

Endowments, entitlements and capabilities – what urban social movements offer to poverty reduction

Diana Mitlin, IDPM and IIED

Plan for presentation

- Three introductory slides
 - The social movements that were researched
 - The contextual background: urban poverty
 - Social movements: definitions and categories
- Social movements and political realities
- Social movements and Sen's capability framework

Three social movements

- ❑ South Africa: Durban and shelter (land and housing)
- ❑ South Africa: Cape Town and basic services, water (also electricity)
- ❑ Peru: women's food organizations (kitchens and "glass of milk")
- ❑ All concerned with collective consumption
- ❑ Sometimes consumption was collective, sometimes production was collective.

The context: urban poverty

- ❑ Of growing significance
- ❑ Very low incomes AND much more
- ❑ Very poor access to secure tenure, basic services and adequate housing.
Associated health risks
- ❑ Social inequalities exemplified by multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion
- ❑ Organizations to address political inequalities

Movements

- More than organizations
- Three broad categorizations:
 - Against exploitation
 - Securing and protecting assets
 - Challenging prejudice (and affirming identity)
- Urban neighbourhood-based: includes anti-eviction, securing land and housing, securing public services, securing individualised benefits

Movements: politics and political strategies

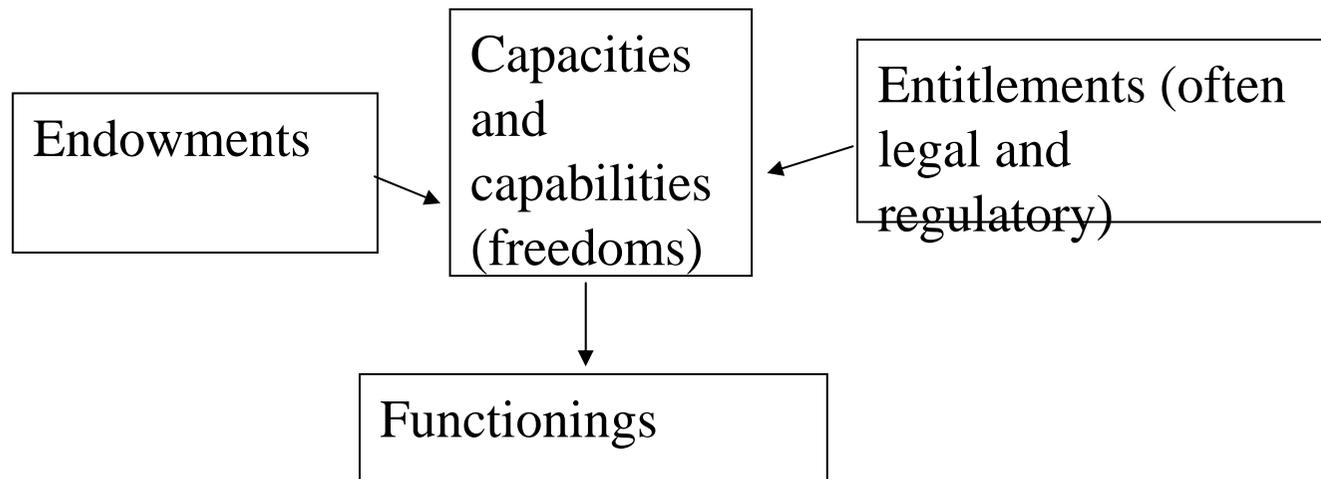
- Working with, responding to, contesting political parties
- Designing and securing entitlements
- Conceptual frameworks and theories: political capital, political capabilities, polity political space
- In practice, multiple tactics are used by movements which include contestation and collaboration

Some observations

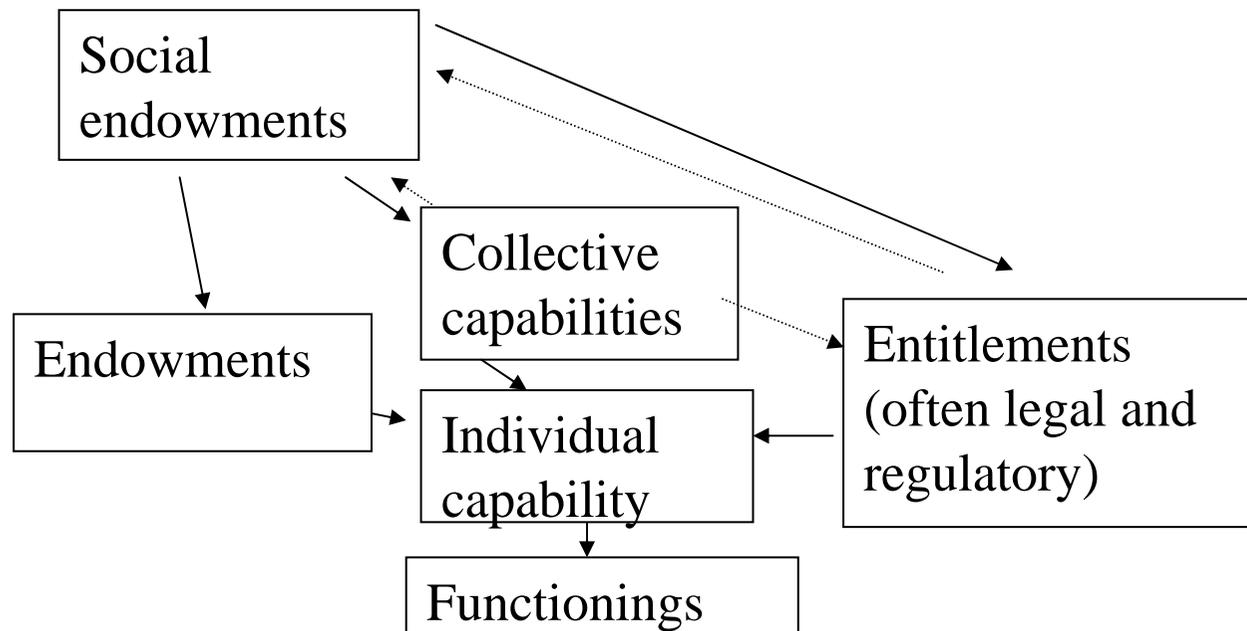
- ❑ Engaging the state is critical for collective consumption. These are not binary choices that the state either upholds or does not. They are goods and services whose value depends on many aspects of design and delivery
- ❑ History and related expectations are important in the nature of engagement
- ❑ Coproduction – which is accepted by the state in two of the three cases – and ongoing contestation

More observations

- ❑ Three distinct and related goals in movement activities
- ❑ To create and extend entitlements
- ❑ Accessing and using existing entitlements and making them more useful
- ❑ Changing the conceptualization of legitimate entitlements and legitimate citizen involvement in entitlements, also changing the social endowment (challenging discrimination)



Sen's model



Sen's model augmented by social movement strategies and activities