

Workshop on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

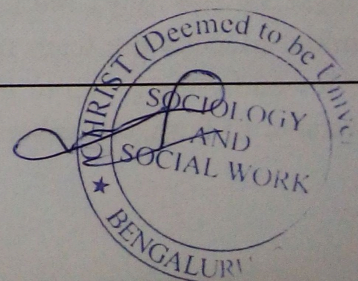
A programme related to Research Methodology

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**WORKSHOP ON
PARTICIPATORY
RURAL APPRAISAL
(PRA)**

- Lectures on PRA
- Field visit to
Yalachammanahally,
a CSA adopted village
- Field work

February 9 and 10, 2017



Report

The Department of Sociology had organized a workshop on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) on February 9 and 10, 2017. Given below is the report on the same.

February 9th, 2017

The first day of the workshop was a theory class on Participatory Rural Appraisal by Mr. Murugan. As a typical data collection process would be very time consuming, with the PRA, we can rapidly collect data to get a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of rural societies. Participatory Rural Appraisal is a semi structural tool to assess the status, problems, needs and aspirations of people residing in the area. The objectives of conducting PRA are:

- a. To learn and familiarise with the current situation
- b. To arrive at an agreed set of possibilities for further development
- c. Leads to mutual support in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation

PRA is most effective in an area of not more than 150 households and has an accuracy rate of 80%. The idea is to gather information directly from the villagers. Identify key informants (typically they are individuals who have been living there for a long period of time) and they will give all the details regarding demography, topographical features, wealth accumulated etc. Various tools are employed under this – social mapping, wealth ranking, transect walk, resource mapping, seasonality analysis, timeline & trend analysis, Venn diagram, matrix scoring and skill mapping. Once the students understood the processes of each tool they were divided into 4 teams – social mapping, wealth ranking, seasonality analysis and documentation. Each team sat together and came up with their game plans. They prepared for the field visit and presented the interview schedules to Murugan Sir and Maya ma'am.

February 10th, 2017

It took a 3 hour journey to reach Yalachammanahally. As soon as reached, Murugan sir directed students to take a walk around the village. After recon and a cup of tea, the teams got to work immediately. Each team had 3 student translators and 3 members of the documentation team.

SOCIAL MAPPING

Language was a barrier; the translators did most of the work due to which others felt sidelined. Mr. Murali and Ms. Sarojamma were the two key informants for social mapping. It was a time consuming process as only one was drawing the map but on the other hand because only Mr. Murali was drawing there was less confusion. Instructions were given by Murugan Sir and Maya Ma'am which led to better productivity. Keeping aside language and the initial hiccups the team members worked hard to draw the social map. Mr. Murali was interviewed by the group to get the demographic details of each of the 47 households, like - the number of family members, facilities and education.

The team found all but 3 nuclear families. Though they wanted a better future for their children, only primary education was free. The rich families sent their children to English medium schools in nearby towns. Though child marriage is not practiced anymore, some girls got married at that age of 16 (average).

WEALTH RANKING

After the social mapping team got the list of households, the wealth ranking process began. Students enlisted the help of 7 villagers to be the teams' key informants in this exercise. Three indicators were used - gold ring, watch and a pen - to represent three economic classes. The informants discussed amongst themselves and placed each household in a category. Then they were asked to share the reasons on the basis which they divided.

In total there were 7 rich households, these were mostly government employees or had their own business (poultry farm). They owned more or less 3 acres of land, tractors, and cars and lived in stone roofed houses. They also had money for rotation and savings in the bank. The 17 middle class households lived in AC sheet roofs and owned less than 2 acres of land. They had very little assets and earned their livelihood as daily wage labourers. The remaining 20 households worked as seasonal labourers. Their houses were not in good condition and they borrowed money to meet their needs.

According to the informants, there were no joint families in the village and already 3 families have migrated out in search of jobs but none have returned.

SEASONALITY ANALYSIS

There were 9 informants for seasonality analysis' group discussion - Geeta, Pilamma, Shrilakshmi, Ratnamma, Geeta, Nagamma, Ratnamma and Yeuklashamma. All 9 informants were female and daily wage labourers. The student translators served as the liaison between the informants and the team. The questions revolved around religious, ceremonial and agricultural activities. All informants were forthcoming and were eager to answer all questions.

The student team drew a table on the floor to analyse the festival, crops and marriage systems in the village. The village comprises only Hindu community. The main agricultural crop is ragi, which is cultivated in June - July. Other crops like corn, mustard, peas, cauliflower, and potato are grown throughout the year. Since the past 10 years, people have stopped practicing organic farming. Ugadi, Varmalakshmi and Vijayalakshmi are the main festivals celebrated. Marriages take place in the months of April, May and June.

No labourer from outside comes to work on the fields even for daily wages. The minimum wage rate as implemented by the government is not applicable here. The village sangha is the primary access to finance that the villagers have, charging less than 2% p.a. 2 people from the sangha serve as witness for lending money.

REFLECTIONS

The workshop was a great exposure as most of the students were doing a field exercise for the first time. Earlier the students had a theoretical clarity but this field exposure gave them a clear understanding of their roles as researchers.

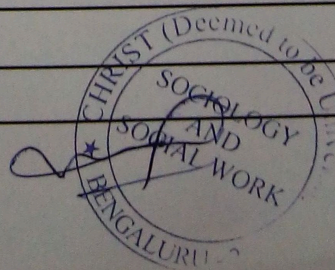
First of all, these tools were tried in a controlled and familiar environment. The village is adopted by the Centre for Social Action and is used to having the Christ University students visiting them. Murugan sir had informed them of our arrival and had arranged for informants. He was also present for each of the exercises, thus the role of us, as researchers, to build the rapport was minimal.

Some of the information gathered by the teams was contradicting. For instance, team social mapping found 3 joint family households while team wealth ranking were informed that there are only nuclear families in this village. The social mapping team were told that girls are mostly married off by 16, but the informants of seasonality analysis gave the example of how their daughters are getting married at 25 (after they have a job). With such variations, a lot of students questioned the reliability of the source. Murugan sir had said that PRA has an accuracy rate of 80%, such variations are bound to happen and this proves the need for researchers to triangulate the data collected. Interestingly, the English words the informants spoke were – ‘research’ ‘joint family’ ‘nuclear family’ etc. This shows that they have had interactions like this with many such groups.



Attendance sheet and number of participants

Sl. No.	Register Number	Name
1	1637601	Aman Cheriyan Yohannan
2	1637602	Dani Domo
3	1637603	Dheeraj Banerjea
4	1637604	Hemanth L N
5	1637606	Raman Deep Singh Sengar
6	1637607	Aastha Jain
7	1637608	Aishwarya Gangtkar
8	1637609	Angel Paul
9	1637610	Angela Cicily Joseph
10	1637611	Ankita Chakraborty
11	1637612	Aparna Dutta
12	1637613	Chaitrika Das
13	1637614	Dipshi Calip Kandulna
14	1637615	Dsouza Liza Richard
15	1637616	Gargi Sehrawat
16	1637617	Imsuren Aier
17	1637618	Induja Aravind
18	1637619	Lunthula Quinker
19	1637620	Megha Mohan
20	1637621	Pallavi Choubey
21	1637622	Pallavi R
22	1637623	Rhythm
23	1637624	Sampriti Ghosal
24	1637625	Sayahna Chanda
25	1637626	Sayanti Dutta
26	1637627	Shwetashri Sarkar





27	1637628	Surupa Das
28	1637630	Hongen Thangty Chang
29	1637632	Pooja Krishnakumar
30	1637633	Fathimath Nowrin P
31	1637634	Clinton P

