

# Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA): Tools for Field Engagement



# Objectives of the Session

- Understand the principles and purpose of PRA.
- Learn key PRA tools used for community engagement.
- Explore facilitation methods for PRA exercises.
- Relate PRA findings to local planning and decision-making.



# What is Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)?

- A participatory methodology enabling villagers to analyze their own situation.
- Relies on local knowledge, visual tools, and active participation.
- Used in baseline surveys, micro-planning, monitoring, and evaluation.



# Core Principles of PRA

- Participation and empowerment of the community.
- Flexibility, triangulation, and iteration.
- Use of visual methods: maps, diagrams, and timelines.
- Reversal of learning – outsiders learn from insiders.
- Teamwork, facilitation, and respect for local wisdom.



# Major Categories of PRA Tools

- Mapping Tools – Social Map, Resource Map.
- Temporal Tools – Seasonal Calendar, Historical Timeline.
- Institutional Tools – Venn Diagram (Institutional Mapping).
- Mobility Tools – Transect Walk.
- Ranking & Scoring Tools – Pairwise, Matrix, Preference Ranking.



# Social Mapping

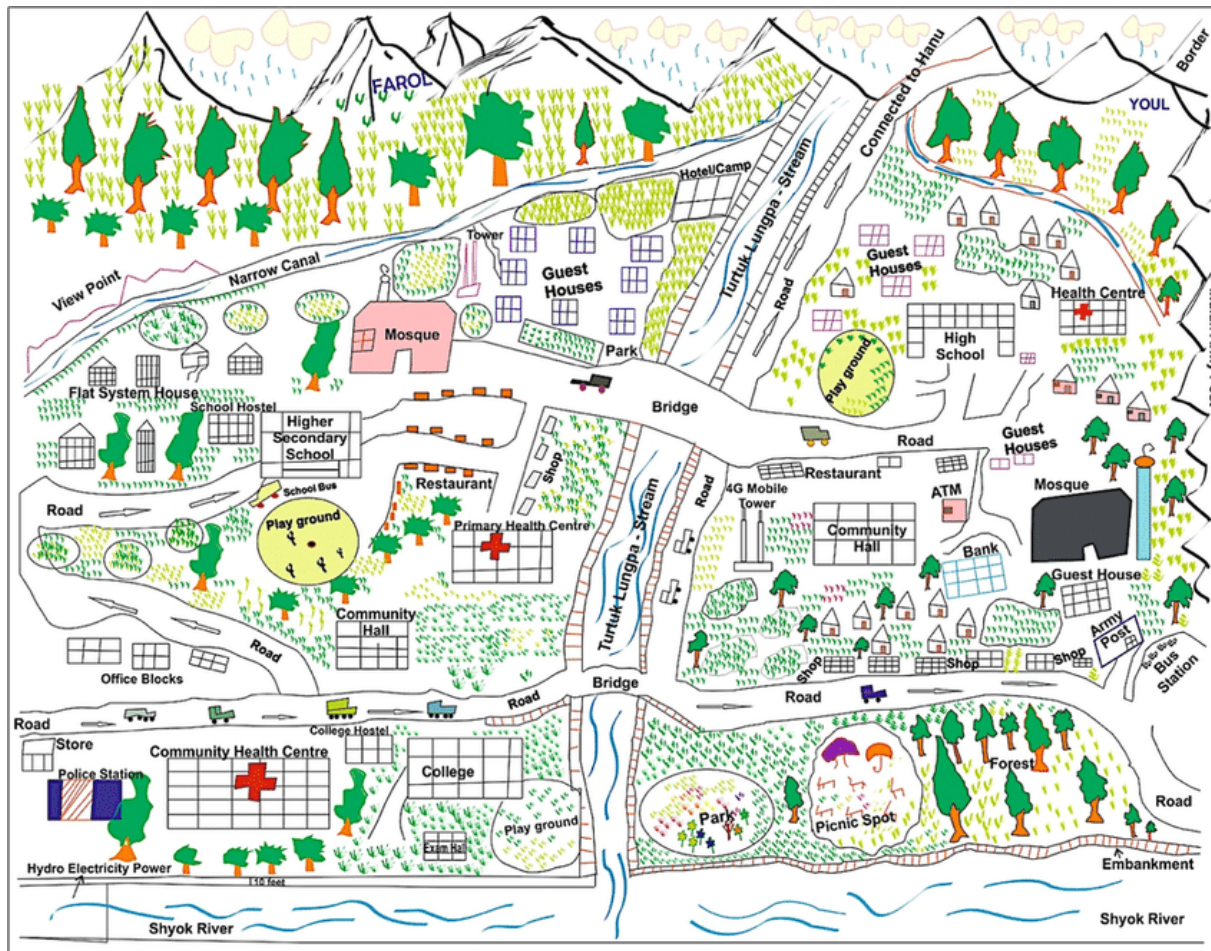
- Shows settlement pattern, households, and key facilities.
- Purpose: Understand social structure and access to services.
- Materials: Chalk, rangoli powder, sticks, paper.
- Exercise: Groups draw a social map of an imaginary village.





**Figure 2: Social Map of Revannalli Village**







# Resource Mapping

- Depicts natural and physical resources (land, water, forests).
- Shows ownership, usage, and condition of resources.
- Purpose: Resource inventory for micro-planning and livelihoods.
- Field Tip: Involve farmers, women, and elders.



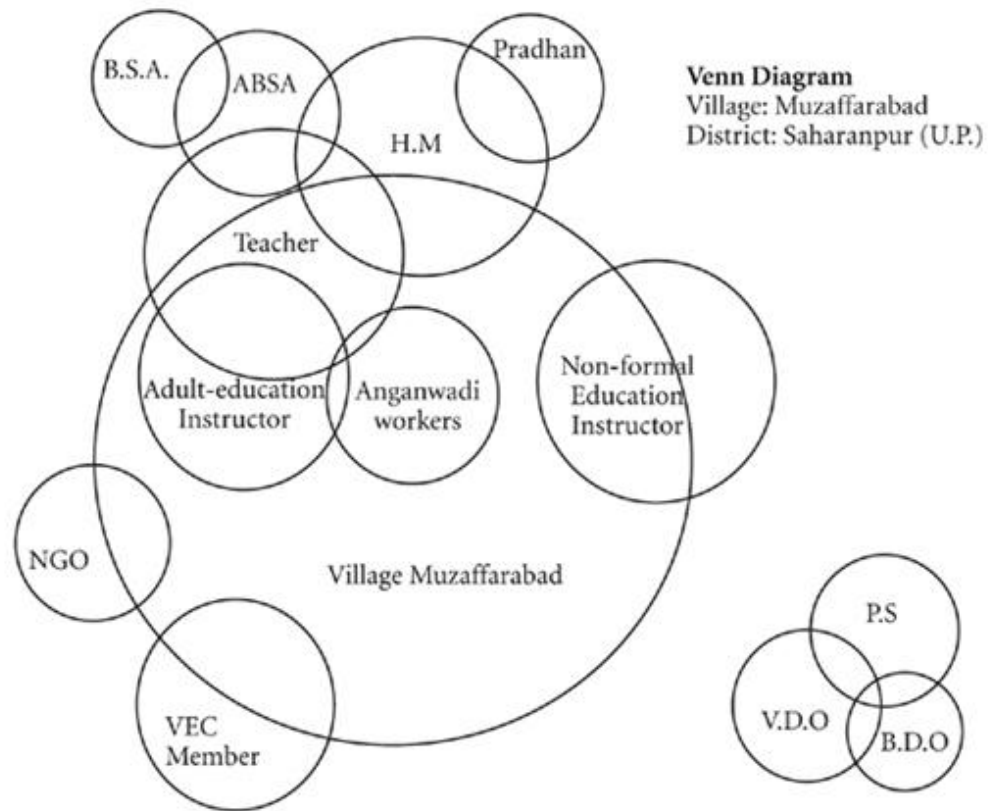




# Venn Diagram (Institutional Mapping)

- Circles represent institutions; size = importance; distance = closeness.
- Purpose: Analyze linkages, trust, and institutional influence.
- Exercise: Identify local actors and draw their relationships.



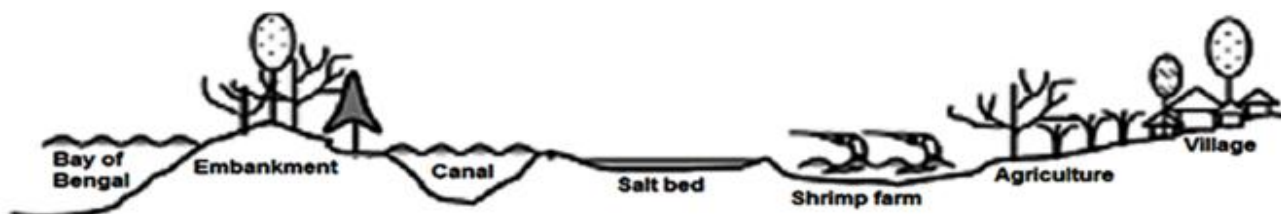




# Transect Walk

- Joint walk by villagers and facilitators across different zones.
- Observe land use, crops, infrastructure, and social interactions.
- Purpose: Validate data and identify local problems.
- Exercise: Conduct a short transect walk around the campus.





Landuse	Bay of Bengal	Embankment	Canal	Salt bed	Shrimp Farm	Agriculture	Settlement
Resources	Fish, shrimp, oyster, mussel	Land, tree, grass, local shops	Water, fish, shrimp, mussel	Land	Shrimp, fish	Land, crops	Tree, livestock
Activities	Fishing, navigation	Local transport, grazing, temporary living	Water supply, navigation, shrimp fry collection	Concentrate sea water, salt production	Pond preparation, management, harvesting	Cultivation of rice, vegetable, betel leaf	Housing, gardening, poultry, social forestry
Land type		Tidal land		Tidal land, plain land	Tidal land, plain land	Plain land	Plain land
Problem/ Issues	Erosion, accretion, water, pollution, storm surge	Hamper adaptation of aquatic organisms	Water contamination	Land ownership, rainwater, salt price fluctuation	Low production, diseases, water pollution, land use conflicts	Utilization of pesticides and chemical fertilizers	Lack of safe drinking water, toilet, electricity, transportation, education
Opportunities	Domestic consumption and export of fishery resources, employment	Protection shelter	Community livelihood	Salt and high saline water selling	Family consumption of fish, shrimp export, employment	Family consumption, selling of products	Family consumption, selling chickens, ducks, goats, cows, and different fruits



# Seasonal Calendar

- Charts variations in rainfall, cropping, labour, income, disease, migration.
- Purpose: Identify stress and opportunity periods.
- Facilitation Tip: Use months as columns and intensity markers.



# Seasonal Calendar

Hazard Type: Environmental Health

Problem	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Reason
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












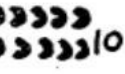


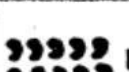
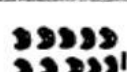




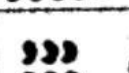
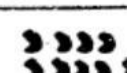
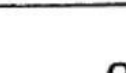
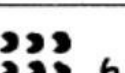
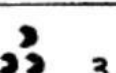
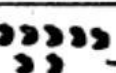
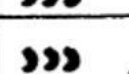
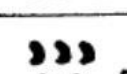
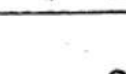
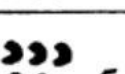
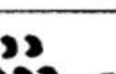
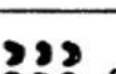
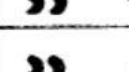
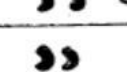
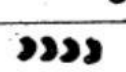
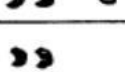
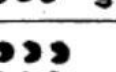
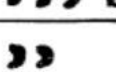
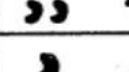
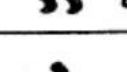
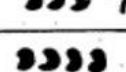
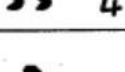
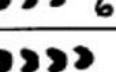
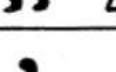
# Timeline and Trend Analysis

- Records historical events such as droughts, floods, and infrastructure changes.
- Purpose: Understand social and economic evolution.
- Can be combined with mapping to show change over time.



# Time Trends

Tsupaneng: Historical ~~Time~~ ~~Trend~~ - land use. 23.4.1993

DECADES	TREES 	CULTIVATED LAND 	FALLOW LAND 	GRAZING 	WASTE LAND 	YIELD PRODUCT 
1940	 10	 10	 0	 10	 0	 10
1950	 10	 10	 0	 8	 0	 10
1960	 6	 8	 0	 6	 3	 7
1970	 5	 5	 0	 5	 5	 6
1980	 4	 4	 7	 4	 6	 4
1990	 3	 1	 9	 1	 8	 1

PRA Group members: Jackie Leach, Tina von Moltke



# Matrix Ranking / Pairwise Ranking

- Matrix Ranking: Evaluate options using multiple criteria (cost, yield, risk).
- Pairwise Ranking: Compare options two at a time to identify priority.
- Purpose: Community decision-making for prioritization.



## Pair-Wise Matrix

IRRIGATION	ELECTRICITY	EMPLOYMENT	EDUCATION	HEALTH		SCORE	RANK
	IRRIGATION	IRRIGATION	EDUCATION	IRRIGATION	IRRIGATION	3	1
		ELECTRICITY	EDUCATION	ELECTRICITY	ELECTRICITY	2	2
			EDUCATION	HEALTH	EMPLOYMENT	0	5
			EDUCATION	EDUCATION		1	3
				HEALTH		1	4

### PEOPLE PRESENT :

CHANDRAVAN RAJPUT  
 ANUJ SONI  
 MAHENDRA RAJPUT  
 ALEXUTTI VISHWAKARNA  
 HUSNA HANSEN  
 DAYARAM RAJPUT  
 PARASHURAM RAJPUT  
 CHIRJA KOHLI ETC

PAIR-WISE  
MATRIX

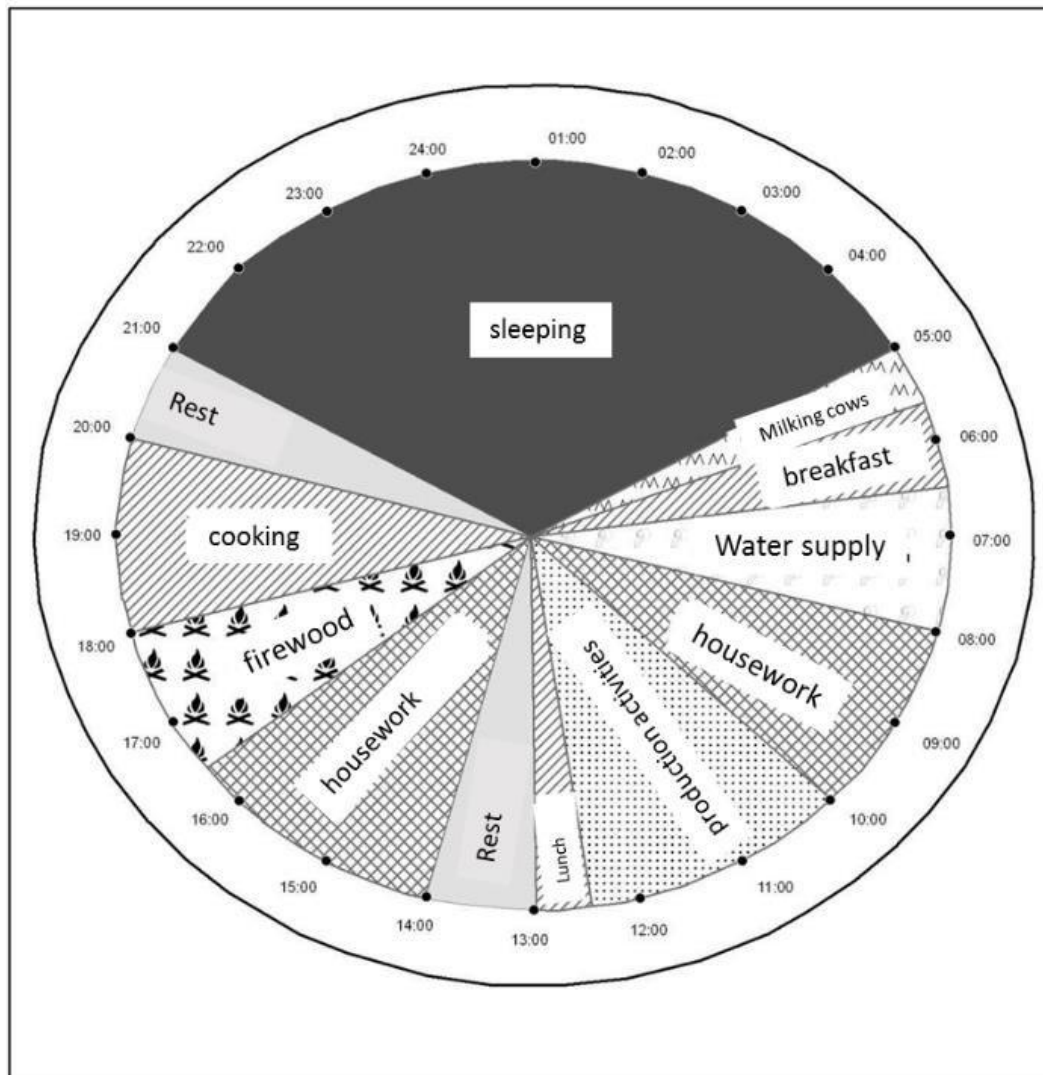




# Daily Activity Chart

- Shows time use of men, women, and children.
- Helps identify workload and invisible labour.
- Purpose: Understand daily patterns for better planning.







# PRA Data Triangulation

- Cross-verify findings using multiple tools.
- Combine social map + transect + seasonal data for validation.
- Ensure consistency between qualitative and quantitative findings.



# Role of Officer as Facilitator

- Build rapport and trust with the community.
- Ensure inclusion of marginalized groups.
- Maintain neutrality and encourage open dialogue.
- Translate insights into actionable micro-plans.



# Common Mistakes & Tips

- Facilitators should not draw – villagers must.
- Avoid dominance of elite groups.
- Document visuals properly (photos, legends).
- Use colours and symbols for clarity.



# Integrating PRA with Planning

- Feed outputs into GPDP, ABP, or Village Development Plans.
- Align with LSDG themes for convergence.
- Identify short-term actions and long-term strategies.



# Reflection & Debrief

- What insights were gained from PRA?
- How does it improve participatory governance?
- Group presentations and key takeaways.