Agency, resilience and resistance." Medical Anthropology Quarterly. Vol 28, Issue 3, 2014, 381-398.

Overview:

The below is a stakeholder mapping based loosely on Nahar and de van der Geest's work on childlessness in Bangladesh. It employs both the "Problem-frame stakeholder mapping technique" (Nutt and Backoff, 1992) as well as the "Stakeholder-Issue Interrelationship diagram" (Bryant, 2003).

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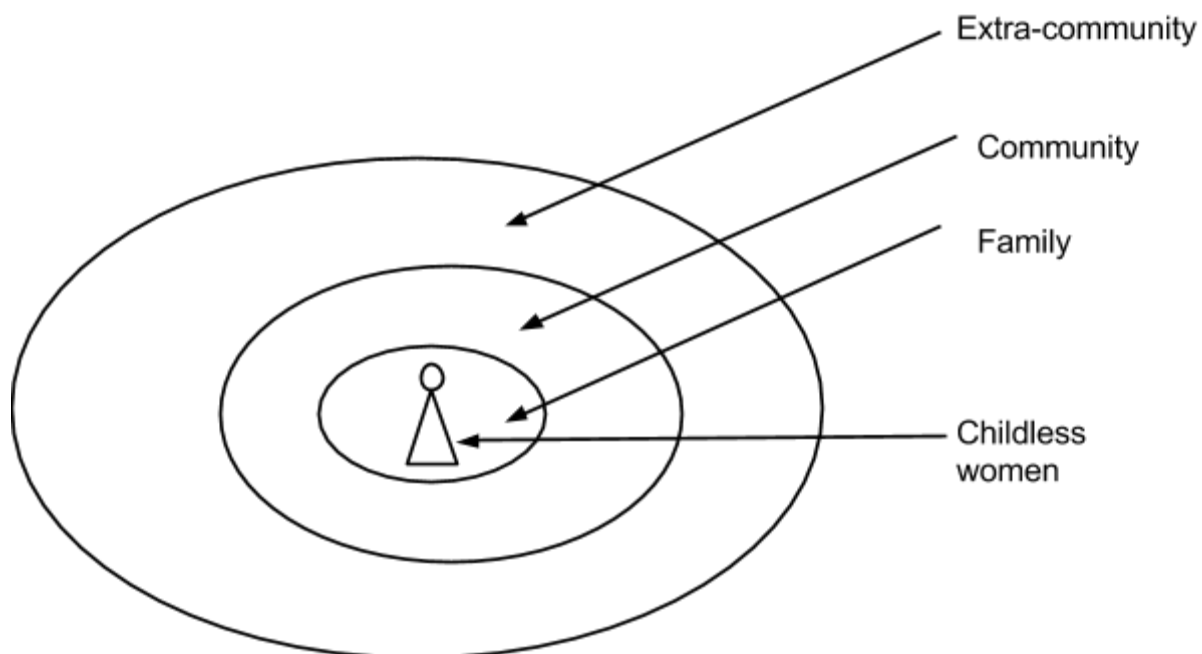
Basic stakeholder analysis technique (list)

Regarding the overall issue of “the experience of childlessness among Bangladeshi women,” we identified multiple key stakeholders, belonging to several different “macro” groups. Once we devised our list, it occurred to us that our groups naturally formed cocentric circles of proximity. At the center of the issue are the women themselves - from there, the most proximal stakeholder is the family, followed by members of the community and, finally, the “extra-community” (those outside of the community, but who may still have both an interest and impact upon it).

List:

- Childless women
- The families of childless women:
 - husbands
 - parents
 - in-laws
 - others (brothers, sisters, cousins, etc.)
- The community:
 - health care workers
 - traditional healers / medicine men
 - beggars
 - religious leaders
- Extra-community
 - employers
 - policy-makers
 - researchers / research team

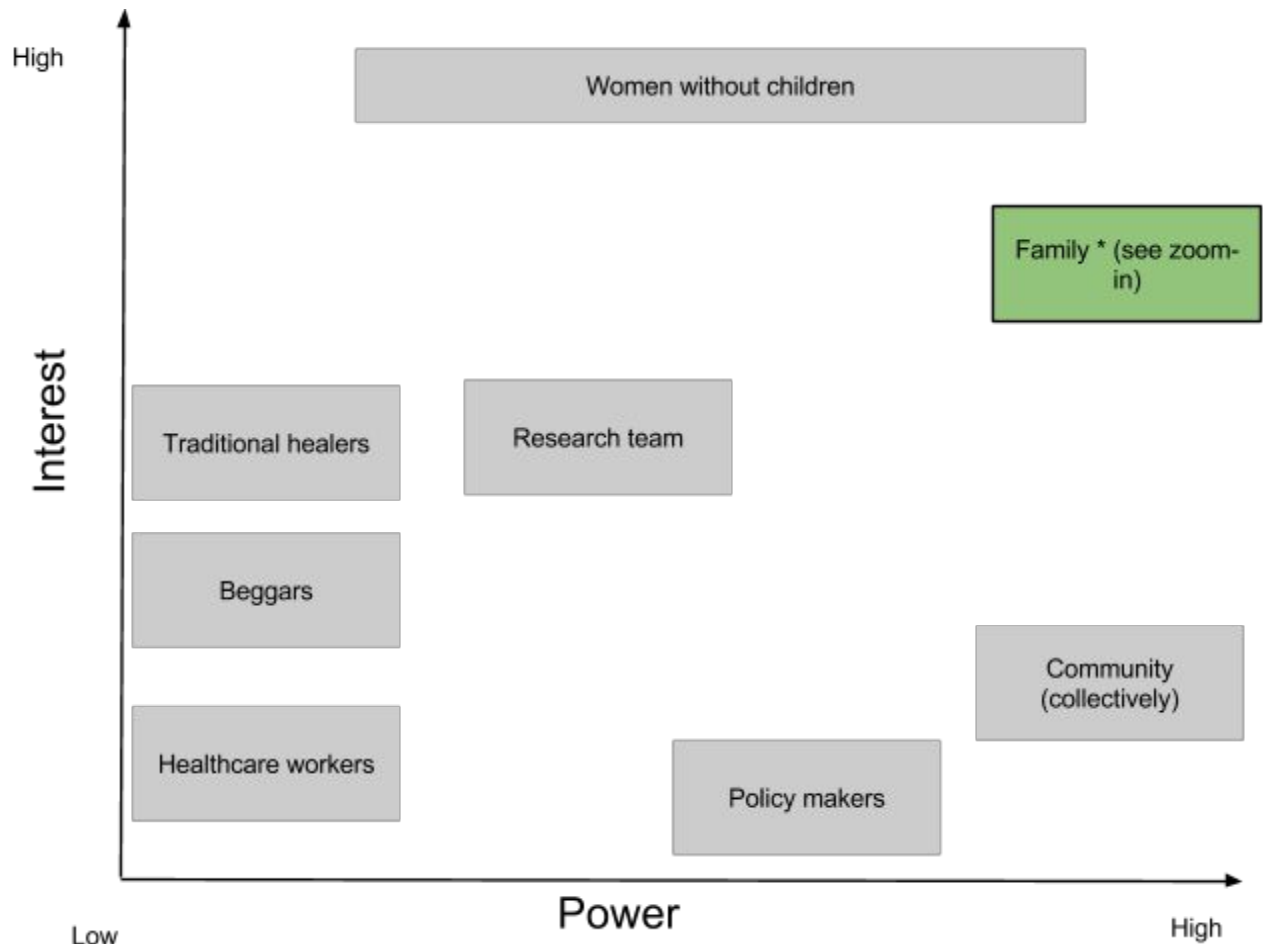
Visualization:



Power versus interest grid

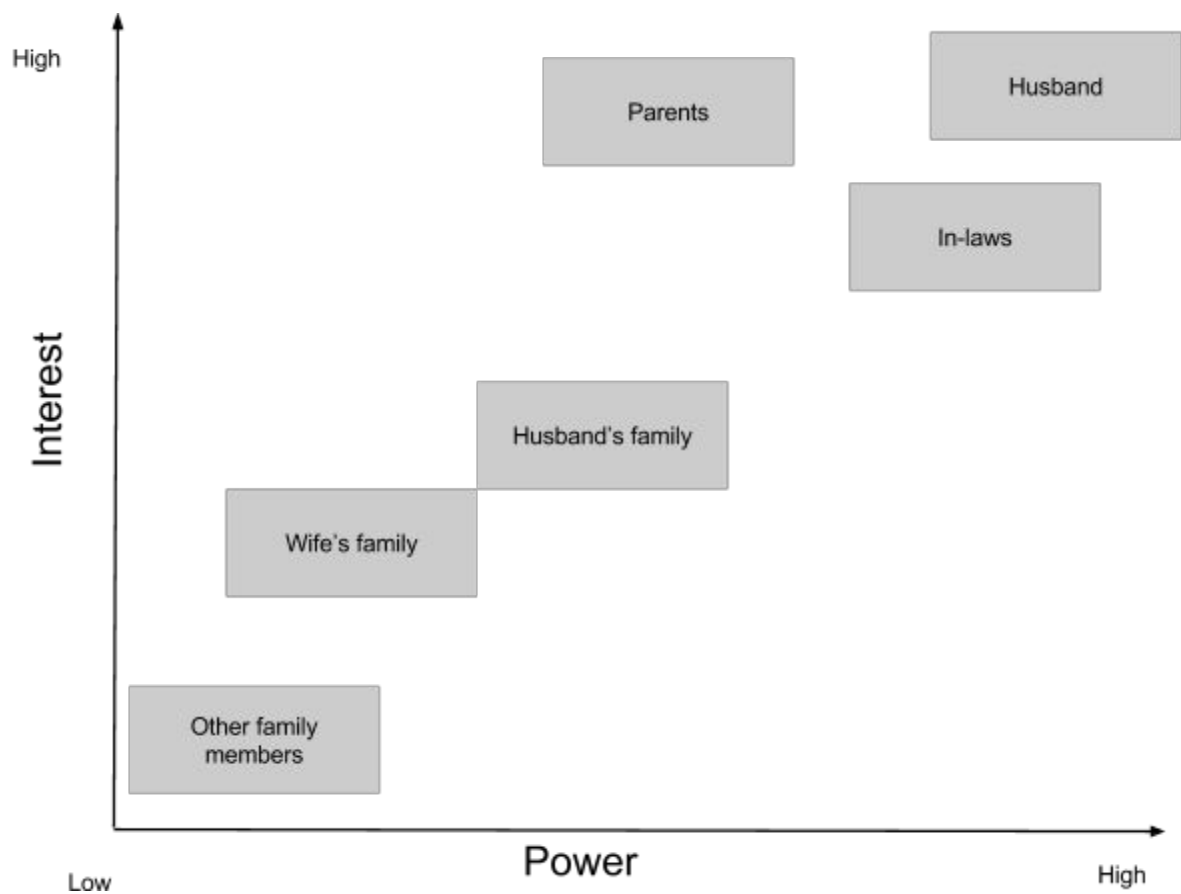
The “power versus interest” grid helped us to identify those with the greatest voice, as well as those whose voice would need most amplification (ie, those with high interest and low power). Note that individual members of the community make up the vertical column with low power and relatively low interest; however, combined as a whole, these members make up a collective community whose power is high (bottom right). Also note the main actors (women without children) exercise varying degrees of power/agency over their situation, hence the elongated space along the top.

Overall:



Family zoom-in:

Given the family’s predominant role in both the power and the interest in the issue, a separate chart was devised only containing family members. The husband exercises both a high degree of power *and* interest in his family’s childlessness, whereas the other family members have generally declining power and interest. Interestingly, unlike in the community at large, power and interest are largely linearly correlated within the family structures.



Stakeholder-issue interrelationship diagram

The “stakeholder-issue interrelationship diagram” helped us to identify a major shortcoming in the research on the issue - namely, that researchers (who nominally addressed “stigmatization”) focused nearly all of their efforts on the loss of identity/role experienced by the women, and almost none of the stigmatizing factors that *caused* that loss of identity.

