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**Week - 02**  
**Lecture - 12**  
**Participatory Rural Appraisal & Rapid Rural Appraisal Part 2**

Welcome back participants, today in this course of natural resources management, we will be discussing about a very important topic and that is participatory rural appraisal and rapid rural appraisal. These two technologies are often used for various exercises mainly which are carried out at the field level. Now, to understand the natural resource base and its uses and how it can be managed the best way that you can understand this is through PRA and RRA, now today I will be discussing this topic in great detail so let us now try to understand what these two terminologies actually mean.

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**The basic concept..**

<b>Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)</b>	<b>Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA)</b>
<p>PRA is a methodology used for interacting with rural communities, understanding and learning from them.</p> <p>It is a combination of approaches and methods that enable rural people to share, enhance and analyze their knowledge to plan, act, monitor and evaluate.</p>	<p>RRA is a semi structured activity, carried out in field by a multi-disciplinary team and designed to acquire new information quickly and base hypothesis on rural life.</p> <p>It consists of a series of techniques for “quick and dirty” research that can generate quick results of less precision but greater evidential value.</p>

From the name itself participatory rural appraisal you can understand that there will be participation of people community and rapid rural appraisal as it says rapid so you will actually do carry out this exercise in a very rapid manner. So, the objectives of these two different

techniques are different. So when the objective or the purposes are different certainly the methodology or approaches will also be different.

Now, if you look at PRA; PRA it is a methodology which often used for interacting with rural communities, understanding and learning from them; it is a two-way process and in this technique you actually as a person who is going to carry out this exercise would actually allow the community or the participant in this exercise of equal partnership. Then only PRA or participatory rural appraisal exercise will be a successful one.

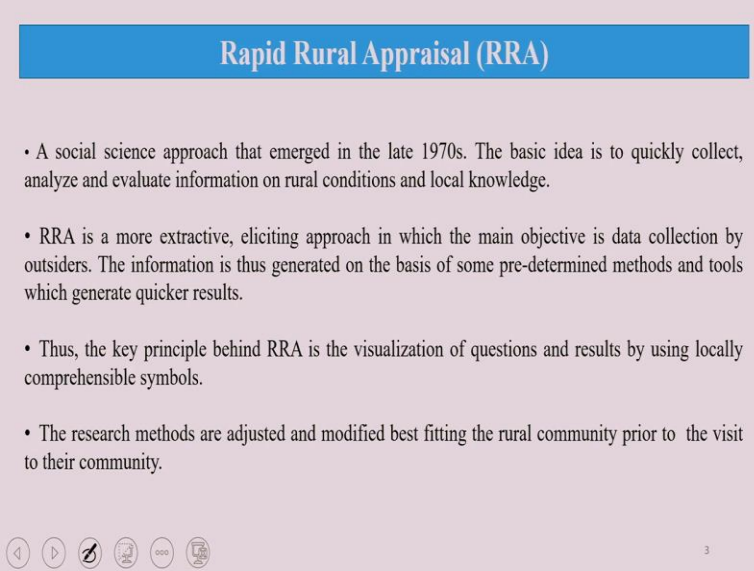
Remember that this technique, it is a combination of approaches, methods which actually enable the rural people or the communities to share, to enhance and also analyze their knowledge for what to plan, act, monitor and also evaluate the natural resources and its various aspects. So, friends as you understand that PRA is a we can say democratic process where people will be given full freedom to interact and share and this is a process through which there will be capacity building also of the participants and also enhancement of the knowledge base of the people who are actually carrying out this exercise along with the community.

Now, let us come to the other one which is rapid rural appraisal; now rapid rural appraisal is a semi structured kind of activity, here you want to have information very quickly you do not want a very detailed base of information and this activity generally carried out in the field by a multi-disciplinary team and mainly it is designed to get new information very quickly, if you look back and think about your any kind of past field exercise or activity you will find that basically most of us have been doing rapid rural appraisal; not the PRA.

Because most of us go to the field and carry out the information and quickly come back to our respective labs, offices, institutions, organizations. So as per the methodology we can say that that is a rapid rural appraisal and RRA is consists of a series of techniques for quick and we call dirty research that can generate quick results of less precisions but greater evidential value.

So, two things once again, participatory role appraisal, it is a relatively lengthy process where people play a very important role democratic in nature, gives freedom to the participants to participate and share knowledge. RRA very fast when you have suppose you do not need a very detailed kind of case studies or information you go there and finish it and come back and try to come out with say quick analysis, then RRA is the tool that we should use.

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### Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA)

- A social science approach that emerged in the late 1970s. The basic idea is to quickly collect, analyze and evaluate information on rural conditions and local knowledge.
- RRA is a more extractive, eliciting approach in which the main objective is data collection by outsiders. The information is thus generated on the basis of some pre-determined methods and tools which generate quicker results.
- Thus, the key principle behind RRA is the visualization of questions and results by using locally comprehensible symbols.
- The research methods are adjusted and modified best fitting the rural community prior to the visit to their community.

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Now let us talk about one by one in greater detail when we look at rapid rural appraisal RRA this approach actually started as a social science approach that emerged around 1970s. The basic idea was to quickly collect analyze and evaluate information for rural conditions and local knowledge, this technique is a more extractive and eliciting type of approach in which the main objective is the data collection by outsiders meaning if we go to a village and try to assess the natural resources, I am taking the example of natural resources because this course is on that but you can carry out PRA for any other aspect okay maybe for water irrigation status, maybe for livelihood, so you can carry out any kind of these things.

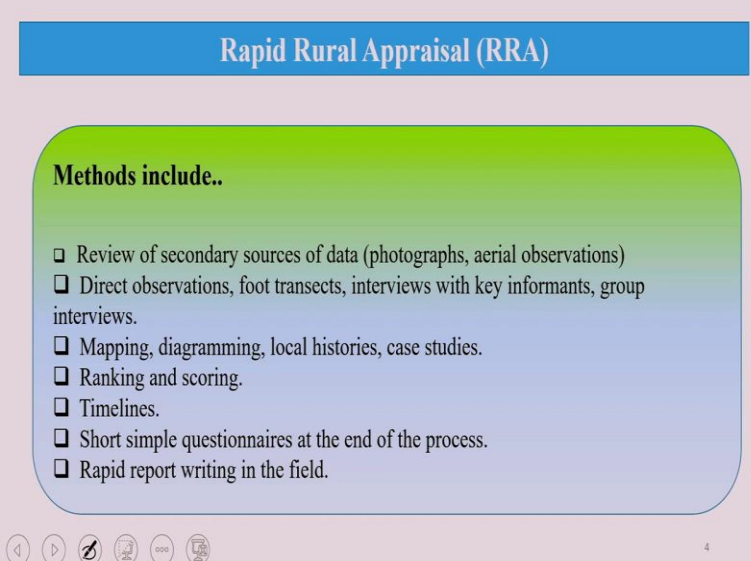
So, it is a kind of a extractive approach, the main objective is collection of data by us from the outside of that particular locality. The information which we generate through RRA on the basis of some predetermined methods or tools or questions which actually help us to generate quick answer and as I said in the previous slide that RRA is a kind of a semi-structured so you do not have very well structured questions, well-structured anticipated questions even.

So, the key principle behind RRA or rapid rural appraisal is the visualization of questions and results by using locally comprehensive symbols. What does that mean? Locally comprehensive symbol means suppose in a area you are actually working or visiting or have gone to carry out this analysis, you have to find out that in that particular area what are the things and how people actually communicate in their daily life, remember that a small symbol of picture actually speaks

much more than couple of words or line and in the field of communication in especially in the rural sector the symbol or the picture speaks more than anything else.

So, here we can also use some comprehensive symbols because that will be a quicker way to get information from the people of that particular area. So the research methods are adjusted and modified fitting to the rural community need prior to the visit of their community, what does that means, in RRA so we will actually decide that how and what are the information we are going to take whereas in case of PRA we go almost open minded because we have more time in case of PRA exercise, so we leave it to also some of the situational information generation. So, in case of PRA we will not have exactly questions and also anticipated answer, there we will be more common and we will give lot of freedom to the community participants to think and answer the questions, here in case of RRA we do not have that legacy.

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**Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA)**

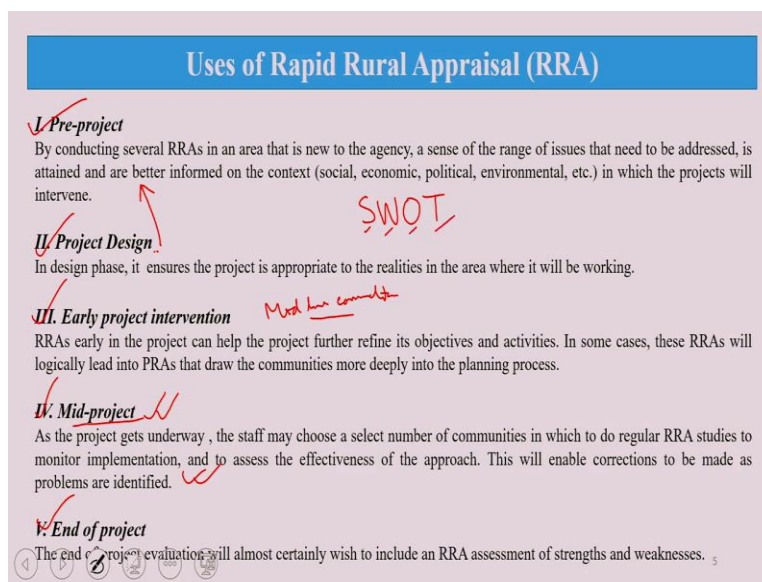
**Methods include..**

- ☐ Review of secondary sources of data (photographs, aerial observations)
- ☐ Direct observations, foot transects, interviews with key informants, group interviews.
- ☐ Mapping, diagramming, local histories, case studies.
- ☐ Ranking and scoring.
- ☐ Timelines.
- ☐ Short simple questionnaires at the end of the process.
- ☐ Rapid report writing in the field.

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In case of RRA you review mostly the secondary sources of data; photographs, statistical data, aerial observations. We also go for direct observation, foot transects, interviews with key informants maybe one or two remember as you do not have much time for RRA. Then you go for quick ranking and scoring timeline, short simple questionnaires and then rapid report writing in the field itself and sometime we can come back to our bases and finish the report.

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Now, what are the uses of this kind of technique like rapid rural appraisal? Now if you look at whenever we carry out any projects, whatever size of the project would be generally it goes through some phases and those phases are as mentioned here.

First is your pre-project phase, what we do, we conduct several RRAs in area that is new to us and we try to understand or get a sense of the issues that need to be addressed because on the basis of that report actually you are going to recommend some policies or some interventions that will help that particular area or community. In pre project stage you will try to do some kind of information or a kind of a sense of that area and how and what are the things that area might be needing for their development.

Once you get that kind of sense a feeling at the pre project phase then you go for project design. In project design phase you ensure that the project is appropriate to the reality, ground reality okay where actually you will be working. So, it is a critical stage but project design as I said will depend largely on also your pre project phase information base or sense that you get from an area.

Then we come to the next phase early project intervention, in case of RRAs early in the project can help the project further refine its objective in some cases we call it mid-level corrections or mid project corrections, so you will have some kind of opportunity to correct your actions or processes during the early project intervention.

In some cases these appraisals will logically lead into PRA because which is actually a larger way or technique of doing appraisal of any area, next comes to your mid project phase. As the project moves on people or the staff in that project may like to choose a few members from the communities in which they go almost daily basis and interact with them to assess the effectiveness of the approach that you have taken, you need to talk with these people and find out that with how they feel till now that you whatever project work has been carried out.

So this kind of information is very helpful to make your project a successful one all right, so once you find that yes whatever you are doing it is going in the right track finally you reach to the end of the project, so at the end of the project you had to carry out an evaluation which can be carried out by your team and also an external expert so which actually will include a SWOT analysis of your RRA, so strength, weakness, opportunity and threats. So a SWOT analysis of your project completions will give you an idea that how this particular project has been carried out or any kind of weaknesses are still there that can be actually addressed in future. So, this is how RRA takes place.

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**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)**

- The concept of PRA was first developed in Kenya in the 1980s in close collaboration with NGOs operating at grass roots level.
- It is a method used by researchers who want to plan their work in close collaboration with a rural community
- It not only improves researchers' information regarding a certain issue of the community, but also improves interaction and exchange of ideas between rural communities and researchers.
- The USP of PRA is that it allows joint planning of projects or experiments with equal emphasis on researchers and local communities.
- The participation of rural communities in planning and executing research tends to increase the relevance of results and the likelihood of achieving outcomes that can be applied in the rural context.
- It is especially useful when research is aimed to help resource poor farmers working under severe economical and ecological restraints.

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Now, come to the PRA which is a larger way or it is a detailed way of appraisal of any aspect here we are taking the example of natural resources. So 1970s RRA concept has come and the concept of PRA was first developed in Kenya in 80s, 1980s in close collaborations with non-

government organizations based there and also of course their various other grassroots level organization.

So as I said that it is a method used by most of the researchers who actually want to plan their work in close collaboration with the people, with the community. So this is very important that close collaboration with a community that is the key of PRA and the difference between RRA and PRA so PRA it not only improves the researchers information's regarding certain issue of the community but also it improves the interaction, the exchanges that takes place between you and the community.

So, that means PRA is a process where both the outsider means the evaluator or the persons who have gone into the village like you and me going into a village to carry out a peer exercise so in that process we as well as the community learn and enhance their knowledge base. It is infact a very fantastic way of participatory learning and the USP of this PRA exercise is that it allows kind of a ownership among the people, a joint planning of different projects, different experiments are built in in the system.

So, what happens is that even if after couple of years when the project period is over the community will carry it forward because during PRA exercise together you and community could able to generate a sort of ownership among the community and that is very important especially in the field of natural resources management because certainly we being outsider we cannot be there for all the time.

So, we are there on a project base to enhance the capacity generate the natural resource management pathways but that has to be carried forward by the community because they are the people, they have to live there. So that is the USP of participatory rural appraisal that it uses a joint planning and it creates a ownership because that also establish the sustainability of any project, any intervention that you or government or anyone outside that community try to brings in.

Another aspect is the participation of rural communities in the entire planning process and executing the research tends to increase the relevance of any intervention or relevance of any results and the chances of achieving successful outcomes get much more enhanced. Because participations of community into planning and implementation certainly will ensure the

continuity of that particular aspect and that means it will ensure the sustainability of that particular intervention.

It is also useful, PRA, when research is aimed or targeted to resource poor farmers even within a community we have different kind, different level of farmers, one group of farmers could be landless laborer they have nothing, so they are working as a labor you may have mid-level farmers who have little bit of resources but they can think of sustainability and all those things, for them fulfilling their hunger is the first objective. But there will be another group of farmers who are relatively sure of their food or food secured so they can also think little bit of conservation and others.

So, see you need to think about this dynamics within that community, so as I said that it is especially useful when the research is aimed to help the resource poor farmers especially working under ecologically and economically very vulnerable region because those are the people who will run out of resources very quickly. They may not have their own resources even if some resources are available in the common pool that also will get over, so the target, the most important target of this entire exercise will be to those resource poor farmers because they need the most of management of these natural resources in and around their area.

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**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)**

- The word '**Participation**' in PRA is used in three contexts:

1. **A cosmetic label:**
  - Whatever is proposed appears good.
  - Donor agencies and governments require participatory approaches, consultants, managements to win the crowd
2. **A co-opting practice**
  - To mobilize labor and reduce costs.
  - Communities contribute their time and efforts to self help projects with some outside assistance.
3. **An empowering process**
  - Enables local people to do their own analysis, to take command, to gain confidence and to make their own decisions.

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So we move to the word participation; I have been reiterating this particular word participation participatory, so this particular word participation in participatory rural appraisal is used in three



contexts, what are those, a cosmetic level means whatever is proposed looks good is a kind of a good feeling, good participation is a good feeling so it can be used as a cosmetic level. Donor agencies and governments require participatory approaches, consultant, and managements to win the crowd that is a real fact.

So, when you actually talk about participatory approach donor agency they feel good because their one of the agendas of providing fund to any organization is that their fund will reach to the maximum number of people, their fund to be utilized by a larger community. So that is their focus; they get happy when you use any word like participatory or participation.

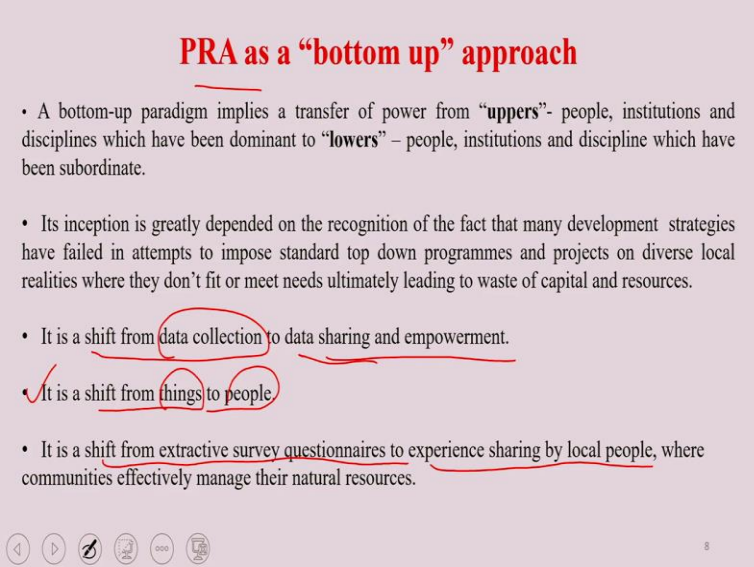
What is the second context? A co-opting practice, for what, to mobilize labor and reduce cost, what does that mean? Suppose in a village you found that water is a issue; there is not much water available there. Probably they get only 10 days or 12 days of rain in the entire year so that means water management is issue, so in that case after your PRA exercise if you identify water management is one of the issue and one of the solution is pond development or creation of tank in southern part of our country they call it tanks.

So, now to dig or to create a pond or tank you need labor. Now co-opting practice is that when you actually able to convince through PRA exercise that this is yours, this is, this going to be this pond going to help you so this is huge thing, so you voluntarily give some labor for creation of this tank or pond and they do it, they give it freely I can tell you with my own experience in at the field level. What are the other one, communities contribute their time and efforts to self-help projects with some outside assistance like we going into them there we will provide them certain suppose tractor or maybe we will provide or we will tell them through some remote sensing technology using remote sensing tool that this is the area where you can actually have a pond, looking at various slopes. So that kind of technical help we can provide them but the labor will come from them voluntarily.

What is the third constructs of using participation, what, an empowering process means when you actually welcome the participation of the communities and the people it enables the local people to do their own analysis, to think about their own need, to think about the solutions to certain problems in their area, to take the control in their hand and thus enhance their confidence.

These all in turn will lead to sustainability of that particular initiative, so see how critical is participatory rural appraisal for even a project implementation and its sustainability.

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### PRA as a “bottom up” approach

- A bottom-up paradigm implies a transfer of power from “**uppers**”- people, institutions and disciplines which have been dominant to “**lowers**” – people, institutions and discipline which have been subordinate.
- Its inception is greatly depended on the recognition of the fact that many development strategies have failed in attempts to impose standard top down programmes and projects on diverse local realities where they don't fit or meet needs ultimately leading to waste of capital and resources.
- It is a shift from data collection to data sharing and empowerment.
- It is a shift from things to people
- It is a shift from extractive survey questionnaires to experience sharing by local people, where communities effectively manage their natural resources.

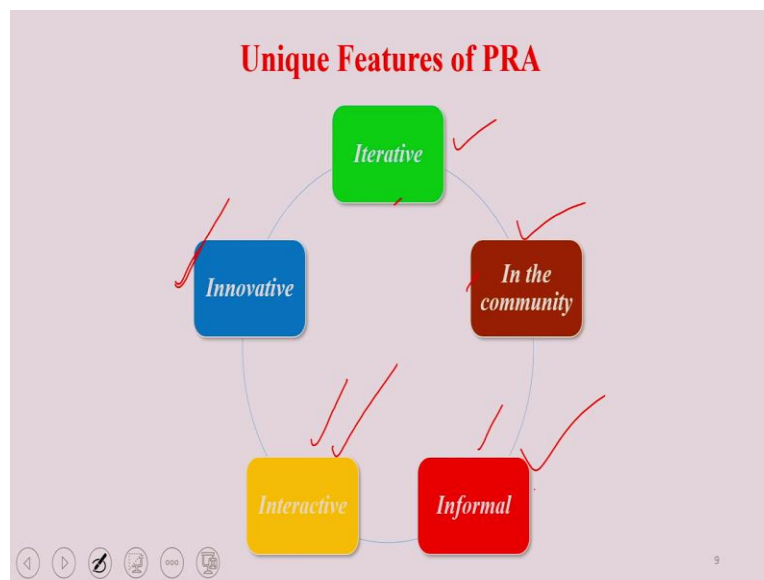
Now I am sure that by now you have understood that where RRA is a little bit of top down approach, PRA is a bottom-up approach where you give more freedom to the people, people comes and join you and then together you develop something for their village. So it is a bottom-up paradigm which implies that transfer of power from top people, institution, disciplines which actually allow the bottom means the community people and institution and disciplines to take participate in the planning exercise.

So, its inception is greatly dependent on the recognition of the fact that many agency, development agencies have failed in attempts to impose standard top down programs and projects on diverse local realities on need where they do not fit or meet the needs ultimately it leads to what, waste of resources, money all right, so what we need it is a shift from data collection to data sharing and empowerment. It is very important.

So, our psychology through PRA it actually allow us to think from mere data collections to data sharing and empowerment; a common knowledge sharing platform that is what PRA provides to the community and to the people who go actually to carry out this exercise for the benefit of that community. It is also PRA is a shift from things means objects to people so that means it gives more value to the people rather than the things around.

It is also a shift from extractive survey questionnaires to experience sharing by local people where communities are already trying their best or effectively manage their natural resources by utilizing or applying their indigenous knowledge. So that means PRA unlike RRA is not just looking for data, it is not a very extractive kind of process rather it is sharing between us outsiders and the community. So you understand that how beautiful is this concept or this process of PRA or participatory rural appraisal for natural resource management. It is very important not only for as I am repeating time and again, not only for natural resource management but for any aspect where you do work or think or plan something for the people.

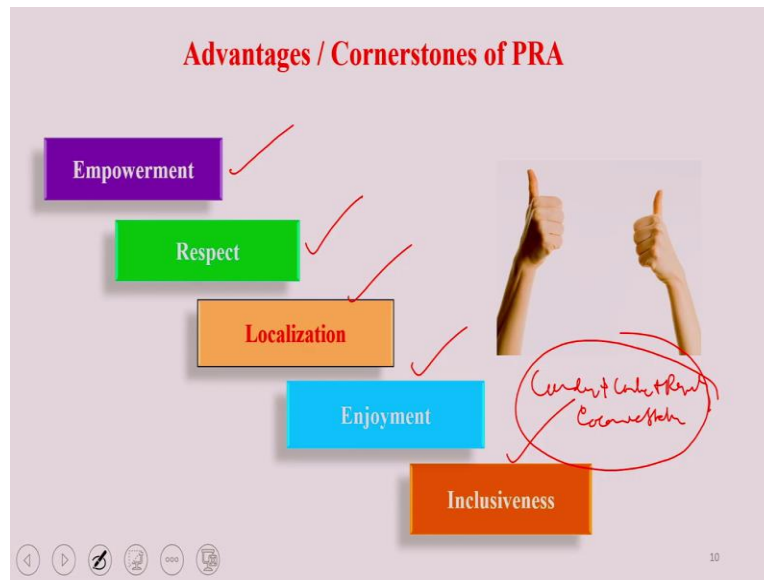
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Now, let us look at the unique features of PRA. See PRA is a iterative process and as we discussed it happens in the community, with the community, by the community, for the community. It is informal in nature and that is one of the strength of PRA because when you interact with people if you become too formal, the community especially rural community will not be forthcoming, they may not be able to share their knowledge, their experience with you and that would ultimately lead a failure of your project because you have gone there to help them not you.

And it is a interactive process, of course it has to be innovative as well in nature all right so that means it is iterative, it is with community, informal, interactive and innovative in nature, so these are the five very unique features of participatory rural appraisal.

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Now, some of the advantages of participatory rural appraisal, obviously when it is participatory in nature it encourages or enhances empowerment, there is a sense of mutual respect it is there, of course localization very important then overall enjoyment while working actually as a team you enjoy the entire process and while you enjoy the process obviously the outcome will be also good is not it, so finally inclusiveness where you are inclusive not only gender wise but also caste, religion, economic status wise, so in a sense that in every manner this technique has the advantage of inclusiveness.

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### Disadvantages of PRA

- The term 'PRA' in itself is a difficulty. It is at times “not rural” and not “participatory”.
- There are risks of : Hijacking, Formalism, Disappointment and Threats
- The major shortcomings are:
  - ✓ Difficulty finding the right team and right questions.
  - ✓ Focusing on the wrong target individuals and vested interests on both sides.
  - ✓ Going too quickly and focusing on part of the problem & hence not getting the full picture.
  - ✓ Misled by myths and gossip.
  - ✓ Lack of people and social skills can lead to unprofessionalism.
  - ✓ Assuming a community is homogeneous and overlooking social differences that leads to interventions benefitting only a few.
  - ✓ There is resistance to allowing local communities to determine the research agenda and giving them professional recognition which closes the path for future interventions.

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But is everything good? Certainly like any methodology or any approaches this also has certain disadvantages and I personally feel that it is important to know the disadvantages rather than the advantages because then you can actually strengthen your process. Now the term PRA it itself is a difficulty, it is at times not rural and not participatory, very important statement though we are calling participatory rural appraisal but in reality sometime you might find that it is neither rural in some cases it is not participatory.

There are also risks of hijacking, formalism, disappointment, threats, how? Hijacking means suppose you have 50 people community villagers sitting there, there may be one or two person who are the representatives of suppose the local political leader or panchayat leader or maybe they are the representative of some private agencies or companies. You never know, there are lot of villagers in a village and many of them are involved with many other people, organization, interest, so they may sit there in inside the hall or the meeting place where you are carrying out the peer exercise with some already predetermined agenda, so it could happen.

Suppose that majority of the villagers are asking for irrigation; suppose sprinkler irrigation they are telling that considering our crops and other type of cultivation practices sprinkle irrigation will be good but one person if he belongs to an outsider company person or whoever who sells or has a business on pump he will say that no, no, no ground water we have very good amount of

ground water sprinkler will be very costly who will manage, who will maintain so he will try to push or take or hijack the agenda of that PRA exercise or meeting.

Formalism, the people who go from outside if we become too formal then certainly the purpose of the PRA exercise somehow get defeated and that could lead to disappointment, sometime what happen is that if you are carrying out a peer exercise in a very sensitive area you may even get sometimes threats also.

Because you are dealing with natural resources. Natural resources means it has lot of relationships with money, mining, costly trees, medicinal plants so these all are related with huge amount of business, money, so these are certain thing but the major shortcomings or problems with PRA is that it is difficult to find the right team, combination of team and the right set of questions and that is why it is important that for a PRA exercise to carry out a kind of a pre survey visit also in an area to understand better that area.

Then it also has issue with focusing on the wrong target individuals and vested interest on both side, both party so that is another danger that you might ultimately get attracted or get trapped with this wrong person and their interest or probably even the outsider like we going there might also sometime get misled by certain aspects, then going too quickly and focusing on part of the problem and hence not getting the full picture.

Suppose you are discussing somebody has generated an issue, mention about issue and you have gone deep into that so you may lose lot of time and energy for that instead of finding out the overall picture of that area.

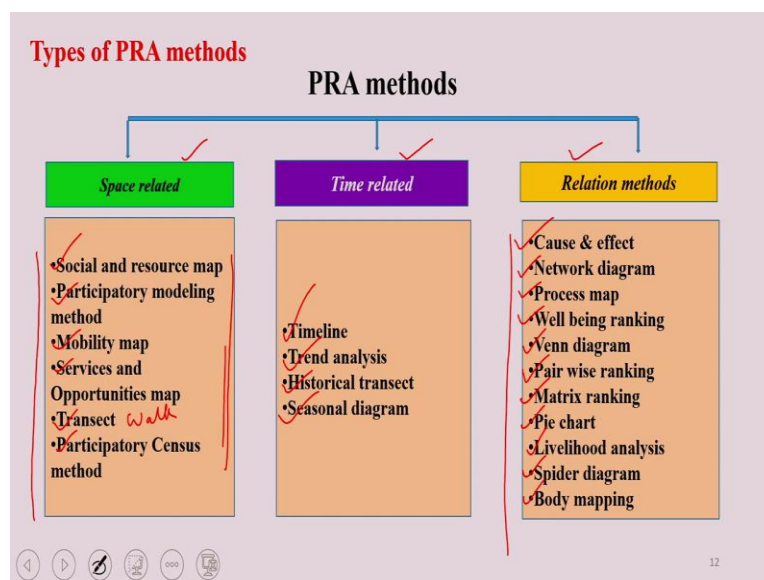
Then often in PRA you can get misled by myths and gossip, I am sure that most of you are aware of various type of myths and gossips in our rural areas and the strong belief believe on those things so when you go there, there is a high probability that your exercise might get influenced by those kind of myths and gossip.

Then lack of people and social skills also can lead to unprofessionalism of course that you have to take care as a PRA team there will be, because you are dealing with people who has no professional background in this exercise so there is a chance. Assuming that a community is homogeneous could be a big mistake, huge mistake and overlapping the differences in their

culture, their cost, income, socioeconomic status, so this is often a big problem that considering your entire community sitting in front of you that you are interacting with during the PRA exercise as a homogeneous society. We should never do that.

Then, there is also resistance to allow local communities to determine the research agenda and giving them professional recognition is sometime is an issue because when you, these people, the community are with you and together you are carry out a exercise I think that ethically we must give equal recognition, so determining the research agenda and little bit of professional credits in fact will allow you or anyone who go for PRA exercise to have any number of future visits to you and ensure your future visit as well. But if you forget to recognize their contribution there is a chance that next time when you try to go that village you might find some resistance or people may not be interested.

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So now we will discuss about the different types of PRA methods, just now we have discussed about the advantages and also importantly the disadvantages of PRA exercise, now what are the different types of PRA that we can actually carry out, first is space related method, second time related and third relational methods.

Now within space related methods what are the different methods that actually we can carry out under PRA; social and resource map, very important, participatory modeling method, mobility

map, services and opportunities map, transect what we call transect walk, participatory census methods. I will discuss each one of them separately in the upcoming classes.

Next is time related method, in time related method we go for timelines, trend analysis, historical transact, seasonal diagram. In relational methods, we go for cause and effect, network diagram, process map, well-being ranking means how much wealth if a particular household has, health-wise also their status; then Venn diagram all of you are aware of, pairwise ranking, matrix ranking, pie chart, livelihood analysis, spider diagram, body mapping, so there are various techniques under each one of these three methods, three type of PRA and we will be going through each one of them at a time.

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Types of PRA methods	
PRA method	Examples of Applications
Seasonal calendars	Examine seasonal patterns in the incidence of animal or crop pests and diseases, rainfall, household expenditure or farm labor
Venn diagramming	Reveals the importance, relevance and involvement of local and external institutions in addressing agricultural issues; examine sources of new agricultural ideas and information
Timelines and trends	Enable analysis for change over time, such as in crop varieties grown, extent of soil erosion
Matrix scoring	Examine peoples' own criteria for choosing among options such as crop varieties, soil fertility measures, measure of an irrigation system etc.
Resource and agro ecological zone mapping	Mapping areas with similar characters in terms of soil type, crops grown, land access and tenure
Causal and impact diagramming	Shows flow, causal relationships and other such connections; such as expected impact of irrigation on soil erosion
Farm mapping and flow diagramming	Map individual farm plots and their location in relation to each other; examine different soil management practices according to distance from the homestead, crops grown and rotations, nutrient flows etc.
Transect walks	Learn about the locality, crops and trees grown, soil types etc.

Now, what is seasonal calendar, seasonal calendar basically, we try to examine in the PRA exercise through seasonal calendar to understand the seasonal patterns of various incidents of crops, pest or animal diseases, rainfall, expenditure of household, farm labor requirement, so all those things we can find out or analyze through seasonal calendar.

In India unlike Europe or United States or other country, in India our seasons four seasons are very clearly demarcated. So according those seasons we have also different types of crops, now to maintain those things you definitely need different types of inputs, different types of labor. So seasonal calendar helps in that.



Venn diagramming, it reveals the importance relevance and involvement of local as well external institutions in doing the entire exercise of PRA in agriculture issues, in case of natural resources availability and its management all those aspects will come.

Then timelines and trends, timelines and trends it enable analysis for a particular aspect, any aspect change over time. Suppose you have availability of raw material, suppose mustard, one particular village suppose they grow a lot of mustard. So mustard it will go for ultimately as mustard oil preparation or as a raw mustard also will be used in any Indian houses now depending of the seasons and depending upon the year wise productions you will get a trend or timelines of suppose a master production in a village. Similarly you can also find the trend for different varieties grown and extent of soil erosion probably even appearance of drought or flooding areas.

Matrix scoring; it helps to examine people criteria for choosing a particular option among a basket of options. Suppose irrigation I have talked about, there are four five different types of irrigation, pond irrigation, surface water irrigation then sprinkler irrigation, groundwater. So if you give to them these choices then which one of those things according to them they actually give scoring that also can help you in ranking of your priorities.

Resource and agroecological zone mapping, very important. It helps mapping the areas with similar type or characteristics of soil type, crop type, land type and land tenure type as well then you have causal and impact diagramming, in causal and impact diagramming what you do, it shows the flow the causal relationships and other such connections such as expected impact of irrigation on soil erosion. So, in case of causal and impact you will find in one hand the reason of a particular event taking place in that area on the other hand you will find what are the impacts this particular event say erosion or flood in Assam; so what is the impact on the people, on the natural resources, availability of crops, soil, etcetera.

Then farm mapping and flow diagramming, what does it do? It maps the individual farm plots and their location in relation to each other. So, it also examines the different soil management practices in different plot in India as within a small village you may have small plot, one person growing one crop, the other person going another crop; two different type of soil management practices etcetera, so farm mapping and flow diagramming it helps you to map all those details.

Finally transect walks; transect walks across the field actually help you to understand. Suppose this is a field so a transect walk is that we will go like this way and then this way, this way, this way, go here and this way so means crisscross walking across the field to understand, learn about the locality, the crops, the people, the soil types, the resources, where is the school, where is the water, all those information, if there is a pond how far it is from household, so these all actually helps you to plan your exercise for future planning.

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### Comparison between PRA and RRA

**PRA and RRA in terms of research methods:**

- Both these methods fall in the qualitative side of the research spectrum. They are not suited to gathering statistics and precise numerical information.
- They best gather information about orders of magnitude (e.g. "The vast majority of the population does x" rather than "83% of the population does x") and trends (e.g. "While only a small proportion of the population grows x, it is important to realize that this number is increasing.")
- The qualitative information that helps us understand the reasons why the vast majority behaves in a given way or what is causing something to change in a certain direction.

**PRA and RRA in terms of participatory methods:**

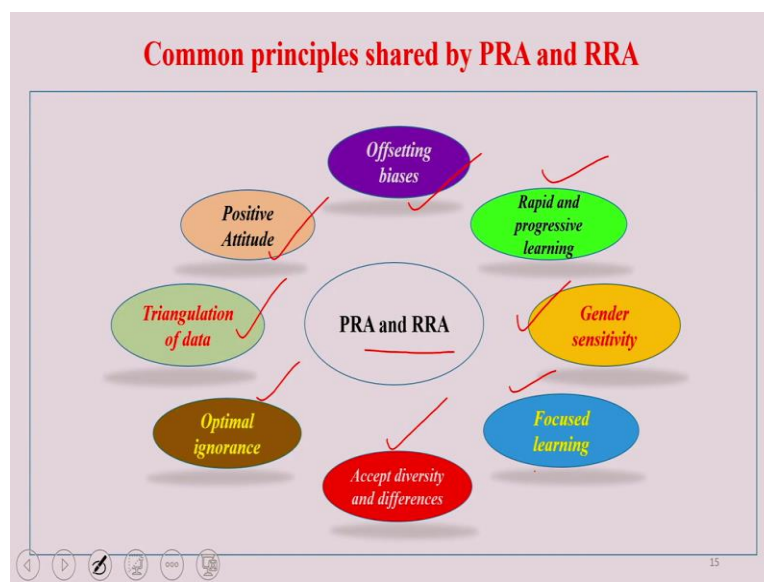
- On the participatory dimension, both RRA and PRA can be applied in ways that are more or less participatory.
- PRAs in which community members take full control of the process are at one extreme of the participatory continuum.
- In RRAs, there is generally little expectation that the community will be in charge of the process but they too may be carried out in a way that is more or less participatory depending on how the study is set up, the information is used, etc.

Now, comparison between PRA and RRA, already by now you all will know that what are the differences, both these methods fall in the qualitative side of the research spectrum. Okay qualitative side, they are not suited for gathering statistics and precise numerical information okay what they could do best to gather information about orders of magnitude. As for example vast majority of population does x rice farming suppose rather than we cannot tell exactly the percentage then we can talk about trends while only a small proportion of the population grows x it is important to realize that this number is increasing.

So, in a sense you instead of giving very clear cut data in case of these exercises you will come up with relatively qualitative information, that helps us understand the reasons that why vast majority of people in a community are actually doing something instead of doing the other thing. So their choice of or their decision on certain aspect why they have taken the decision this exercise will help us to know.

PRA and RRA in terms of participatory methods how they can be compared. On the participatory dimension both RRA and PRA can be applied in a ways that are more or less participatory but RRA does not involve communities the way the PRA does it. PRA is in which the community members take full control of the process but in case of RRA the control is with the external parties. In case of RRA there is generally little expectation that community will be in charge of the process which we have already discussed so basically this slide shows the differences between PRA and RRA.

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Now, the common principle between these two techniques is very important for us to know. For PRA and RRA, the common principles are offsetting biases because that is one of the challenges that we face in this kind of exercise, rapid and progressive learning both sensitize and give respect for gender sensitivity, focused learning, in both cases it accept diversity and differences, optimal ignorance because it is important also for this kind of exercise not to know something. If you find that everybody is knowing everything then there is something wrong so optimal amount of ignorance is also important and triangulation of data and positive attitude, these are few common principles that we find in case of both PRA and RRA.

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Comparison between PRA and RRA		
RRA		PRA
Inform project design, gather baseline information, monitor and evaluate	<i>Purpose</i>	Capacity building for improved decision making at community level, situational analysis, planning and monitoring by community
Multi-disciplinary team of CRS staff and specialists	<i>Team</i>	Team composed of villagers, sometimes facilitated by CRS staff person, that works with larger community
Limited number of representative sites	<i>Sites</i>	Communities where project activities will take place
Discrete studies, usually lasting 5-7 days	<i>Time Period</i>	Ongoing throughout the life of project. Usually begins with training and initial situational analysis (appx 10 days) leading to Community Action Plan
The range of tools and techniques presented below (and others as appropriate)	<i>Tools and Techniques</i>	The range of tools and techniques presented below (and others as appropriate)
Comprehensive, well written report that captures the depth and complexity of information obtained in the study	<i>Documentation</i>	Village Log Book with notes of principal findings, activities, and Community Action Plan

Now this particular slide I like the most because this chart out activity, purpose wise all aspect wise how RRA works and how PRA works, so purpose inform project design, baseline information in your first mode. Team; team composed of villagers and all those communities here you need a mostly expert team.

Limited number of representative sites here communities and sites will be higher. Discrete study usually lasting five to seven days this will be a very ongoing long term process. Tools and techniques range of tools and techniques like that I have mentioned already more or less the number of tools used here is very less (RRA) here will be more (PRA) and then documentation, comprehensive, succinct, well-written report for RRA and captures the complexity of the information. Here you will have village log book with notes principal findings, activities, community action plan, expectation of villagers etc. etc. in a very detailed manner in case of PRA. So, that is all for today and we will look forward to the next class.