Evaluation of Development Programmes through
Force Field Analysis
(An Experiment in Parvathipuram ITDA area of
Vizianagaram District)

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APPLICATIONS IN PRA

(A Technique used in Parvathipuram ITDA)

Force Field Analysis is a technique to visually identify and analyse forces affecting a problem situation so as to plan a positive change. It has been used in diverse fields ranging from organisational change to self development. Its visual character, simplicity, suitability for group work and applicability in planning for change makes it a potential tool with vide application in PRA.

BACKGROUND:

Kurt Lewin is credited with the development of Force Field Analysis (FFA) Lewin 1951). According to Lewin, any situation or performance can be viewed as state of temporary equilibrium. This equilibrium is caused by two sets of opposing forces (See Fig. 1 to 7).

"Those which try to bring change, driving, facilitating or positive forces and those which try to maintain the status quo restraining, resisting or negative forces".

The length of the trees in the Figure, representing VTDA denotes the strength of the force depicted. For every force there need not be any opposing force. In FRA, the forces affecting a problem situation are assigned weights according to their perceived impact on the problem. FFA makes it easy, therefore, to pinpoint the forces which need to be further strengthened and the ones which need to be weakened. While there are some limitations to Lewin’s assumption that any problem situation can be viewed to
take into account the complexities involved, FFA has proven to be helpful in analysing problems and identifying solutions.

Because it is based on visual depiction, FFA provides people with opportunities to think of forces that are effecting the problem in question. Even problems that look quite vague start becoming clear. The forces are quantified and their strength represented visually. This makes it easier for the participants to think of how to grapple with them in order to bring about desirable change. It becomes obvious that the magnitude of the driving forces has to be decreased. These decisions are taken jointly in the light of resources available, other constraints etc. Often solutions start to emerge to seemingly insurmountable problems.

**FFA in PRA:**

FFA is most effective in small groups and therefore fits well with the basic tenets of PRA, where the methods are supposed to enable local people to share, enhance and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions to plan and act. (Chambers, 1992).

Despite being a useful tool to use for facilitating participatory discussion and planning, it has not been widely used as yet (although there is one notable exception reference, see Montgomery, 1995).

This method was used by Sri.Someshe Kumar, I.A.S., to analyse the status of Primary Education and also to analyse the reasons of Migration in Orissa and also Womens' participation in local Womens group. Basing on these techniques the opinion of the VTDA, Presidents/Secretary's was taken on different developmental activities.
being implemented by Tribal Welfare Department, besides their opinion on VTDA’s and traditional agriculture.

THE SUBJECTS COVERED:

1) VTDA’S Strengths & Weaknesses.

2) HEALTH adoption to Allopathy/RMP/Local Vezzu.

3) EDUCATION strengths/Weaknesses in the structure.

4) TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE:- The views reflect on the rich food available in olden days without applying manure and pesticides. Although the present crops are economically viable, the negative aspects is lack of nutritious variants in these crops. They are of the opinion that technical advice is necessary continously and should be available to all.

REGARDING ITDA:- They are of the opinion that although the system is good the officers working are not sincere and devoted and the benefits are going to educated people and Roadside Villages.

REGARDING HEALTH:- Although they are favourable to the Government Doctors & the various factors like availability, accessibility of the local Private Doctor / their Economic conditions are the main factors tending them to go for Private Doctors.

REGARDING G.C.C:- The negative points are more when compared to positive points. The only positive points are availability of Rice at less rates that is Rs. 3.50/- and sanction of loan, and availability and rate to MFP Products except, tamarind.
REGARDING EDUCATION:- Most complaints are against non-availability of teacher, no School Building and also on mid-day meal programme. In some areas the Schools are running well.

REGARDING HORTICULTURE:- Especially for cashew, there is good response as it is yielding good results and giving Rs. 12,000/- per acre. They are of the opinion that sprayers are to be supplied to each VTDA and VLWs (Village Liaison Workers) are misappropriating the sprayers. During flowering season there will be loss due to clouds.

Conclusion:

With increasing emphasis on decentralisation and participatory approaches to development, there is a tremendous scope for application of FFA in PRA. At present its potential is only partially utilised. By utilising this method people views can be known on different schemes being implemented by different ITDA's.
These steps are suggested only. They are not prescriptive. The circumstances, location, profile of the participants, time available, problem etc., will determine the exact nature of the process. You are the best judge.

- Write or draw the problem which the group of participants wants to discuss on a sheet of paper. Try to make the problem as quantifiable as possible.

- Keep the sheet of paper with the problem written(depicted) on it infront of the participants and ask them to concentrate on the problem. Ask them to visualise the problem situation in a state of temporary equilibrium maintained by two sets of opposing forces - and favouring change (driving forces) and the other opposing them (restraining forces). The following figure is useful

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  Drawing Forces
  Restraining Forces

  Force Field Analysis
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- Ask participants to list one set of forces first followed by the other. Each of these can be written(depicted) on small cards. Difficult colour cards can be used on driving and restraining forces. Clarify that if a force seems to be made of multiple elements, each component should be listed separately as a force. The use of cards is more flexible than simply listing forces on a sheet of paper. They can also create a more participatory discussion, as with
cards, writing/drawing can be done by many and control is not in the hands of one person.

- Keep the sheet of paper with the problem written on it in the centre and draw a line cross it. Spread the cards with restraining forces below the line and those with driving forces above the line.
- Ask them to look at the cards and see if they would like to make any changes.
- Next ask the participants to assign weights to each of the forces. They should position each force card at varying distances from the problem line/present status line in such a way that the distance denotes the strength of the force. The greater the distance the greater the perceived effect of the force on the problem.
- Check they are satisfied with the diagram, then ask them to discuss how they can change the situation, which of the driving forces can be reinforced and which restraining forces can be diminished?
- Brainstorming techniques can be used here smaller cards preferably of different colours can be used to write down possible interventions for each of the driving/restricting force so as to increase/reduce its magnitude. Each of the possible interventions can be further weighed in light of various factors e.g. reasons available, time, ideology of the organisations etc., The idea is to capitalise on those that would bring greatest change.
- Copy the diagram on to a piece of paper.
If the number of participants is large, one common way is to divide them into smaller groups and then ask them to work on the FFA separately. The findings are later shaped amongst different groups.

It also provides ample scope for improvisation.
REFERENCES


Praxis (1988), Participatory Poverty profiling of Bolangir

LOWER RATES
WITHIN REACH
LOANS ARE SANCTIONED
APPROPRIATE RATES FOR FOREST PRODUCTS

GOOD BECAUSE OF G.C.C.

COMMODITIES NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF THE MONTH

PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES IS THE BUSIEST

SUPPLY OF COMMODITIES TO THE HOUSES OF MIDDLEMEN

NON DISTRIBUTION OF EDIBLE OIL

LONG DISTANCE

NON-AVAILABILITY OF RICE ON CARDS

INEFFICIENCY OF THE ORGANISATION

EDIBLE OIL

INEFFICIENCY OF G.C.C.

RATES OF CERTAIN ITEMS ARE HIGHLY PRICED IN THE LOCAL MARKET

SUPPLY LESS KEROSENE FOR THE CARD

NO RICE
GAMES & SONGS
PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY
STUDENTS ENTHUSIASM
PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IS MORE
STAYING AT NATIVE VILLAGE
PLAYING WITH DOLLS
REGULARITY OF TEACHERS

SCHOOL

DEPUTATION
NON PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM TO TEACHER
ALCOHOLISM IN TEACHER
IRRREGULARITY OF TEACHERS
NO SCHOOL IN OUR VILLAGE
MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL
NON PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO TEACHERS
NO SCHOOL BUILDING
SINGLE TEACHER FOR FIVE CLASSES

IRREGULAR SUPPLY OF RICE
RICE
OUR SCHOOL IS NOT GOOD
LACK OF INTEREST IN STUDENTS

MISAPPROPRIATION IN MID-DAWAL MEAL PROGRAMME

A.B.
LATEST AGRICULTURE METHODS ARE GOOD.

- DISTRIBUTION OF QUALITY HYBRID SEEDS
- SELF-SUFFICIENCY
- IMPARTS TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW
- HIGH YIELD
- ENSURES AVAILABILITY OF METHODS TO ALL

PREVIOUS AGRICULTURE METHODS ARE GOOD.

- PRESERVATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION
- DISEASE RESISTANT
- EARLIER CROPS ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DISEASES
- LOW INVESTMENT
- DISEASES FREE DUE TO NON-UTILISATION OF FERTILIZERS

NO SHORTAGE OF FOOD GRAINS
EMPLOYMENT FOR THE EDUCATED
SCHEMES EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE TRIBALS
SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES
SUPPORT TO THE TRIBALS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

BENEFITS - ITDA

PROBLEMS WITH ITDAs.

MIDDLEMEN
CORRUPTION
INFLUENCE
ROAD SIDE VILLAGES
BENEFITS FOR THE EDUCATED
POLITICAL INTERFERENCE
IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THE EMPLOYEES
EXPERIMENTING WRONG SCHEMES