

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

Since independence, rural development schemes were discussed and formulated at the District, State and National level without the participation of rural people. This ignored core local issues and the requirements of the particular area. As a result, these cost-intensive rural development schemes were unable to achieve their objectives.

After planners and policy makers realized the shortcomings of this type of planning, they resolved to compulsorily enlist the participation of the people involved in the developmental schemes being carried out in their villages through a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). This procedure, which has now become the key document for any rural developmental work, ensures the people's understanding of their problems and helps in devising solutions that can be implemented by them. People's participation in rural projects increases their scope, stability and success rate.

Such rural participatory programs succeed in bringing all sections of society including women and landless labourers, to a common meeting ground, where villagers are apprised of their problems; educated about the rural development project, and their need for the project to alleviate their problems. This further ensures a surge of voluntary participation by them.

The objective of the PRA is to gain the confidence of the villagers, who will then divulge basic information regarding local conditions relating to farming, schools, wells, ponds, flora & fauna, roads, forests, and a variety of other data that can help in devising solutions to their problems.

Process to conduct PRA





