

II Understanding Participatory Planning

Day 1

a. What is Participatory Planning?

- Poor and marginalised influence decisions at each stage of the planning cycle
- Local data collection and analysis, facilitated by external facilitators
- Collaborative exercise whereby the needs and voices of the poor and marginalised are negotiated through the planning process

What is Participatory Planning?

- Includes
 - challenging power relations,
 - deepening democratic processes,
 - building accountability and transparency of locally elected people to those who elected them.

b. Why is participation in planning required?

Political reason :

- **Participatory planning is an empowering process: it enables needs/problems to be determined, awareness of them raised and solutions identified.**
- **In the decentralization context it assists in ensuring social accountability of the Local government to the citizens**

Instrumental Reasons:

- Ensures efficient project and service delivery- vis a vis
 - realistic objectives;
 - access to additional resources;
 - establish relevant criteria for measuring performance;
 - ensure accountability;
 - reduce duplication

C .Participatory Planning under Local Self Governance :

- In response to central planning which alienated the local people from village assets and resources
- Alternate model of planning:
 - Decentralised planning
 - Bottom up planning

Micro Planning

- The plan for the smallest unit of administration (Panchayat in India) is called a micro plan.
- The Gram Sabha (Village Council) members of each ward plan for their ward. (Peoples plan).
- These people's plans are put together to make a panchayat level plan (Microplan).

d. Microplanning and Social Accountability

- Micro planning process facilitates
- Village Council (Gram Sabha) members to collectively priorities their problems and arrive at their action agenda
- by engaging government, elected representatives and other key actors

- **Microplanning provides space for citizen and community's participation in :**
 - identification of development priorities,
 - selection of beneficiaries.
 - creation of demand for improvement in and access to services
 - ensuring transparency, reduces leakages and forces proper spending of funds

Gram Sabha(Village Council)

- Gram Sabha provides constitutional space for citizen 's participation in planning and in holding the Local Government accountable .
 - Formulate plan
 - Beneficiary selection
 - Monitoring of plan : RTI and Social audit:

e. Participatory Planning Principles

- Citizens have control over the planning process
- Recognise and value Ordinary people knowledge
- Ideological commitment to the weakest section of the society
- Participatory planning often results in creation or strengthening of organizations among the poor and the marginalized

- Significance on mutual understanding and dialogue among the stakeholders
- Methods important as means for facilitating citizen 's participation .

Significance of citizen education, civil society engagement and capacity building of citizen leaders and community based organizations

- Role of the external facilitator is important

f. Challenges

- Can we address all expressed needs of the community?
- Addressing differences in language, written and oral culture
- Addressing conflict during planning process (Power relations)
- Ensuring participation of the weakest
- Being sensitive to time and cost implications for the poor