

Assignment 4: Paper Based on Field Practicum

Submitted By: SSM Hejbullah

Background

As a part of the ‘face to face’ interaction of the certificate course “International perspective of participatory research (IPPR)” a 2 day long field practice sessions were organized on September 17-18, 2014; the aim of the field practice was to gather hands on experience on methods of participatory research. Five of the method were selected and teams were formed where one team practiced and others observed them. Both urban and rural setting were selected-

Urban sites- on 17.09.2014 at slams at Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Rural sites- 18.09.2014 at Rohana ,Sonapat, Haryana

Purpose of the field visit:

- Hands-on demonstration of five of the methodologies for data collection process of participatory research – interview, FGD, drawings, transact walk and social mapping.
- Identify disparities between theoretical knowledge and practice in field and exploring innovative ideas
- Cross learning of knowledge and experience of the teams working at India and Bangladesh
- Apply different methods and acquire practical knowledge
- Gain the insights on utilization and triangulation of participatory methods

Overall Process of Field Practicum

- Debriefing several methods and participatory selection: the different methods were explained during the theoretical sessions and participants were asked to select 1-2 methodologies as per their interest. As per the interest, 5 of the methodologies were selected for practice.
- Team formation and role defining: five team was formed (2 participants in each team), role & responsibilities were briefed & after being agreed, necessary instruction & logistic information were provided. The teams were as follows-
 - Drawing- Ms. Taniya & Mr. Nazmul, on 17.09.14
 - FGD - Ms. Khaleda & Mr. Tuhin, on 17.09.14
 - Interview- Mr. Gaffer & Dr. Mirza, on 17.09.14
 - Social mapping- Ms. Eliza & Mr. Masud, on 18.09.14
 - Transact walk- Mr. Rahul & Hejbullah, on 18.09.14
- Necessary preparation and communication
- Execution of field visit
- Feedback collection and analyze

Assignment 4: Paper Based on Field Practicum

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Process and Feedback on the Methodology that we conducted (Transact Walk)

As agreed, me & Mr. Rahul took part to conduct Transact Walk at the village Rohana of Sonapat district of Haryana on 18.09.14. The process, stakeholders, strength, challenges and learning on the method through the field visit was as follows-

i. Process

- Walking through the community during the noon (single time)
- Observation and Information collection regarding population, housing, roads, communication, water & sanitation, educational and other institutions, health center, police station, religious center, etc
- Physical Verification of previously collected data
- Meeting with Panchayat and young population to create understanding on local social and cultural issues

ii. Stake holders involved

Head of panchayat, young people, gatekeepers, PRIA workers and volunteers

iii. Strength

- Good level of observation
- Validation of spots identified at the social mapping
- Collaboration with community
- Long term ongoing program and good rapport of PRIA in the area
- Well documented and precise information

iv. Challenges

- Communication barrier due to language
- Walking in the sun at the mid noon
- Poor logistic preparation

v. Lesson learnt

- Several round of walk to be done in different time of the day to get better idea
- Deep & logical observation is the key skill for transact walk

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Process and Feedback on the methodologies that I Observed

A. Drawing

i. Process

- Introduction, rapport building and objective sharing
- Set the class teacher as interpreter
- Group formation for the activity and necessary instructions
- Group work, group presentation and wrap-up

ii. Stake holders

Non formal students, teachers, program management staff, facilitator, observers, course moderator

iii. Strength

- Active participation by the non-formal students
- Very supportive teacher and program staffs
- Basic knowledge of Drawings by Participants
- Understandable instructions, repetition, record keeping, summarization
- Adequate supply of materials
- Children are very much enthusiast and cooperative about learning

iv. Challenges

- Time allocation was very short as participants are kids
- Gender and age difference were not considered during grouping

v. Lesson learnt

- Expectation generation need to be avoid at any means
- Gender & age segregation to be considered during group formation
- Clear instruction, repetition and feedback is always very important

B. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

i. Process

- Introducing
- Issue identification and briefing

Assignment 4: Paper Based on Field Practicum

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- Rapport building (Religion & language)
- Facilitation and information providing
- Summarization and wrap-up

ii. Stake holders

Slum dwellers (male and female in separate group), gatekeepers of slum, Program staffs, volunteers, observers

iii. Strength

- Language
- Regionalism
- Facilitators knowledge & skills on the content

iv. Challenges

- Issue was not pre-set
- Number of participants were too high
- The space was not suitable to conduct FGD

v. Lesson learnt

- Specific issue wise discussion is very important
- Flow of the discussion to be well moderated
- Participation of all to be ensured; participants to be from the same power structure
- Number of participant and place for FGD to be standardized

C. Interview

i. Process

- Selection of Participants
- Introduction, rapport building and objective sharing
- Participatory interview and record keeping
- Summarization and wrap up

ii. Stake holders

Slum dwellers, interviewer

Assignment 4: Paper Based on Field Practicum

Submitted By: SSM Hejbullah

iii. Strength

- Homogenous language, regionalism & Religion
- Facilitation skill of the facilitator

iv. Challenges

- Preparation of interviewer and issue selection
- Time constraints

v. Lesson learnt

- Good preparation and issue selection is very essential

D. Social Mapping

i. Process

- Discussion & issue selection,
- Question-Answers
- Cross checking of the mapping

ii. Stake holders

Project staff, available project participants, observers

iii. Strength

- Mappings documentation
- Age and gender specific information
- Community participation and ownership

iv. Challenges

- Mapping done earlier
- Too short time for physical verification

v. Lesson learnt

- It is a very strong tool for understating issue, show changes and policy level advocacy
- Mixing of age and gender group may hamper the output and may misguide

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Tools used to facilitate participation in the field practice session

- Community need assessment
- Collect and honor local perception on the problem
- Community engagement in all steps in research designing, disseminating and responding the issue identified

Overall strengths of the field practicum

- Purposes were clear
- Defined methodologies
- Site selection (both urban & rural)
- Acceptance (flexible)
- Participation and innovation
- Good facilitation
- Rapport building

Overall challenges of the field practicum

- Language
- Time management
- Site selection (rural)
- Inference

Overall lesson learnt

- Preparation is very essential: specified issues, time management, basic knowledge about the area and people, specific guideline
- Issue should be very specific and precise
- Language is a very important tools for participatory research
- Essence of ownership can ensure the effective community participation
- Long term effort and patience is essential for community engagement