



“PARTICIPATORY IDENTIFICATION OF POOREST OF THE POOR IN THE PROCESS SUATAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

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ABSRATCT:

Poverty is a social phenomenon where a segment of society deprived of minimum level of living and unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. As a development workers in the process of identify the right clients or beneficiaries through SHGs or any kind of local level institutions using this method. PARTICIPATORY IDENTIFICATION OF POOREST OF THE POOR (PIP) is a method which is able to capture multi-dimensional aspects of poverty because the process is in the hands of the people who have lived through poverty. In this method, participatory techniques like Transect (along with community people each and every street rounds) social mapping, wealth ranking, resources inflow to the village and out flow and profile of individual families in the entire village. PIP serves the purpose of identifying poor, measuring vulnerability of poor, addressing vulnerability through Vulnerable Reduction Funds and various entitlements, and leading them towards sustainable livelihood.

INTRODUCTION:

It is an important characteristic of underdeveloped countries where the per capita income is very low. Poverty is a social phenomenon where a segment of society deprived of minimum level of living and unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. Poverty in India is expressed in terms of minimum requirement of food in terms of calories, clothing and shelter. Poverty indicated by poverty line which is cut off point on line of distribution which decides poor and non-poor. It is also known as head count ratio/income poverty method.

As a development workers in the process of identify the right clients or beneficiaries through SHGs or any kind of local level institutions using this method. This method is coming under Participatory Approaches. Based on the past methods and experiences, keeping in the view of poorest of the poor people the method is effectively used specially in the field of community development through CBOs. Hence I would like to share the concept and process of this method in the following aspects.PARTICIPATORY IDENTIFICATION OF POOREST OF THE POOR



(PIP) is a method which is able to capture multi-dimensional aspects of poverty because the process is in the hands of the people who have lived through poverty. The community will take over the process of deciding who the poor are and can lead to social mobilization. It builds a social scale of the most deserving in the perception of people as it determines who should be in and who should be supported more. Facilitators should be able to try out several ways before deciding what works for a particular group of people. It is democratic as it involves a continuous interaction and Dialogue with the people themselves.

The non-negotiable principles of transparency and inclusiveness are very important and should be adhered to. All kinds of maps, timelines, representations and data are taken into consideration while drawing up the PIP list. There is a harmonization of the quantitative and qualitative data. The process of triangulation is very transparent as well as very robust and there is also a sense of belonging and involvement by the Gram Panchayat and the Gram Sabha. It is basically the Poverty - Vulnerability – Livelihood document which is a tool in the hands of poor to engage themselves in planning both their development and future.

PIP and Its Usages:

1. PIP and Social Inclusion – Once the poor people are identified in the village through PIP process they could be mobilised into SHGs on the basis of affinity. The woman of the household would serve as a representative from the poor households. Ideally, the members from the same neighbourhood can be a part of the same group. SHGs of certain vulnerable groups may consist of both men and women. Each SHG would have 10-20 members.
2. PIP, Institution Building and Social Issues– Women SHGs belonging to poor households will be formed under National Rural Livelihood Mission, in case of disabled even men can be part of Self Help Groups. Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF) is meant for the SHG members or SHGs belonging to vulnerable categories. PIP will be the base for all the activities. Social Issues which emerged during PIP like violence against women, child marriage, domestic violence, consumption of liquor by family members, human



trafficking would be discussed in the SHG meetings and members could formulate strategy to counter them.

3. PIP and Financial Inclusion - The SHGs should prioritize and ensure that the most vulnerable individuals within the group and individual with most emergent needs will be given the first priority for loan at the time of internal loaning as well as micro credit plan (MCP). The funds from Village level Organizations to the special category SHGs (Person With Disabled) SHGs, Manual Scavengers etc.), the VO should prioritize funds flow to the most vulnerable SHGs
4. PIP and Leadership– PIP allows hidden leadership to emerge as it relies handing over the stick. With the outcome of PIP Federations of special category such as People with Disability, Victims of Women Trafficking and Manual Scavengers etc. can be formed under VO, CLF, and Block/Mandala level Federations. One of the office bearers of Village level Organizations / Cluster Level of Federations /Block Level of Federations should be drawn from these Special Category SHGs
5. PIP and Livelihood –SHG members will make plan for their livelihoods through Micro Plan. After having a collective voice they could demand for their entitlements from line departments with the help of CRP and Gramsabha. At the time of social mapping and vulnerability ranking information through members should be collected like that the livelihood scenario of the family could be understood easily.
6. PIP and Monitoring and Evaluation-PIP will be the baseline for the mission to monitor the progress time to time. Journey of Socio -economic situation of an individual can be traced with the reiteration of the PIP process. Through the MIS, with in the beneficiaries weaker sections like SC,ST, Minorities, Disabled and other vulnerable sections and their journey with NRLM vis- a -vis economic development can be traced .
7. Micro Investment Plan-All members of the SHG will take part in a micro planning exercise. This process will encourage members to recognize, understand and evaluate their resources; analyse challenges they might face; identify their needs and make future plans to overcome vulnerabilities by making optimum utilization of resources and fostering convergences. The process will in still a sense of confidence amongst them about their own capacity to improve their quality of life



Poverty – Vulnerability –Livelihood Document:

PIP has its own challenges in a multi layered stratified society where relations are mediated through multiple structures of dominance. Villages are not homogenous entities and a lot of prejudices exist, these have to be factored in. The poverty, vulnerability and livelihood has internal connections .The more different constraint to identify the vulnerable for two major reasons, One the vulnerable at the point of identification may not be poor but they are on the margins and can slip into poverty even with a marginal change in opportunity structure, Two the poor who cross the margin of poverty because of aid and help can slip back into poverty. The livelihood strategy should ensure that no household slips into poverty once they cross it. It is very important to take into account every aspect of vulnerability .Hence in PIP process somehow inclusion error can be acceptable but there is no space for exclusion error.

The comprehensive data has to be built with the help of the primary and secondary data. All the statistics and surveys can be consulted. Once the data is collected this data can be cross checked with the PIP data. During social mapping it is required to have a set of questions to assess the Vulnerability, livelihood scenario of a village in general and a family in particular –

- No. of earning members
- worker dependent ratio and Per capita income and Type of house/rooms
- Land owner/Land less and In case of land owner area of land
- in case of land owner type of land (irrigated/ un-irrigated /barren, / fertile)
- Assets other than land
- Loan taken other than formal sources, Loan outstanding and Purpose of loan
- No of elderly and other vulnerable people in the family/Vulnerability type
- Disable members/type of disability
- Average expenditure in health in last two years
- Number of drop out children and reason for that
- Members employed in hazardous occupation
- Migrant households/family members, causes of migration
- Work done under MNREGS by the whole family in last two years(No of days)



- Rain fall pattern and Nature of the soil, energy sources –whether they have adequate forest or other sources?

Identification of poor:

Activity - Ask the participants to make list of indicators to identify BPL people?

Possible indicators are

- No land or less than five cents of land
- No house or dilapidated house / No sanitation latrine
- Family without colour television
- No regular employed person in the family
- No access to safe drinking water and No access to education
- Women-headed household or presence of widows or divorcee
- Most disadvantaged and marginalized like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and households living in vulnerable circumstances
- Mentally retarded or disabled member in the family.

Preparation of list of poor:

1. Preparation of Below Poverty Line/Poorest of the Poor list
2. Approval in Gram Sabha
3. Appeal to Block Development Officer and Collector
4. Display of Final List. Access to primary health is a key issue for all households but in case of daily wage laborers it.

Becomes crucial because health is the primary asset for a laborer. In such a family where there bread earner and s/he falls ill even for one day the whole family can come into a peril.

- Nature of the livelihood also depends upon the nature of the employment .In case a laborer commuting for Informal employment from his/her native and another laborer is commuting for the same set of job ,the first one is more vulnerable than the other .



- Inter -generational patterns of mobility for the livelihood and sustainability of the livelihood can tell the historical aspect of the livelihood scenario of the village as well as the household.
- Information about comprehensive accounts of assets and liabilities can help to gauge the vulnerability of a family.

Like- wise some other questions could be asked for better understanding of livelihood patterns in the different communities based on their current livelihoods and these data can be useful for the community to explore the other potential livelihood aspects with the help of facilitators.

On the basis of this information village vulnerability report can be prepared and livelihood analysis and identification of local livelihoods opportunities can be done. Livelihoods planning, market analysis, livelihood resource mapping, assessment of resources, value chain gaps and identification of potential activities in agriculture, livestock, dairy etc. can be done. Community can prepare plan for sustainable agriculture which is distinctively pro –poor because of lower cost, lower risk and greater labour intensity. The Community can attempt to use community investment fund for livelihood and vulnerability reduction purpose.

PIP serves the purpose of identifying poor, measuring vulnerability of poor, addressing vulnerability through Vulnerable Reduction Funds and various entitlements, and leading them towards sustainable livelihood.

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