

Society of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi, India

PRIA's History

- Founded in 1982
- A response to the realisation that grassroots realities across much of India revealed that governments were unable to deliver relevant or sustainable development programmes.
- At the same time, local level initiatives were successful in raising awareness and mobilising community to participate in different aspects of their own development

Two principles of development informed PRIA's founding

- Participatory Research is a process whereby the intrinsic value of people's knowledge is the basis for their own empowerment
- Participatory Development is a process whereby people are empowered to plan and implement their own development plans

- Through its work, PRIA pioneered a vast range of methodology and tools for the empowerment of the marginalized, Participatory Training, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and Community-Based Monitoring
- PRIA intervenes directly at the local level in the eight states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. With the support of its core group of partners, PRIA further extends this approach to the states of Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

- Many ills facing democratic societies were the result of mal-governance
- Only solution appeared in focusing on promoting greater citizen engagement to generate awareness, increase participation and democratise the processes of governance
- PRIA's vision is to develop a democratic society based on the values of equity and justice
- PRIA is a repository of people's knowledge building on the premise of Knowledge is Power.

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Resource Persons

Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay, Director, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), has pursued his Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph. D), University of Ranchi, 1996. M. Sc. (Physical Anthropology), Dr. H. S. Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, 1989. His areas of expertise are Urban Governance, Capacity Building, Organisation Development, Strategic Planning and Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Management. Dr Bandyopadhyay has eighteen years of professional experience with University, Government Research Institution and Indian Civil Society Organisations.

Mr Manoj Rai, Director, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), has a Masters degree in Statistics. He started his career with the Nutrition Foundation of India as Chief Statistician and then joined PRIA as Senior Programme Associate and grew to the position of Programme Manager and then National Coordinator. He has specialized in Local Governance, Programme Management, Advocacy & Research and Facilitation. He has worked on various major projects till now and also has co-authored 3 books.

Dr Meena Nair, Senior Research Officer, joined Public Affairs Centre (PAC) in February 2005 as Research Consultant, and was Appointed Research Officer in April 2005. Prior to joining PAC, Meena worked for 6 years as a Researcher at various levels for Synovate. She has specialized in the field of geography having done her graduation in Geography (Hons.) from Miranda House, Delhi University and post graduation, M. Phil and Ph.D from the Centre of the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. At PAC, her responsibilities include supporting all research-related activities, mainly those related to Citizen Report Cards (CRCs). She is also part of the editorial team of PAC's quarterly newsletter 'Public Eye'.

Dr Julie Thekkudan, Senior Programme Officer, has specialized in Political Science from Jesus & Mary College, Delhi University and post-graduation, M.Phil and Ph.D from the Centre of Political Studies, Jawaharlal Lal Nehru University. She has conducted research on local and global citizen engagements and notions of global citizenship, civil society issues, gender and governance, gender mainstreaming and sexual harassment. She has also conducted trainings on gender mainstreaming in civil society organisations.

Mr Binoy Acharya, Director, UNNATI – Organisation for Development Education, has completed his M. Phil in Sociology, School of Social Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His areas of expertise are Participatory Training and Research, Capacity Building on Social Development Perspectives on Issues of Gender, Participation, Vulnerability Analysis and Community Mobilisation, Facilitation of Participatory Programme Planning, Appraisal and Evaluation. He has a rich experience in capacity building activities on following aspects: Participatory Evaluation, Process Documentation and Project Appraisal, Facilitation of Programme Planning and Monitoring Exercise, Facilitation of Training Programmes.

Ms Purvi Dass, Senior Manager, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), has a M. Sc. in Chemistry, and as well as Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science and PG Diploma in Entrepreneurship. Her major experiences have been in designing training modules, Capacity building and Planning and Monitoring. She is expertise include Entrepreneurship, Development Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Participatory Capacity Building, Participatory Research, Organizational Development and Partnership and Local Self Governance. She has undertaken capacity building using participatory training methodology and has successfully designed and conducted several training programmes for women entrepreneurs, middle and senior level development managers, school teachers and Govt. officials nationally and internationally.

Mr Ashok Singh Director, Sahbhagi Shiksha Kendra, he has done Bachelor of Science & Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management. His areas of expertise are Organisational Development, Participatory Training and Research, Evaluation, Networking of Voluntary Development Organisation's, Community ownership in planning and on the issues of local self-governance. He has an extensive experience of working at the grassroots on the issues of tribal development, agriculture development and forest development and is actively engaged in providing training on issues pertaining to PRA, OD, NGO Management and Leadership Development for NGO Heads, Financial Management, Advocacy, Facilitation skill, Team Building.

Ms. Namrata Jaitli, Senior Manager, has a Masters in Social Work, Department of Social Work, Delhi University. Have fifteen years of rich experience on capacity building, research, evaluation, teaching and management of participatory research and development programmes she has coordinated and participated in diverse projects ranging from national coordination of a women' livelihood and empowerment project; monitoring participation in a number of large scale sectoral projects i.e. forestry, primary education, watershed management, water and sanitation; capacity building interventions for development professionals, practitioners and educators on participation and institutional development themes; building and implementing project management system for a national programme on local self governance; and course development and teaching on themes of participation and civil society, in distance and face to face mode, to diverse range of development professionals and students