

V1 Institutional Analysis:

The Institutional Analysis highlights organizations, groups and important individuals in the village, as well as the villagers' view of their importance and effectiveness.

Objectives:

- To identify external and internal organizations and groups (herein referred to as institutions)
- To find out the centrality of these institutions in the village
- To determine the effectiveness of each institution
- To assess the ability of different institutions to work together

Key Questions:

- Which organizations/institutions/groups work in or with the community?
- Which institutions/groups do the villagers regard as most important, and why?
- How effective is each institution in achieving its stated goals, and why?
- Which organizations work together?

Facilitating the process

- 1) Prepare saucers of different sizes (large , medium and small)
- 2) Gather participants at a central meeting place, and get them to sit/stand in a large circle; others will join. This is not a problem
- 3) Ask participants to develop a list of all the organizations /institutions/groups that work in the village – formal and informal, locally based or from outside. Make sure that they also include small informal groups like neighborhood committees. Prompt if necessary. Ask along the following lines: What form of assistance exists? Which local groups are organized along environmental issues (water, grazing, arable land), economic issues (saving, credit, agriculture, livestock), social issues (health, literacy, religion, tradition, education, sport).
- 4) Write down all the institutions that are mentioned on a flip-board.
- 5) Take a stick and draw a very large circle in the sand/earth. Ask the participants to identify a member of the group to act as a helper, and give him her the stick
- 6) Take the first institution. Ask the villagers to discuss its importance to village life. Explain how the most important institutions are represented as large saucers and the least important as small saucers, with the intermediate as middle sized saucers. Ask the participants to discuss whether the helper should pick a large, medium or small saucer, allowing him or her to adjust the saucer size until the consensus of the group is best represented.
- 7) Then explain to the group that the saucer is to be placed in the circle. Placing at the centre of the circle reflects effective performance, saucers placed near the circumference indicate poor performance. Ask the participants to instruct the helper where to place the saucer. Draw a symbol on the saucer to indicate the institutions it represents
- 8) Proceed through all institutions.
- 9) The facilitator and note-taker record why the different organizations are considered important or less important, and why different institutions are considered effective or ineffective.
- 10) On final examination of the circle (with the saucers arrayed across it) ask the participants which saucers work closely together, and which one might more effectively work together

