

Being Innovative is Not Enough, Context Matters!

Lessons from Indonesian Decentralised Education System

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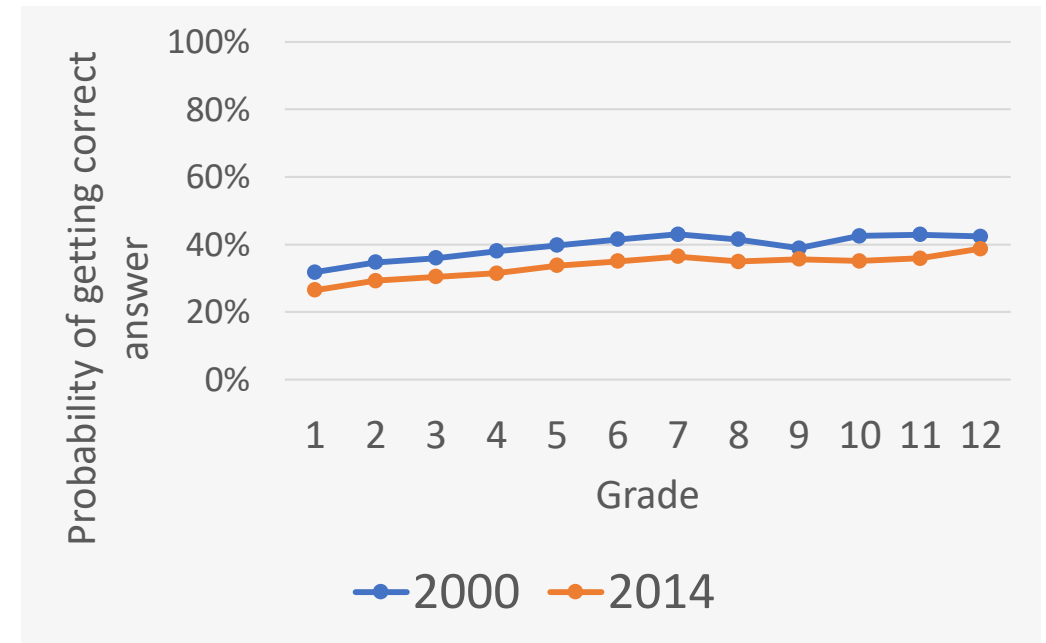
Background

1999

Indonesia **decentralised their education authority** to district-level government to make development of this sector more efficient

2000
to
2014

- School Participation Rate **increased**
- Illiterate population **decreased**, but ...



Context of the three innovative districts

Despite the alarming reality, we identify several districts that we see as innovative in addressing the learning crisis.



Bukittinggi

- Small city in west Sumatra of 25 km² in high land
- Many schools built by The Dutch in 20th C
- cultural identity of fair competition & individual achievement → Minang's trading prowess
- School-based innovations since 2005
- The best national exam score for junior secondary school level in West Sumatra Province

Context of the three innovative districts



Yogyakarta

- small area of 32 km² in low land of Special region of Yogyakarta
- *Sekolah Tamanan* in 18th C & *Taman Siswa* in 20th C
- **Guyub** (harmonious living) culture
- A variety of innovations to maintain its status of City of Education
- Highest PISA score and national exam's integrity at the national level

Context of the three innovative districts

- Large area: low and mountainous area of 1,883 km²
- *Lacking historical background in education → huge leap*
- *Siri' na Pacce* culture
- A variety of educational programmes since 2005 → MoE awards
- Allocates 31,80% of its local budget to education (2nd highest in the South Sulawesi)



Gowa

Research questions

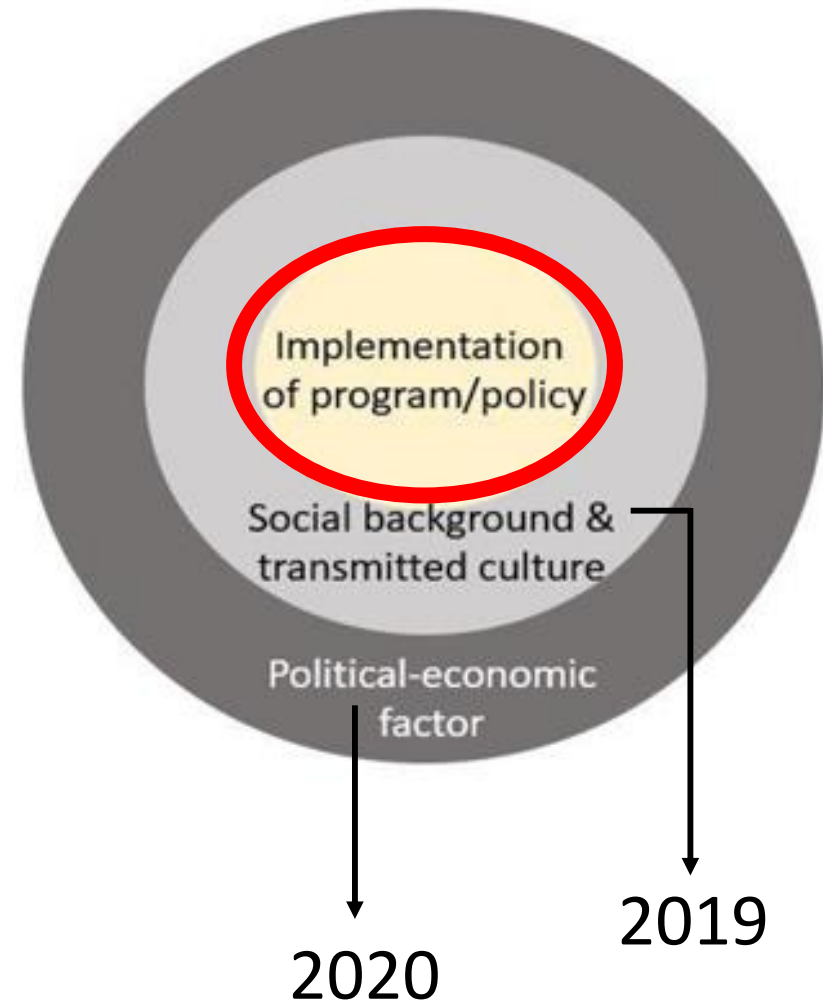
1. What are the **focus** of the educational innovations?
2. How has the **local capacity** shaped the implementation of innovation in each district?

Research design

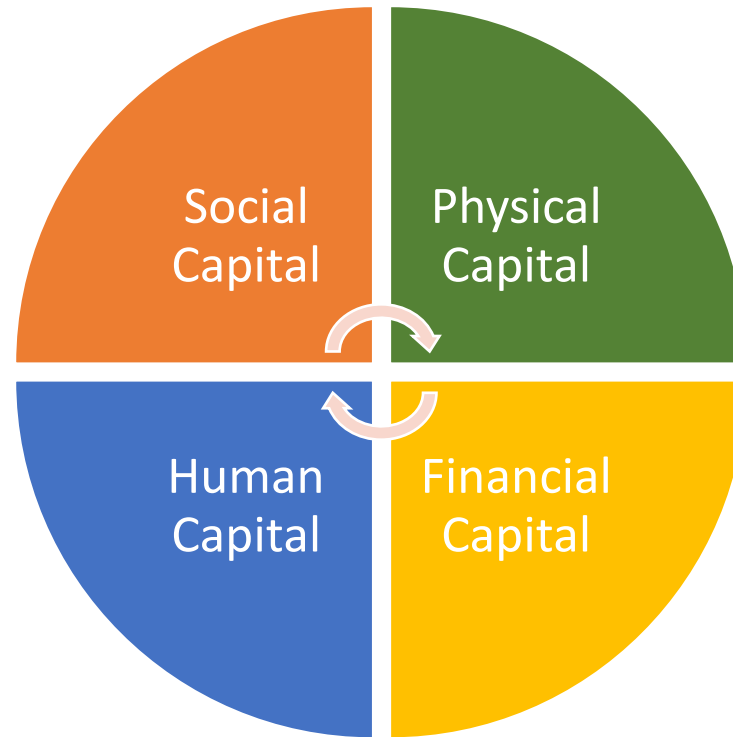
Innovation is a complex process

→ We use ethnography to understand the **mechanisms and dynamics of how innovations emerge and unfold in practice.**

→ Methods



Analysis framework



Local Capacity (Spillane and Thompson, 1997)

Our Findings:

The Tales of Educational Innovations in Three Districts



Bukittinggi

Yogyakarta

Gowa

Bukittinggi: Inter-school collaboration and competition



Cross Supervision



Objective

To evaluate teachers' performance objectively



Impact

Inspires teachers and principals, especially in low-performing schools



School Ranking



Objective

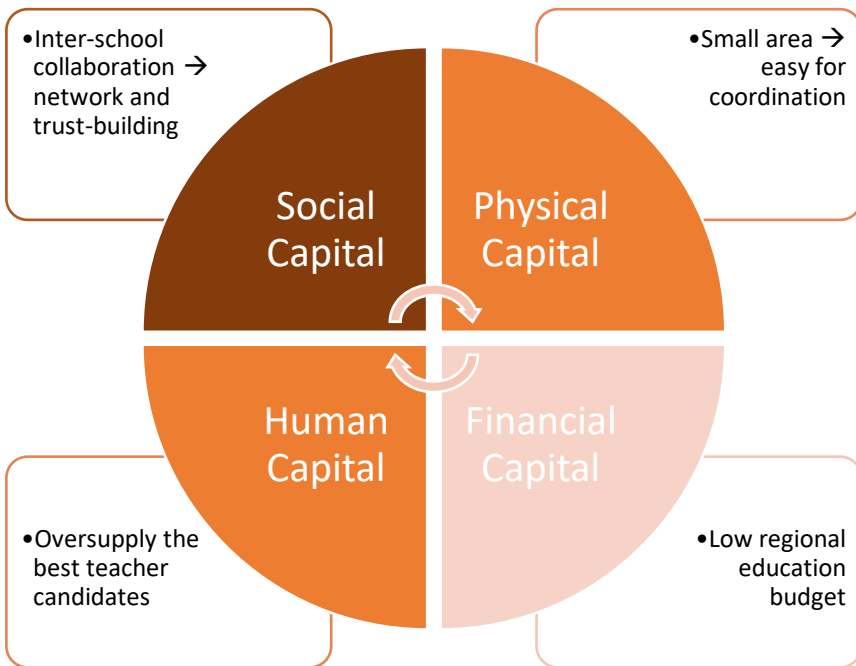
To maintain student learning outcomes



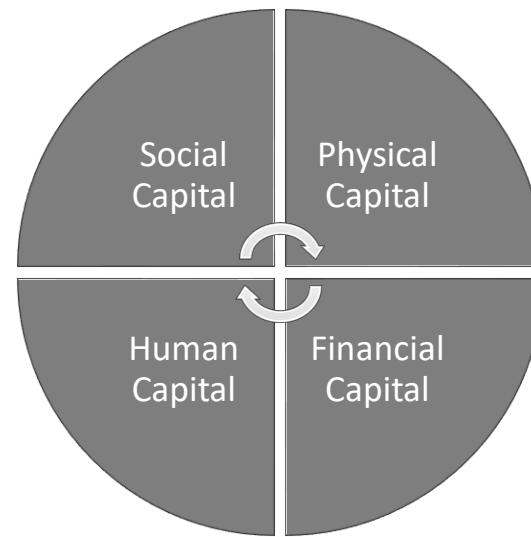
Impact

Greatly affects student intake in top-performing schools

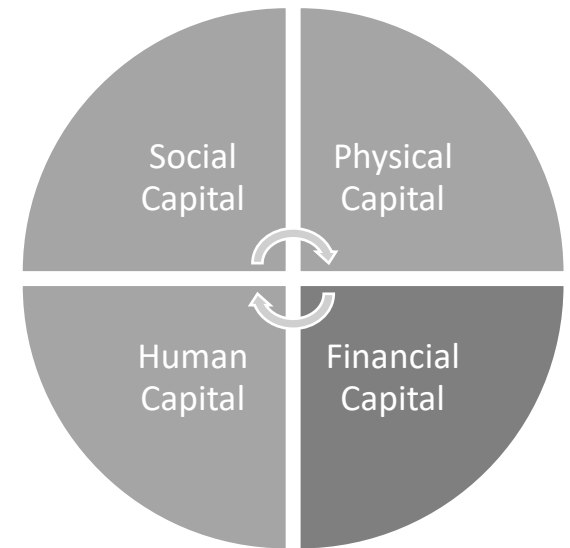
Local capacity assessment



Bukittinggi



Yogyakarta



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Yogyakarta: Parental and local community involvement



Parents Association



Community Learning Hours (JBM)



Objective

To ensure the quality of education



Objective

To provide learning space for all community members



Impact

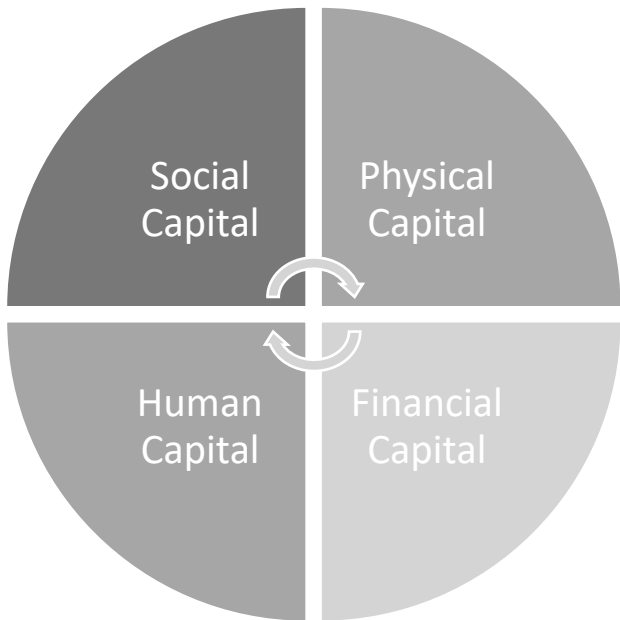
Parents voluntarily participate in any school programme



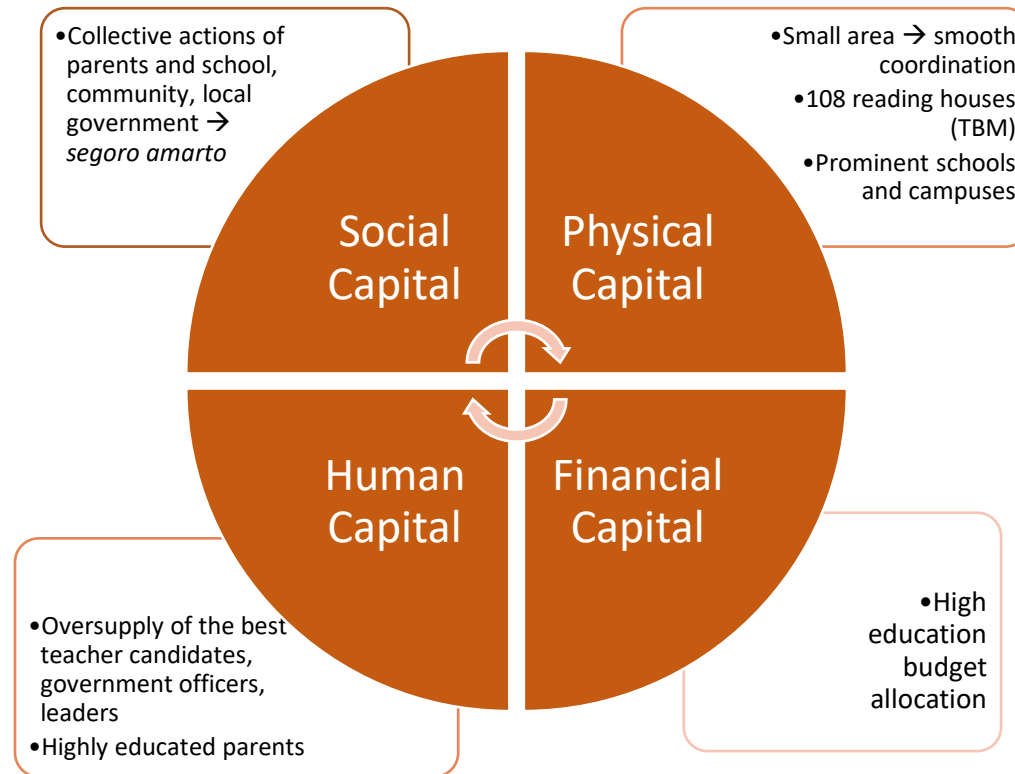
Impact

Conducive environment for collective learning

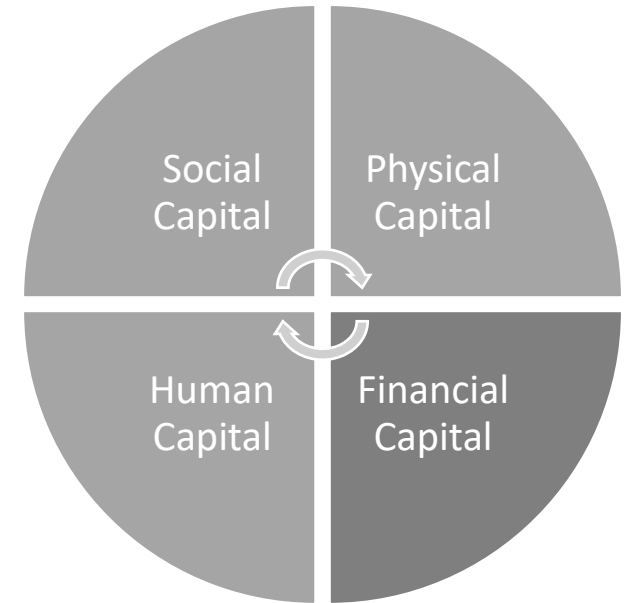
Local capacity assessment



Bukittinggi



Yogyakarta



Gowa

Gowa: Increasing attendance and automatic promotion



Objective

- To reduce teacher and student absenteeism
- To keep the school safe



Objective

To overcome the low success rate of national exam in secondary schools



Impact

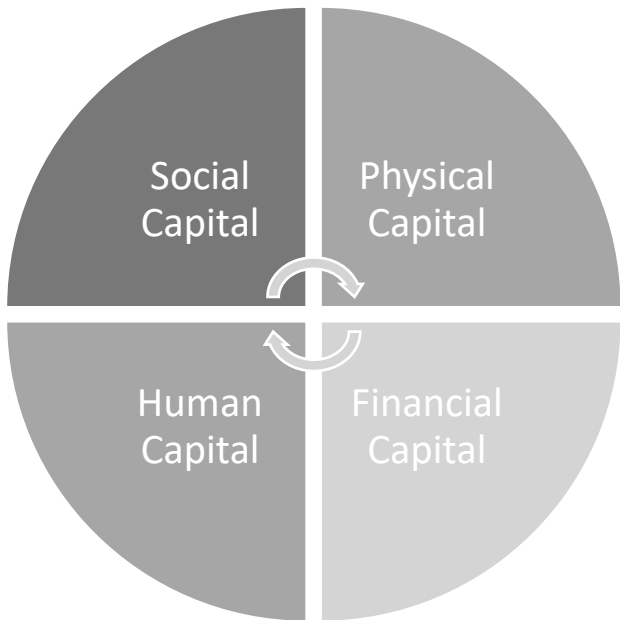
Teachers and students are never again late for school



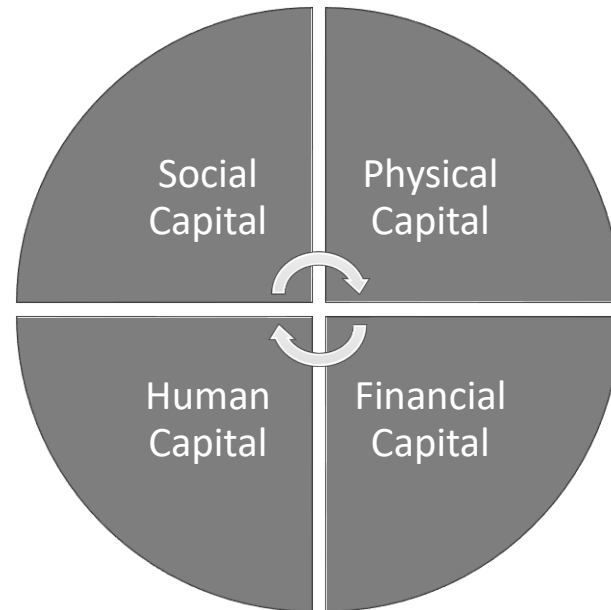
Impact

School schedules additional lessons time (optional) for upper grade students who did not meet the passing score

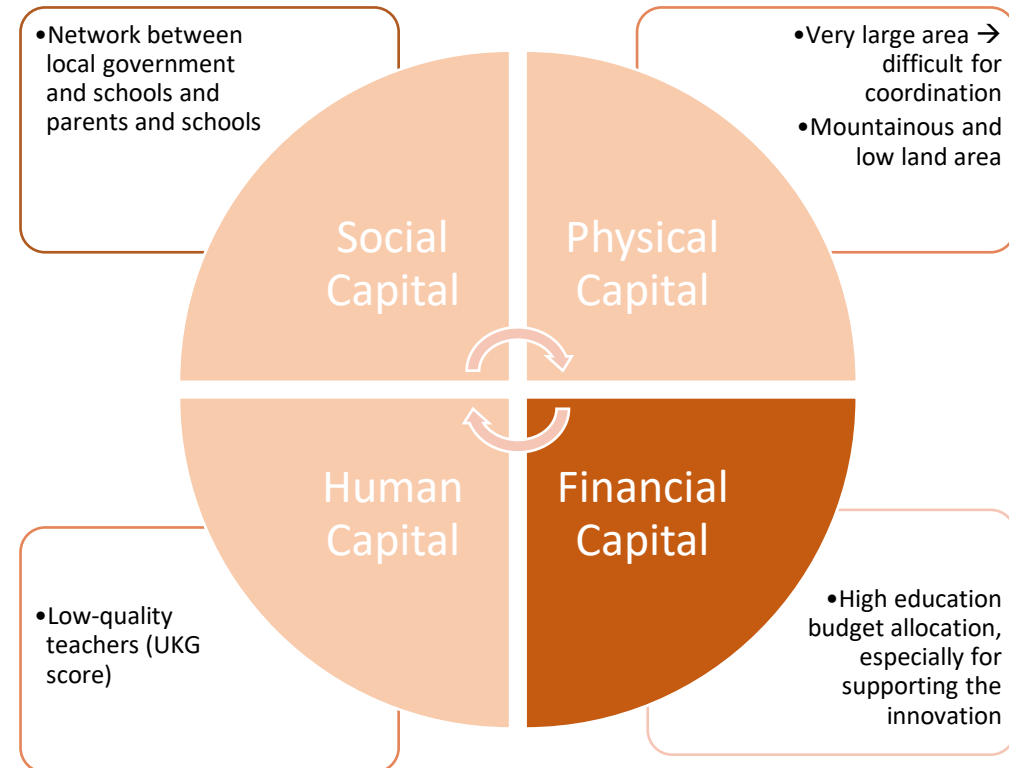
Local capacity assessment



Bukittinggi



Yogyakarta



Gowa

Innovation hindrance

Bukittinggi & Yogyakarta

The inability to produce meaningful engagement with the substance of learning → focuses on student's achievement in final exam

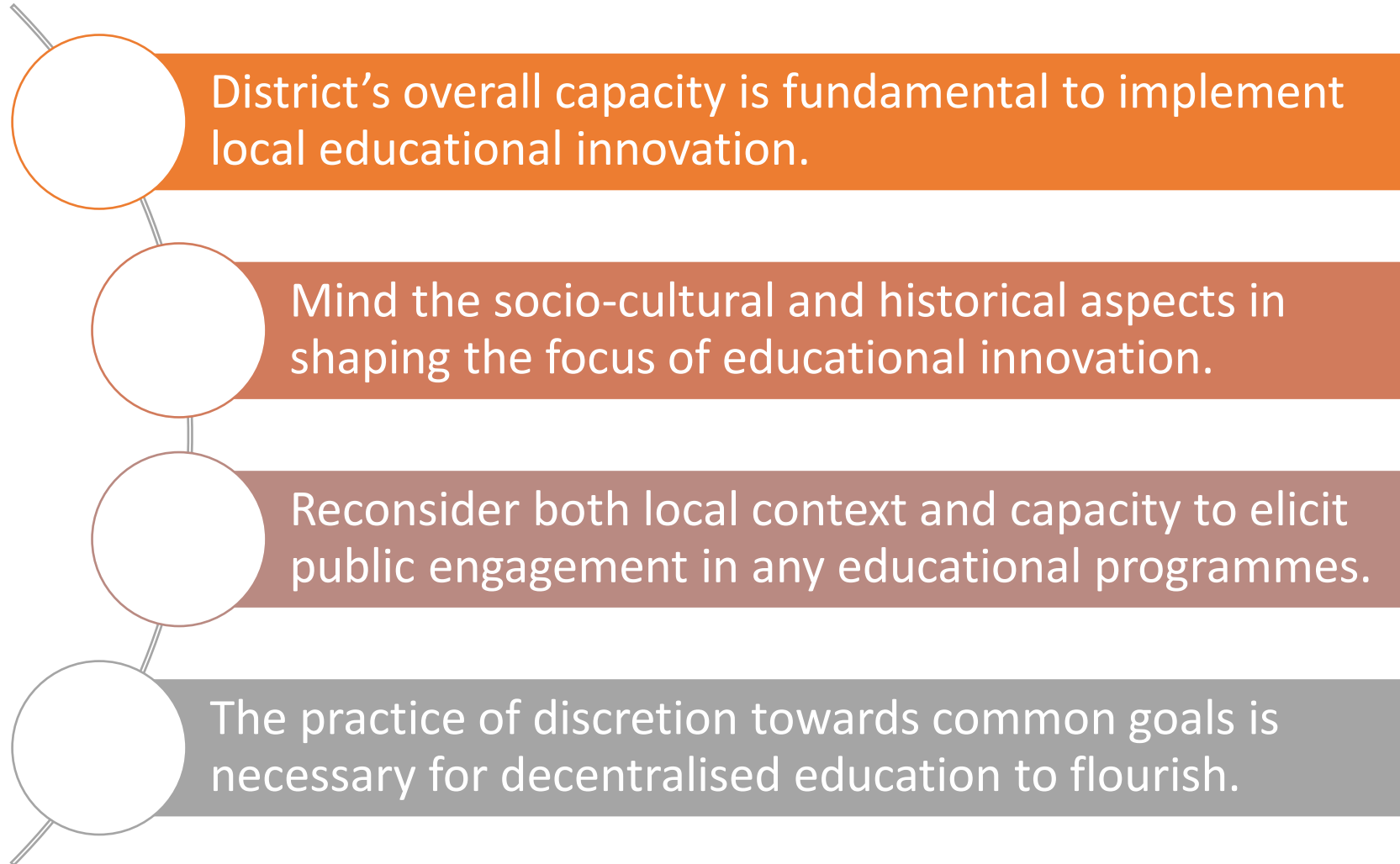
Vicious cycle (Tan, 2005) that causes favouritism (inequality) and does not promote critical thinking in students

Gowa

School security guards are also used as political tool by the local leaders during election season

Very strong political power, which causes teachers and principals to be afraid of raising their opinions due to the sanction of being relocated to remote mountainous areas

Takeaways from the three districts



Thank You



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