Overview of PRA Methodology

Empowers Rural Local Communities to Analyse their Own Challenges and Devise Solutions

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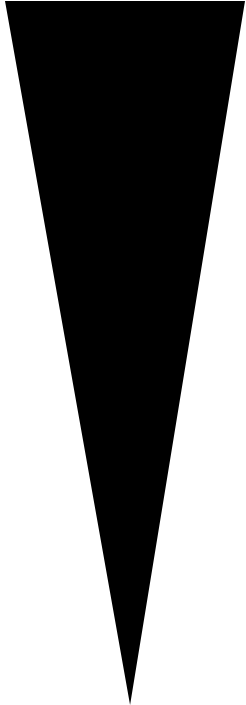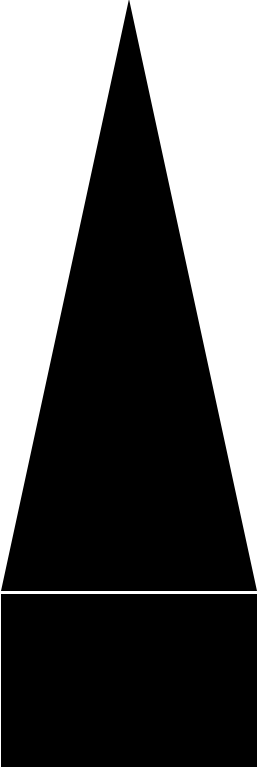
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Participation

Mode of partici-pation	Type of participation	Outsider control	Potential for sus-taining local action and owner-ship
Co-opted	Tokenism, manipulation, representatives are chosen, but no real input or power		
Co-operating	Tasks are assigned, with incentives; outsiders decide agenda and direct the process		
Consulted	Local opinions asked, outsiders analyze and decide on a course of action		
Collaborating	Local people work together with outsiders to determine priorities. Responsibility remains with outsiders for directing the process		
Co-learning	Local people and outsiders share their knowledge to create new understanding and work together to form action plans, with outsider facilitation		
Collective action	Local people set their own agenda and mobilise to carry it out, in the absence of outside initiators and facilitators		

Geospatial Concepts

Explore the spatial relationships between geographic data and locations.

Temporal Concepts

Understand the role of time and how it influences the analysis of data.

Relational Concepts

Examine the connections and interactions between different data elements.

Dimension	Tools	Output
Geospatial	Transect Walk	Resource Map Social Map
Time	Timeline	Trends Seasonality
Relational	Paired ranking	Priority
	Wealth ranking	Poverty assessment
	Venn Diagram	Service levels

Diagrams

- generate ideas
- sensitive topics
- oral and visual cultures
- memory
- care for visual perception differences

Mapping
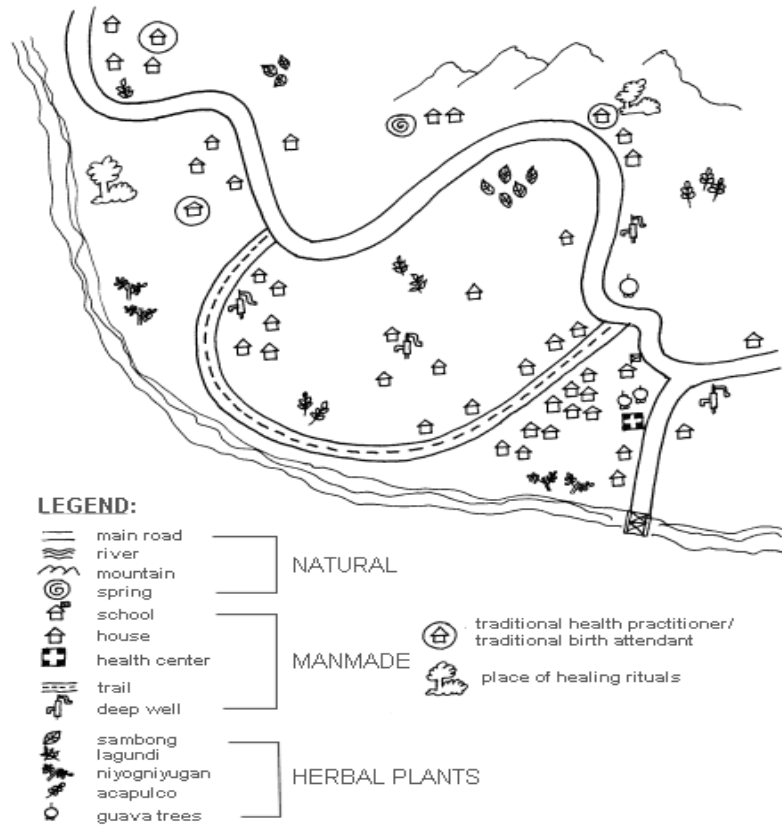
- locations
- relationships
- legend, direction
- historical maps

Transects

Transect of Pook Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite, Philippines

	Upland	Lowland	Creek	Lowland	Canal	Village	Upland	Creek	Upland
Water source	Rain	Rain Irrigation	Rain Runoff/ seepage	Rain Irrigation		Rain Well	Rain	Rain	Rain
Soil	Sandy Loam		Rocky	Clay	Rocky	Sandy Clay loam	Sandy Clay loam		Clay
Crops	Rice Sugar-cane Eggplant Beans Corn	Rice Sesbania Pepper Beans Tomato	Bamboo	Rice Sesbania Pepper Garlic Tomato	Bamboo	Okra Horseradish Grapes Beans	Peanuts Cassava Rice Corn Beans	Bamboo	Rice Bean Sugar-cane
Forages	Grass-land for grazing	Gliricidia	Grass	Azolla	Grass		Weeds in plots	Guinea grass	Grass land
Trees	Gliricidia Mango Leucaena Guava Banana Tamarind	Gliricidia	Banana Gliricidia Leucaena	Gliricidia Banana Leucaena Acacia Neem	Gliricidia Leucaena	Acacia Mango Guava Coconut Leucaena Jackfruit	Mango		Mango Tamarind Star-apple
Animals	Cow Carabao Goat		Catfish Mudfish Carp Frog Crab	Golden snails Pig Fish Duck Frog	Catfish Frog Snail	Dog Cat Pig Goat Cattle Turkey	Goat Carabao Cattle	Snail Catfish	Cattle Carabao Goat
Problems	Erosion Lack of water	Pest and disease				Lack of cohesive-ness among local officials	Erosion Lack of water		Erosion Lack of water
Oppurtunities						Accessibility to road			

- uni-dimensional map
- section by section (systematic, much information)

Matrices

Farmers evaluating tree growth
(Agroforestry research plot in Parung Panjang, Indonesia)
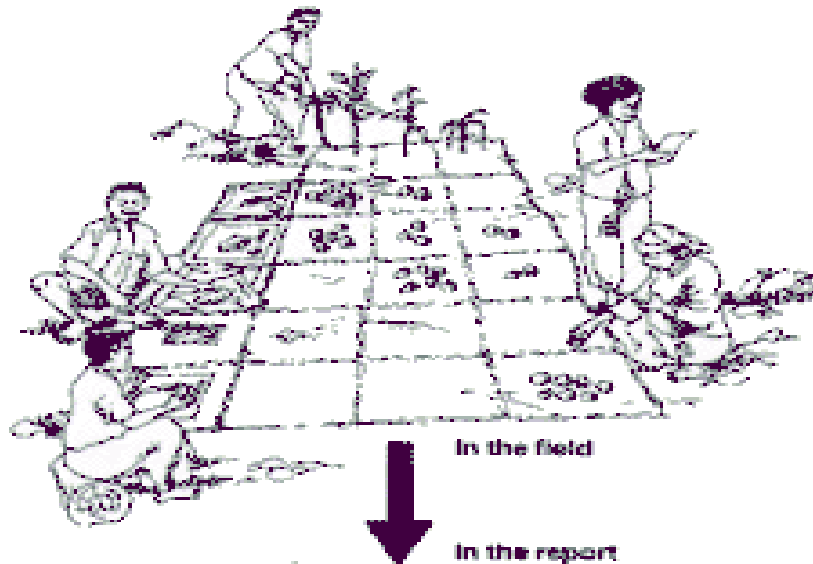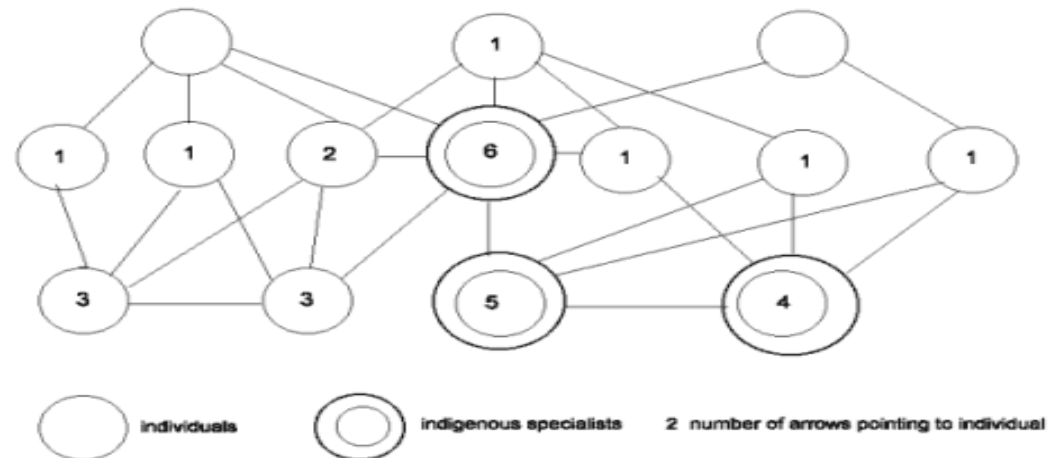
- Various characteristics for various items (comparisons)
- qualitative (preferences) or quantitative (proxies) information

Selection of respondents

- Description of population: (stratified) random selection

- Key informants (specialists of specific topics): targeted selection

individuals   indigenous specialists   2 number of arrows pointing to individual

PRA Tool: Resource Map

- The Resource Map helps participants identify key community resources.

- Key questions:

- - What resources are abundant or scarce?

- - Who controls these resources?

- - Who collects water?

PRA Tool: Social Map

- The Social Map shows the social and economic structures within a community.

- Key questions:

- - What are the ethnic and religious groups in the community?

- - How are resources distributed among households?

PRA Tool: Venn Diagram

- Venn Diagrams help identify institutions and individuals important to the community.

- Key questions:

- - Who makes decisions for the community?

- - What are the formal and informal institutions that play a role?

PRA Tool: Seasonal Calendar

- Seasonal Calendars show seasonal patterns of activities, problems, and opportunities.

- Key questions:

- - What are the major activities for different times of the year (e.g., planting, harvest)?

- - When are food shortages or health issues more common?

PRA Tool: Matrix Ranking and Scoring

- Matrix Ranking and Scoring are used to compare options (e.g., crops, livestock) based on different criteria.

- Key questions:

- - What criteria are important to evaluate these options?

- - Which option performs best according to community preferences?

Roles in the PRA Team

- PRA team members have distinct roles, each critical for effective facilitation:

- - Facilitator: Guides the discussion and ensures balanced participation

- - Note-taker: Records observations and discussions

- - Team Leader: Manages the team and workshop logistics

Transect Walk

A diagram which provides a cross-sectional views of the distribution and boundaries of major resource units. For each resource unit, the crops grown, animals, soil characteristics, topography and other information are indicated.

Topography	Steep slopes	Rolling hills	Undulating	Flat	Sub-merged	Flat	Undulating
Land use	Forest	Pasture	Bushes	Crop lands	Pond	Crop lands	Residential
Annual crops	—	—	—	rice, beans	—	corn	vegetables
Perennials	mahogany narra, others	napier, cogon	guavas ipil-ipil	—	—	—	banana, papaya, citrus
Animals	—	cattle, goats	—	—	fish	—	pigs, chicken
Problems		grass fires, soil erosion	psyllids	golden snail		acidic soil	swine waste disposal
Opportunities	Plant also indigenous forest trees	Integrate forage legumes	Also plant Gliricidia	raise ducks to eat snails		use organic fertilizer	explore biogas

Introduction to Transect Walk

- A transect walk is a participatory tool used to analyze different areas of a community. It involves walking through different zones with community members to observe, discuss, and record variations in landscape, land use, resources, and challenges.

- The goal is to gain firsthand insight into the local environment and identify issues and opportunities.

Objectives of a Transect Walk

- The main objectives of a transect walk are to:
- - Understand spatial variations in the community
- - Identify natural resources, challenges, and opportunities
- - Facilitate discussion between locals and facilitators

Key Steps in a Transect Walk

- Key steps include:
- - Selecting participants (local residents, experts, facilitators)
- - Defining the route across different areas of interest
- - Observing and discussing key features (land use, resources, issues)
- - Recording observations (using maps, diagrams, or notes)

Information to Collect During a Transect Walk

- Key information to gather includes:
- - Natural resources (water sources, forests, land)
- - Infrastructure (roads, schools, health centers)
- - Land use patterns (agriculture, grazing, settlements)
- - Environmental challenges (soil erosion, flooding)

Outcome of a Transect Walk

- The outcomes of a transect walk include:
- - A better understanding of community resources and challenges
- - Identification of opportunities for development interventions
- - Increased community engagement and participation in planning

Malnutrition Mapping

Key Objectives

- The key objectives of malnutrition mapping are to:
- - Identify forms of malnutrition in the community
- - Understand local perceptions of nutrition-related problems
- - Map nutritionally vulnerable households

Methods for Malnutrition Mapping

- Key methods include:
- - Key Informant Interviews (community health workers, teachers)
- - Mapping vulnerable households
- - Ranking health problems and their causes
- - Matrix analysis for local solutions

Key Informant Interviews

- Interviews with key informants, such as:

- - Community Health Workers

- - Traditional Healers

- - Teachers and Local Leaders

- They provide insights into local perceptions of malnutrition, its causes, and how it affects households.

Key Questions for Malnutrition Mapping

- What are the commonly seen health problems in this community? List by children, adults and women.

- For each group (children, adults and women) can you rank these health problems according to their importance? Give ten marks to the most important problem and one mark to the last important problem. Give a mark between 1 and 10 to the remaining problems.

- Can you explain why you have given more importance to one problem than to another? *(i.e. higher incidence, more severe, etc.)*

- Can you identify those problems that are important for nutrition *(i.e. diarrhea, anemia, etc.)?*
For each of the nutrition-related problems, what do local people see as the causes? *(Draw a matrix with the problems, causes, treatment)*

- What do local people in general do to treat these problems?

- Can you identify on the village map those households that have frequently such nutrition-related problems?

- For each of the households that you have marked, can you explain what the nutrition-related problems are?

- For each of the households that you have marked, what are in your opinion the reasons why these households are having the nutrition-related problems that you mentioned?

Community-Based Insights and Solutions

- Through participatory mapping, communities can:
- - Identify vulnerable households
- - Understand the root causes of malnutrition
- - Plan targeted interventions to improve nutrition

Venn Diagram of Institutions
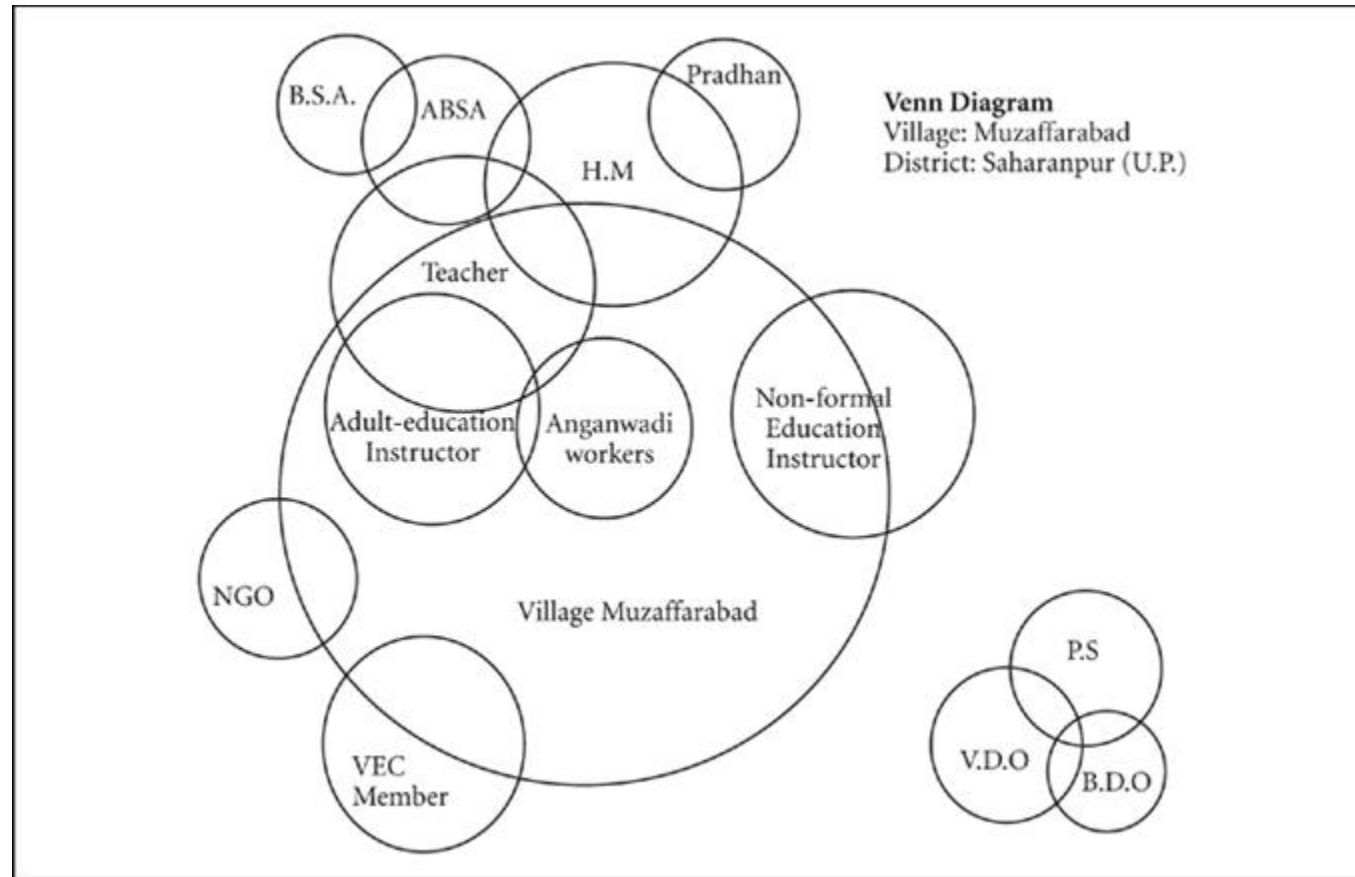
Introduction to Venn Diagram of Institutions

- A Venn diagram of institutions is used to map the relationships and roles of different organizations and individuals within a community.

- This method helps visualize which institutions play critical roles in the community and how they interact.

Identifying Key Institutions

- In this method, community members are asked to identify institutions that affect their lives. Key questions include:

- - Which institutions are most important for community wellbeing?

- - What are the roles of each institution?

- - How do these institutions relate to one another?

Institutional Relationships and Influence

- Institutions are represented by circles. The size of the circle reflects the institution's importance, while the proximity of circles shows the strength of relationships between institutions.

- Overlapping circles indicate collaboration or shared functions between institutions.

Seasonal Calendar

Problem	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Reason
Seasonal Calendar													
Hazard Type: Environmental Health													
Standing water	✓									✓	✓	✓	more water used in these months
Flies											✓	✓	It is hot & dirty toilets smell more
Skin Rashes	✓									✓	✓	✓	because of dirty water and hot sand
Diarrhoea	✓									✓	✓	✓	dirty water and increase of germs
conflict between residents for water	✓									✓	✓	✓	more people use water
Dirty toilets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	too few toilets & they always full
air pollution (inside)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	+dust ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	stove is used for everyday cooking makes dust
Air pollution (outside)						✓	✓	✓	✓				the chemical for planting & ploughing during season

Introduction to Seasonal Calendar

- A seasonal calendar helps communities visualize the cyclical nature of events such as planting, harvest, food shortages, and health issues over a year.

- It provides a timeline of critical activities and challenges that affect the livelihoods of rural populations.

Purpose of a Seasonal Calendar

- The purpose of a seasonal calendar is to track important community events, such as:

- - Agricultural cycles (planting, weeding, harvest)

- - Food availability and shortages

- - Labor demand and wage fluctuations

- - Periods of illness or malnutrition

Process of Creating a Seasonal Calendar

- To create a seasonal calendar, communities work together to identify key seasonal patterns:

- - Start by drawing a simple calendar with months or seasons

- - Map out key agricultural events, food supply, health, and income trends

- - Use symbols or drawings to make the calendar accessible to everyone

Key Events Tracked in a Seasonal Calendar

- Events tracked in a seasonal calendar typically include:
- - Rainfall patterns
- - Cropping and harvest seasons
- - Food availability or shortages
- - Periods of peak labor demand
- - Disease outbreaks and malnutrition occurrences

Finally.........

- Community Workshop
- Documentation