URBAN GARDENING

The Urban Gardening Role in Improving of Adults' Skills and Community Growth

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A POSITIONAL ANALYSIS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The decisions we face when undertaking various social initiatives are complex in many respects. Each choice leads to specific benefits, but it is also subject to costs. Therefore, in the area of analysis of social enterprises, programs and policies, mechanisms are sought that will be able to support in the selection of alternatives.

One of the tools that give such possibilities is Positional Analysis. It is a tool that aims to facilitate decision making and to reach compromises in the activities carried out. The concept of this tool was developed by Peter Söderbaum in his Doctoral Thesis (1973), and then developed by the author as part of the institutional economy of sustainable development.

Posilional Analysis (PA) is an alternative to the neoclassical Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). The most important elements of neoclassical theory and analysis emphasize the monetary dimension and take on the perspective of the decision maker, while Positional Analysis (PA) takes into account different points of view and different ideological orientations and underlines the non-monetary dimension.[1]

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1   Brown Judy, Dereniowska Małgorzata Söderbaum Peter, „Positional Analysis for Sustainable Development: Reconsidering Policy, Economics and Accounting (Routledge Studies in Ecological Economics)"

Table 1. Differences between Cost-benefit analysis and positional analysis

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, CBA	POSITIONAL ANALYSIS
THE MONETARY DIMENSION OF BENEFITS	NON-MONETARY DIMENSION OF BENEFITS
INDICATES THE OPTIMAL SOLUTION	INDICATES THE MULTIPLICITY OF POSSIBLE SOLUTION
TECHNOCRATIC TOOL	DEMOCRATIC TOOL
NEUTRAL AND MEASURABLE VALUE	MULTIDIMENSIONAL VALUES
CONCRETE RICKETY IDEOLOGY	AN IDEOLOGICALLY OPEN APPROACH

Source: Own study

Therefore, it seems that Positional Analysis is a more democratic tool that emphasizes the orientation of various groups of citizens and politicians. Positional Analysis takes into account all points of view, treating the analyzed phenomena or initiatives from a holistic and interdisciplinary perspective: taking into account the expectations of the beneficiaries of the initiative and trying to be as versatile as possible. It aims to highlight many pages of the decision situation. By analyzing positively, we can draw conditional conclusions, that is, those that depend on the ideological orientation under consideration.

THE POSITIONAL ANALYSIS TOOL INDICATES[1]:

- A multiplicity of alternative ways of perceiving suppression by various entities,
- The number of possible decisions that lead us to specific solutions,
- The impact of individual solutions,
- Costs and benefits for various groups,
- Involved stakeholders,
- Conflicts of interest,
- Ideological orientations.

The analysis on the phenomenon should be useful for politicians or other decision makers, residents who differ in terms of values and ideology. The term "position" is used synonymously with "status" to describe different conditions at a given moment. Positional thinking refers to the analysis in terms of position changes for different ideological orientations and at different time intervals. All types of variables can be used in Positional Analysis to describe goals and effects. The analysis places emphasis on positions. Systemic thinking is important, which is a way to broaden the analysis towards holism and interdisciplinary. Instead of limiting the analysis to one public sector, all sectors affected by the problem are taken into account. The analyst tries to identify the way dependencies and possible alternatives. Positional Analysis is able to cover a wide range of perspectives / ideologies, although this flexibility is at the expense of being able to provide a single solution to the problem. Thus, analysis is a tool to help decision-making, not a concrete solution.

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2 Brown Judy, Dereniowska Małgorzata Söderbaum Peter, „Positional Analysis for Sustainable Development: Reconsidering Policy, Economics and Accounting (Routledge Studies in Ecological Economics)"

BENEFITS OF POSITIONAL ANALYSIS:

- Encouraging stakeholders to participate in the debate,
- allows analysts to conduct comparative analysis of alternatives over time
- takes into account the important role of technological changes in shaping the state and performance of the system
- draws attention to the ethical and moral dimension of the play

Due to the multidimensional character of the analysis, we believe that this tool can be effectively used in the area of creating and managing an urban garden.

In order to create an effective analysis and decision-making process, you need to follow a few steps:

1. Identify the problem.
In any social initiative or venture, the defining of a problem is a key first step. Each problem has its history, which affects possible alternatives and their effects. Identify the problem as accurately as possible. Consider unmet needs. Describe previous attempts to solve the problem.

2. Highlight stakeholder groups
Who participate in situation. What are the conflicts of interest? How different participants define a problem?

3. Describe the institutional context
The next step is to describe the problem in a broader institutional context. Specify which institutions are responsible for the issues and which institutions can help solve the problem.

4. Formulate alternative solutions and effects of decision
Consider possible alternatives. Determine if these solutions can cause changes towards sustainable development

5. Describe the impact of different decisions on specific stakeholder groups.

Determine the impact that any alternative decision can have on important systems and stakeholder groups and the barriers to implementing specific solutions.

CASE STUDY:

In Krakow, in one of the neglected neighborhood, struggling with various social problems and large inequalities among residents, the Local Activity Program was created. Social workers decided to work with the community by creating an urban garden. After several months of work of residents, an urban garden was created. At the beginning everyone agreed and willingly used this place, but at some point some groups began to pollute the garden with garbage (mainly cans and bottles of beer) and did small acts of vandalism - breaking trees, trampling flowers. Social workers and the council of residents met to discuss the problem. At the meeting there was a proposal to introduce monitoring to the garden.

A Decision Tree is a graphical way of supporting the decision-making process. The method of decision trees works well in Positional Analysis, because we have there many alternative variants and different interactions. In the analysis, the Decision Tree consists of the problem (root), possible alternatives (branches), effects and interactions (leaves). Thanks to the Decision Tree, built on the basis of empirical data, the work on solving the problem can be significantly simplified. Using the decision tree in positional analysis, the first step is to identify the problem and alternatives; it means the choices we can make. The next step is to identify the impacts. How the choice of a given alternative affects participants. The next step is to determine the effects of these impacts or the consequences of choices. As mentioned above, positional analysis does not indicate one optimal answer to the problem. The decision tree in positional analysis aims to show multidimensional influences and complexity.

In order to draw a problem using a tree, you can use computer programs. There are many paid and free programs that you can use. We recommend: www.mindmup.com.