

DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF VILLAGE SANDHIR ON THE BASIS OF PRA TECHNIQUES

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Our country has got a most valuable and most sustainable social system in the world. The reason for this situation is that more than 80% population of this country lives in villages, and the roots of traditional, social, religious and spiritual system are very deeper in the rural communities. Any change that occurs in Indian society, the rural people are the latest people to be affected. Since the means of communication are not very much effective in rural societies, the information reaches very late in villages and rural India.

Due to all above factors, living and functioning style in villages is more religious and spiritual in comparison to urban living and functioning style. It has been a very significant system in the rural life that after finishing their daily work, the people sit together, chat with each other and smoke “Hukka” at the centre place of the village, which is called as “Chaupal”. The Chaupal of the village had been the most important place in the village life, which provides an opportunity to the rural people to discuss and share the information on all aspects of human life. All important decisions used to be taken at Chaupal, after discussing the problem/situation related to them.

Because of fast information dissemination, more of urbanite touch is being observed in the rural society. Due to modern living style, lot of isolation is being observed in village life. They are also being divided into different sects, castes and classes due to more and more political intervention into rural communities. Due to this, villagers are going away from the traditional system of sharing and solving their problems. This has also become essential due to the fact that the rural production systems,

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particularly agriculture and dairying have become very complicated due to costly inputs, low prices and signing of W.T.O. by India in 1995. Now the farmers cannot get any profit if they do not adopt a system like co-operatives.

Extension Techniques, which can facilitate such system are Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Techniques. The Participatory Rural Appraisal was pronounced by Robert Chamber as a novel method of ascertaining community, group and individual problems of a village, assessing the available natural and physical resources, analysing the situation and identifying commonly acceptable solutions for formulating time-bound action plans, for possible implementation wherever feasible, with those mobilized from outside the community. Under this method rural community commands top most priority and the outsider play only the role of catalysts and facilitators.

PRA is an improved technique over the traditional social science research and may serve as an alternative tool for rural analysis. While social science research has its own role in rural investigation, PRA is an innovation and improvement over all the traditional survey methods. Basically, PRA differs in its perception, approach, content, extension and application to field settings. People command prime of place, their participation counts very high, their suggestions/options are most respected and their presence at every stage is attached great significance.

Purpose of PRA

In its earlier version of PRA, it emerged as a response to two major concerns of rural social research, not adequately satisfied by conventional methods :-

1. To develop a local perspective by becoming more responsive to local people and local situations.

2. To involve a methodology which could provide timely and cost-effective information.
3. PRA is a good technique to understand local environment, local people, local conditions, local problems, local needs and local priorities.
4. It is used to know villagers/farmers criteria, choices and preferences.
5. To learn indigenous technology.
6. To analyse local problems, conditions and resources.
7. To have direct contact with the people for planning, execution and evaluation of programmes for development.

Definition: “PRA is a form of approaching people with a semi-structured range of tools that can be used to learn, relatively quickly, with the rural people about their situations, problems, resources and opportunities”.

“The term PRA describes, a growing family of approaches and methods which enable the local people to think, discuss, share, analyse, plan and act collectively, for bringing improvements, in their living and working conditions.

Important consideration which interacting with villagers/farmers during conducting PRA techniques.

Beginning

- Meet the villagers with open and frank mind.
- Tell them who are you and why you have come here.
- Ask about their well being.
- Discuss about their crops/animal conditions to build rapport with them.
- Show full interest.
- Always select a common place for interview.
- Sit down with the villagers on the same floor/place.

During interview/interaction

- Initiate subject of discussion
- Listen carefully
- Be patient
- Observe carefully
- Try to understand their ideas/view point
- Do not interrupt
- Be polite, gentle and accommodative
- Try to adjust with the villagers convenience
- Do not lecture
- Try to follow village customs
- Participate whole heartedly
- Accept villagers hospitality
- Try to speak in their language
- Do not ask too many questions at a time
- Allow them to discuss thoroughly and reach on a common consensus
- Take notes of the discussion among villagers
- Individuals trying to dominate too much should be prevented carefully and equal opportunity should be provided to all, to contribute in the discussion
- Side tracking should be controlled
- Change of topic should be smooth
- Try to identify villagers suitable for different tasks
- Use when, where, why and how do dig into required details
- Try to have pleasant/humorous atmosphere during discussion

After the interview

- Conclude/summarise the whole discussion
- Indicate that it has been a very useful/purposeful discussion
- Thank the villagers for their contribution and sparing their time
- Indicate how the information so collected will be utilized
- Do Namaste, Ram-Ram
- Sit down with all the members of your group and record all the information.

Implementation of PRA techniques in village Sandhir

Sandhir is a village in Karnal district of Haryana which is located at the easter side of the G.T. Road, at a distance of 3 kms from Nilokheri. It was decided to prepare Sandhir Village Development Plan after conducting PRA there. All the preparations were made to conduct PRA in village Sandhir on 6-9-2001. A team consisting of 3 faculty members under the leadership of the author reached village Sandhir at 3.30 p.m. on 6-9-2001. Prior to this visit, the village Sarpanch, members of Gram Panchayat and villagers of village Sandhir were informed well in advance for conducting PRA in that village.

On reaching village Sandhir the author alongwith team members, were welcomed by the Sarpanch Sh. Veer Bhan and other village Panchayat Members of village viz. Sarvashri Purushottam Dass Gupta, Ashok Kumar Sharma and Jaswant Singh. First of all cost water was served to the team members. Later on the team members were introduced to the villagers.

1. Transact walk

After introduction, a Transact walk was conducted to understand the Topography of village alongwith study of various village institutions like temple, school and village chaupal, etc. The following information has been collected during the transact walk :

Background information of village Sandhir

Name of the Village	:	Sandhir
Name of Sarpanch	:	Sh. Veer Bhan
Members of Panchayat	:	Sh. Jagdish Sh. Vijay Kumar Sh. Vasudev Sh. Dalel
No. of families	:	1710
Total population	:	7020 Male : 3720 Female : 3300
Important castes	:	Brahmin, Aggarwal, Jatsikh, Ror, Gadaria, Julaha, Balmiki, Harijan, Barber, Kumhar, Barhai, Luhar, Jhimer.

Important Village Institutions :

- (A) Social and Religious Institutions : Panchayat Bhavan - 1, Temples - 5, Village chaupals - 5, Gurudwara - 1, Masjid - 1
- (B) Educational Institutions : (a) Govt. Primary School -1, Govt. High school - 1, (b) Private Primary Schools - 3, Private High school -3, (c) Angan wari centre-1
- (C) Financial Institutions : Cooperative/Mini Bank-1, Money lenders-6.
- (D) Commercial Institutions : Villager Shops - 70, Carpenter shops - 4, Luhar shop - 2, Post office - 1

Land record of village Sandhir

Residences	=	30 acres
Cultivable land	=	11,050 acres
Average holding	=	3.2 acres
Panchayat land	=	42 acres

Ponds (3)	=	25 acres
Canals	=	2
Land of Bakf Board	=	32 acres
Total area	=	11,181 acres
No. of tubewells	=	1720

Important crops

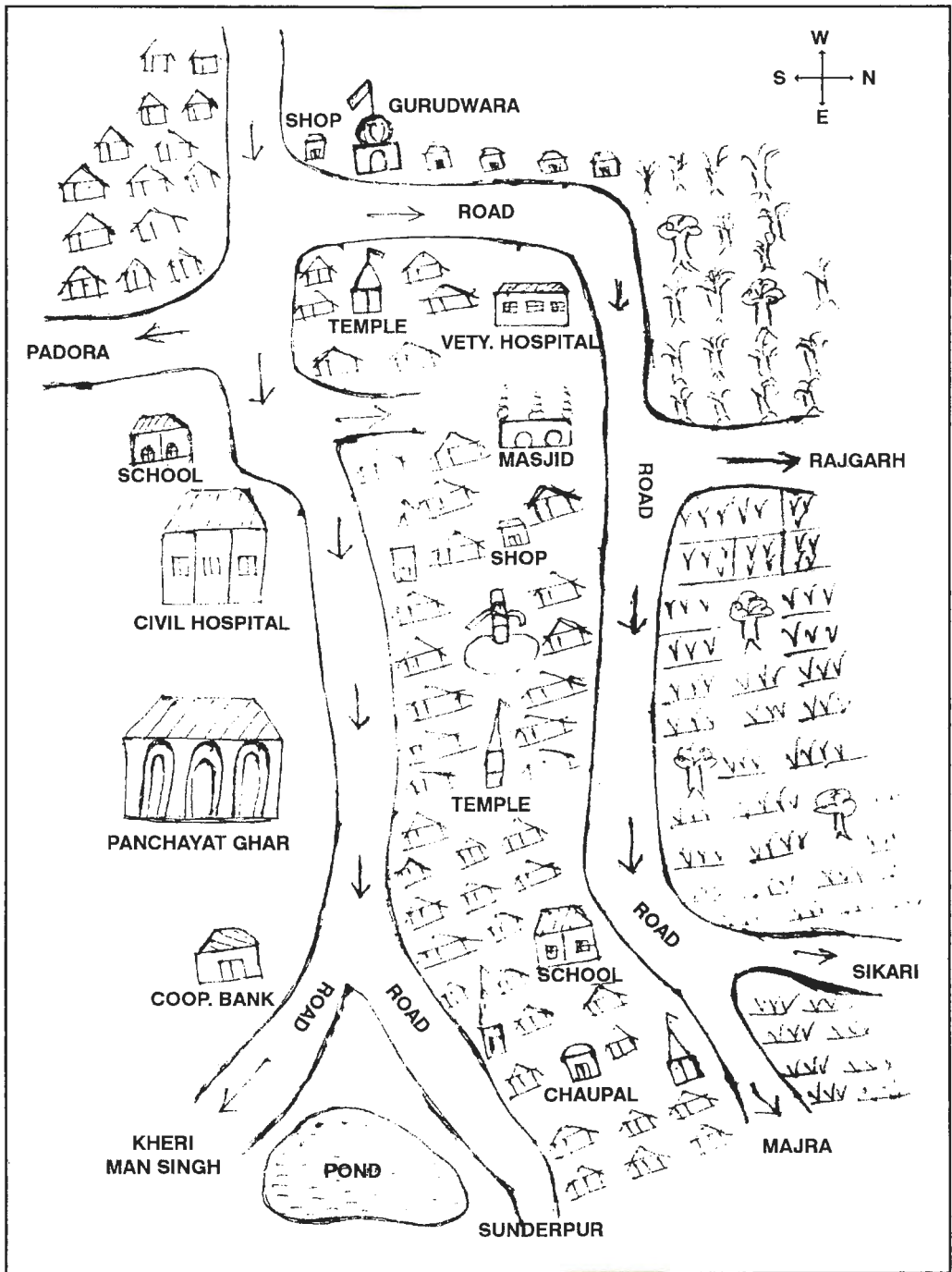
Sr.No.	Name of Crop	Area (acres)
1.	Paddy	7950
2.	Wheat	7910
3.	Fodder crops	1010
4.	Vegetables (Tomato 500, Potato 80, Ladies finger 50, Brinjal 45, Shimle Mirch 40 acres)	715

Livestock population

Buffalo	=	2050
Cows	=	1000
Bullocks	=	1010
Sheep	=	500
Buffalo Bulls	=	50
Total	=	4610

Agricultural implements

Tractors	=	40
Combine	=	1
Cultivators	=	43
Harrows	=	45
Trollies	=	30
Threshers	=	40
Seed drills	=	12



SOCIAL MAP OF VILLAGE SANDHIR

3. Time life in village Sandhir

Time line refers to the calendar of historical events related to Village Development.

Purpose : The purpose of Time Line is to find out the sequence of historical events and changes that occurred in village life and their impact on the social and economic status of the village

Time (year)	Events
1922	Establishment of village Sandhir with 5 Hindu families and 6 Muslim families
1947	All Muslims migrated to Pakistan
1948	10 Hindu families migrated from Pakistan and settled here
1965	Use of Fertilizers started in the village
1966	High Yielding varieties of wheat sown in village
1968	Road to village constructed
1969	Electrification of village completed.
1971	High yielding variety of paddy sown in village
1975	Use of pesticides (chemical) started in the village
1976	Water canal constructed
1977	5 tubewells constructed
1978	Government Primary School started
1979	One tractor purchased
1980	3 tractors purchased
1981	Government High school started
1985	Co-operative Society (Mini Bank) started
1986	Panchayat Char constructed
1990	First Private High School established
1995	2nd Private High School established
1996	Sunflower growing started
1998	Civil Hospital established

1998	Vegetable production started
1999	Sunflower growing stopped
2000	High yielding varieties of vegetable (Tomato) sown.

Name of farmers

1. Sandeep Kumar
2. Narain Datta Sharma
3. Dharam Pal
4. Shiv Datta
5. Raj Kishore

4. Matrix Ranking

Matrix ranking is the process of ranking the choices, attitudes and priorities on a particular subject/method/activity, by mutual discussion.

Purposes

- To help to understand farmers priorities in adopting crop varieties, vegetables, tree species, livestock breeds and sowing method.
- To gain better understanding of farmers decision making process.

Matrix Ranking of Paddy varieties in village Sandhir

S.No.	Farmers criteria	Basmati	Shrabati	HKR 120	PR-113	Govinda
1.	Duration	1	4	3	3	5
2.	Yield/acre	1	4	5	5	4
3.	Resistance to disease/pests	1	5	4	3	3
4.	Cost of input	2	5	4	3	1
5.	Price/Qtl.	5	4	3	3	3
6.	Taste/Quality	5	4	3	2	3
	Total	15	26	22	19	19
	Rank	IV	I	II	III	III

The first choice of the farmers of village Sandhir with regard to growing paddy variety is Sharbati and 2nd and 3rd choice is HKR-120 and PR-113 and Govinda respectively.

Matrix Ranking of Vegetable crops in village Sandhir

S.No.	Farmers criteria	Tomato	Ladies finger	Onion	Potato	Peas	Ghiya
1.	Yield	6	3	3	4	2	5
2.	Marketability	6	3	4	5	3	2
3.	Price	6	3	5	1	4	2
4.	Demand/use	6	2	5	3	4	1
5.	Duration	5	1	2	4	3	6
6.	Profit	6	3	4	2	5	1
	Total	35	15	23	19	21	17
	Rank	I	VI	II	IV	III	V

The first choice of farmers of village Sandhir with regard to vegetable production is Tomato followed by Onion, Peas and Ghiya respectively.

Name of farmers

1. Sh. Ram Pal
2. Sh. Prem Chand
3. Sh. Bhagwan Dass
4. Sh. Asha Ram
5. Sh. Ram Singh

5. Seasonality

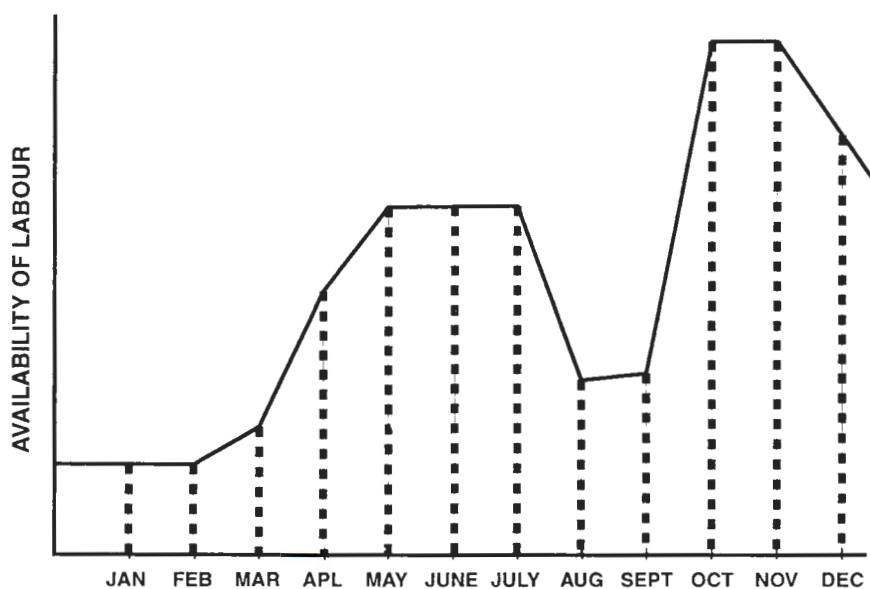
It is a useful exercise to determine seasonal pattern in rural areas related to rainfall, fodder availability, labour availability and farming practices, etc.

Purposes

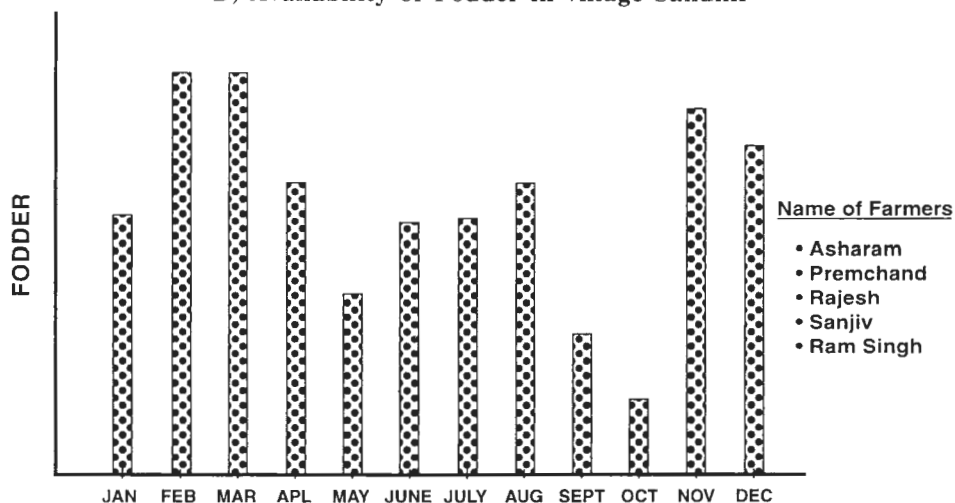
- To study labour availability in the village round the year.
- To find out quantity of fodder availability in the village round the year.
- To study rainfall pattern during the year.

SEASONALITY

a) Availability of Labour during the whole year in village Sandhir



B) Availability of Fodder in village Sandhir



Development Plan for village Sandhir on the basis of PRA techniques

The PRA techniques were applied in the village Sandhir on 6-9-2001 by the author alongwith the team members. After PRA, a detailed open discussion was also held with the villagers about what type of development they want in the village. On the basis of PRA techniques and open discussion held with the villagers, a comprehensive development plan for village Sandhir has been developed, which is described herewith:-

A) Vegetable Preservation & Processing Plant

As per information received from the villagers while conducting PRA in Sandhir, the vegetables like Tomato, Potato and Brinjals are produced in very high quantity and lot of surplus quantity of vegetables is available in the village. The problem of unemployment is reaching to a very serious stage in all the villages. If the Vegetable Preservation and Processing Plant is established at village Sandhir, it will not only help in utilising the surplus vegetables but also provide employment opportunities to the youth/farmers of village Sandhir. Tomato sauce, vegetable chutney, ready to cook vegetables, caned or dehydrated vegetables can be prepared and sold in the market with a little Government assistance. While conducting the PRA Techniques in village Sandhir, all the villagers desired that a Vegetable Preservation and Processing Plant may be established in village Sandhir with their own funds and some help and guidance from Government.

B) Development Plan for availability of Green Fodder round the year

While conducting seasonality (PRA) technique, it has been concluded that the fodder availability is not adequate during the month of April, May, June, September and October. It indicates that the green fodder is available only in half period of the year and not full year. This results in low milk production. The farmers of village Sandhir desired that for making round the year availability of green fodder, following measures are required to be taken:

1. Seeds of the fodder trees like Subabool etc. may be supplied to the farmers.

2. A pasture may be developed on Panchayat Land for making available the grasses to the animals for grazing.
3. Seeds of good variety of fodders like Berseem, Lucerne, Maize, Cowpea, Makchari and Jowar etc. may be provided to the farmers.
4. A one week training course may be conducted at NDRI, Karnal for giving training to farmers in Preparing Feed and Hay for the Animals and also Techniques of treating wheat straw and Urea and Molasses, etc.
5. A suitable crop rotation may be suggested to the farmers which include growing of fodder crops along with grains and vegetables crops.

C) Technological development plan

After conducting PRA, the farmers of village Sandhir decided that in the changing technological scenario they will apply following cropping pattern to earn extra income from their field :

- Moong & Kerala + Paddy (Sharbati) + Vegetable (Tomato)
- Paddy + Moong + Wheat
- Paddy + Vegetable + Wheat
- Vegetables + Oilseeds

D) General development plan for village Sandhir

1. For getting high production and income from agriculture, the farmers of village Sandhir should be organized in the form of -
 - Wheat producers club/society
 - Paddy producers club/society
 - Vegetable producers club/society
2. One small milk chilling plant may be established to get better price of milk
3. All irrigation channels should be cleaned properly to avoid wastage of water.
4. Indigenous material should be used alongwith chemical fertilizers and pesticides for disease control.

5. Use of organic manures/green manures/compost/FYM should be increased to maintain soil health.
6. The garbage/compost pits should be constructed out of village to maintain proper cleanliness in the village

E) Social Development Plan

- The farmers of village Sandhir decided that, they will do Shramdhan, if Government provides some funds and guidance in development and Playground for children/youth of village Sandhir.
- Self Help groups may be formed in village Sandhir.

F) Economic Development Plan for village Sandhir

- while conducting PRA in village Sandhir, it has been observed that the farmers of village Sandhir are ready to provide place, if Government establishes a Bank in the village for getting loans, etc.
- The villagers were ready to form Men/Women Self-Help groups for saving some money and to generate extra income, if some guidance is available from the Government.

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