

Access and Control Matrix



Introduction

To analyze who has the power to access and control different resources and who is denied this.

The Access and Control Matrix encourages marginalized groups (such as women, ethnic minorities or disabled people) to think about their power to access and control the different resources that are relevant to their lives. This tool helps people to visualize inequalities in order to understand shifts in power and determine who has access to the range of resources at the household or community levels and who has the power to make decisions on how they are used. Using the access and control matrix can help to facilitate discussions around these important questions of power, making it a motivating and politicizing experience for those who are involved.

Steps

1. Introduce each other, the theme and purpose of the exercise and the required time. Groups should be clear how they can use the information they will generate and how the organization intends to use it.
2. Identify different resources that are relevant to them at household or community levels. Probe to include all the important resources, whether they have access to them or not.
3. Brainstorm the meaning of 'access to' and 'control over' resources.
4. Develop a matrix using symbols for resources and columns for access and control.
5. Score individually or as a group using counters for retrospective analysis.
6. Reflect on shifts in power concerning access and control of resources.

7. Photograph the matrix and conclude discussions with action steps.

Questions for Analysis

- Do women and men have equal access to the resource? Why?
- What kinds of resources are available in your community or household?
- What is the difference between access and control?
- How has access and control over resources changed in recent years?
- What strategies have been used to gain access or increase control?

Documenting and Reporting

Discussions and responses can be documented in various ways, ensuring critical words, examples, metaphors, and testimonies are captured. Use photos or structured written forms to record actors and their extent of power.

Resources Identified	#s of women with access	#s of women with control	Process through which women have gained access or control	Future strategies to increase access or control

Suggestions for Use:

- If documented rigorously, the findings provide evidence to the question 'to what extent do women have access to control over resources? As such can be used as part of **research** into this area.
- If this knowledge is documented rigorously then the research can be used to lobby decision makers to give women more access and control over resources as **part of a lobby or advocacy strategy**.
- The value of this work is that it provides both **qualitative** and **quantitative** evidence, which together work well to influence decision makers, appealing to a wide audience

References

- Communication & Power, ActionAid, 2003.
- Tools for Analyzing Power, Inclusion and Exclusion, Just Associates