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Qualitative Method: PRA & PLA
- It is a method of capturing the complexities of field level realities through observation and discussion with the people.
- Information are collected through active participation of the people.
- A variety of field-oriented methods are used for collection of information.
- The methods are known as RRA, PRA and PLA
- They were first developed by Robert Chambers, Peter Hilderbrand, Michael Collinson and Robert Rhoades in late 70s at IDS, Sussex.

Advantages of qualitative methods
- Gives quick results—time saving.
- Flexible method so suits the ever changing situation and circumstances.
- Helps in understanding the complexities of situations and relations.
- Helps in understanding social exclusion and power relations of social and individual experience and the context of those experiences.
- Constructive rather than positivist—helps in finding out problems and solutions.

Transformation to Qualitative Methods
- The Participatory qualitative method developed as a result to paradigm shift in development studies, policies and actions from provision to participation.
- It developed as an alternative to the conventional survey techniques.
- It is now used to complement the findings of quantitative tools.
- It is done by a team of multi-disciplinary team of well trained researchers.

The tools: Transect Walk
- The research team makes a round of the village from one end to another.
- It observes and records the physical and natural assets, the social, economic and cultural parts of the settlement and social, cultural and economic activities taking place in the village.
- It continues to discusses and record different aspects of the village and the reasons and relevance of whatever has been observed with the villagers accompanying the team.
- It helps in development of familiarity and preliminary understanding of the village.

The mapping exercises
- The villagers are asked to draw the maps on a chart paper or on the ground using sketch pen or local materials.
- The research team continues to discuss with the villagers the reason and the relevance of the locations of the community and resources.
- Social and resource mapping—map of settlements and the location of natural and physical assets.
  - It helps in understanding the relationship between the geography and the community.
  - Collection of information about the geographical polarization of the community and command over resources.
Cont....

- Seasonal mapping—seasonal variation in activity, income, production, prices, availability of water and other resources, labour demand, migration
- Food Calendar—a seasonal narration of the food they consume—the sufficiency of food, the community and gender wise variation in food intake. The coping mechanism in times of distress.
- Health calendar to find out incidence and seasonality of disease and health condition.
- Activity mapping and time dispossession exercise to find out their drudgery and possibility of alternative and/or additional engagements.
- Farm mapping to find out the variation in soil condition, moisture and the crops grown (cropping pattern).

Historical profiling, FGD and wealth ranking exercise.

- Historical profiling—changes in conditions (like cropping pattern, livelihood conditions, social relations) and the factors which caused them
- Focus Group Discussion—generating discussion in a group of villagers about their needs, problems, priorities etc.
- Wealth ranking exercise—the extent of poverty, the dimensions of poverty and the reasons behind it.

Quantitative methods

- Uses survey technique for collection of data and statistical tools for analysis
  - Macro Data
    - Gives a broad overview of the issue
    - Widely acceptable
  - Micro Data
    - Based on small sample size limited validity and acceptability.
    - May suffer from the problem of elephant and blind men.
    - Useful in formulation of hypothesis, or finding out depth of information on the issues where macro data is silent. The are used to complement each other.

Macro sources

- Census—every 10th year—demographic and related issues.
- NSS—annual and quintennial—consumption expenditure, employment-unemployment and special rounds.
- CSO—annual on income and production
- NFHS—on health issues—3 rounds of survey.
- BPL survey of the state governments
- DISE data for education facility and infrastructure.

Precautions In use of Macro sources

- Methods of collection of data
- Questionnaire
- The investigators and their motivation and intension
- The respondents and their motivation and intension
  - The reference period issue in consumption exp. Survey.
  - BPL survey
  - DISE data.

Precautions In use of Micro sources

- Questionnaire
- Field work and investigators
- Classification issue
- Statistical tools
- Report writing.
Thank You