



# Participatory Research International Networking Memo

March 15, 1985



## International

The tragedy of Bhopal has triggered off major concerns on the question of control over information and knowledge. We have seen how scientific and technical knowledge and resources are controlled by the status quo and used to perpetuate the same.

In order to overcome these barriers some of us have started the process of international linkage to acquire information and to initiate movements. A recent example of the same is PRIA and Highlander Center coordination on follow-up regarding Bhopal. Both are working closely together to collect and analyse information, document it in different forms and to use it for broader educational purpose. Perhaps more such regional coordination efforts are needed in future.

## Regional Update

### Africa

1. A new association called Senegalese Association of Participatory Research (ASERPED) has been formed with M.L. Kane as its Secretary-General. The Association intends to systematize and carry out research in the field of adult education and community animation. It also plans to evolve a

programme of workshops and seminars during the coming year.

### Asia

#### PRIA Activities

- (a) A meeting to carry out preliminary analysis of the field work done so far in the study of Participatory Research, Evaluation and Training was held at the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi during November 1984. This study is being carried out in collaboration with five partner organisations. Draft report will be ready this year.
- (b) In collaboration with three other organisations, a workshop on "Major Damnsi. India: A case of Koel-Karo" was organised in February 1985 to share experiences and develop an understanding of the implications of these dams on local population and environment. About 125 persons, mostly local tribals, participated in the workshop.
- (c) Regional workshops are being held in different parts of the country as a follow up of PRIA's ongoing work on Land Ownership and Alienation in collaboration with local groups.

- (d) PRIA is actively involved, along with several others, in the follow-up investigation, education and mobilisation of the local people after the tragedy at Bhopal. The concerns for authentic investigation and fundamental right to information are being raised in this effort.

## Latin America

1. A set of audio-visuals on "PR an Idea for Meeting" has been recently produced by CEAAL for ICAE by Patricia Mora. It presents the theory behind PR and then a case study developed in an indigenous community of Latin America. It contains 155 slides and has a duration of 30 minutes approximately. There are versions in Spanish, English and Portuguese. CEAAL, Casilla 6257—Santiago 22, Chile.

2. CEAAL recently published No. 4 of the periodical *Apuntes*. The article "Participatory Research—Theory, Methods, and Techniques," was written by Francisco Vio Grossi, S. Martinic G. Tapia and Ines Pascual.

eds :

## Europe

1. Paolo Orifice has arranged to set up a computer-aided data-bank of literature on participatory research from Italy. This will be maintained in the National Library for Pedagogical Documentation of the Ministry of Education of Italy. Other South European PR materials can also be inserted in this data bank. Contact: Paolo Orifice, University Degli Studi di Napoli, Institute di Pedagogia, via Porta Massa 1, 80133 Napoli, Italy.

2. Stan Burkey is planning to write a handbook on "Self-Reliant Participatory Development" in third world villages and urban slum areas. The book intends to be a stimulator for staff discussions and personal development. The topics to be included are:  
Community Development, People's Participation, Self-reliance, Child centred strategies, internal and external credit programmes, how to promote and support common interest groups, integration of "non-productive".

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sector programmes into self-reliant participatory process and how to measure success, etc. This work is being sponsored by Redd Barna (Norwegian Save the Children). He welcomes suggestions, views, informations on books, articles and field reports from people in the field. For details, write: Stan Burkey, PARCONSULT, Stensgate 40 B, 0454 OSLO 4, NORWAY.

3. The Department of Social Policy, School of Policy Studies, Cranfield, Bedford, U.K. has decided to form an independent Participatory Research Exchange (PRX). It is part of the ICAE network and most members will be from the public and voluntary sectors more concerned with each others work rather than the international dimensions.

The first bulletin of PRX is out in March. 1985. PRX has called for a meeting on April 13, 1985 in London to give a statement on the UK scene to ICAE.

4. The German Adult Education Association (DVV), Department for International Cooperation in their next issues of the journal "Adult Education and Development" plan to deal with the topics on Habitat and Adult Education, Environment and Adult Education, Women and Adult Education and Participatory Research and Training.

Contributions of personal experiences, case studies, short reports, eye-witness tales of important issues and other suggestions would be highly appreciated. Write to: Wolfgang Leumer, Editor, German Adult Education Association Rheinallee 1, 5300 Bonn 2, Federal Republic of Germany.

## North America

1. Participatory Research has recently been used by those organisations within the radical feminist movement of Quebec. PR has a developed and ongoing history in Quebec, under the formal name 'recherche-action', and has been extensively used in the union movement and in the struggles of rural peoples being exploited by urban capitalist expansion.
2. A number of people have continued to work on

the issues of how knowledge, creation, power and education relate to social movements, alternative social structures, feminist studies, survival and international solidarity. They would like to organize a workshop on 'Knowledge, Education and Power' and invite interested participants from the network to meet in Southern Ontario. Those interested write to:

Budd Hall/PRG, 29 Prince Arthur Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1B2, CANADA.

## New Materials

### 1. Survey of Labour Standards

This interesting report presents the results of a survey conducted by workers to evolve their own recommendations in respect of minimum standard Labour Law for large industries in Taiwan. For details, write to ASEDROC, Labour Relations Section, 2 Chung Shan North Road, Sect. 1, 9/F1, Taipei (100), Taiwan, ORC.

### 2. People-Centred Development and Participatory Research

Written in August 1984 for a forthcoming issue of Harvard Educational Review by L. David Brown, this paper describes participatory research as inquiry, an educational process and an organisational intervention.

### 3. Participatory Organizations of the Rural Poor

This introduction to the ILO programme by Md. Anisur Rahman presents the relevance of participatory research in the investigation of the problems of rural poor. Available from ILO, Ch 1211, Geneva 22.

### 4. Participatory Research

This study describes the theoretical frame, methods and techniques of participatory research. Prepared by Francisco Vio Grossi and his Latin American colleagues, on behalf of ICAE, the report is available from UNESCO, Paris.

### 5. "No Promise for Tomorrow - Communities (U.S.A.) respond to the Bhopal Tragedy"

A videotape 58 minutes; color available in 1/2" or 3/4"; NTSC or PAL. Following the Bhopal tragedy, the tape shows reactions to the event by people of various communities in Southern U.S.A. who are also similarly affected and traces the Carbide and pesticide production chain. It shows that multinationals expose minority and working class communities within the USA to environmental hazards.

Available from:

Highlander Center or Society for Participatory  
Route 3 Box 370      Research in Asia. (PRIA)  
New Market,      45, Sainik Farm,  
Tennessee 37820      Khanpur,  
U.S.A.      NEW DELHI - 110062.

Telephone: 615-933 (INDIA)  
3443      Cable: 'PARTICIPAT'

Price: \$ 75.00 US: Special rates for Community & non-profits.

### 6. "With Peoples Wisdom" - A Conversation with Rajesh Tandon and Ganesh Paundey, video, color 1/2" or 3/4" 20 minutes.

This introductory tape describes the origins and characteristics of the Participatory Research movement, in Asia in particular, and shows how classical research has contributed to the exploitation of the people. Discussion companion to *Participatory Research: An Introduction* and other similar publications.

Available from address as above.

Rental \$ 20.00 US

Sale: \$ 50.0 Special Rates, as above.

### 7. Participatory Action Research in Norway

This is a paper written by Morten Levin, (Division of Organization and Work Science, The Norwegian Institute of Technology, The University of Trondheim, N-7034, Trondheim NTH, Norway).

PAR in Norway stems from the German traditions of critical sociology and of adult education, and the work of Paulo Freire. The author

Highlights the political constraints on PAR groups in Norway.

### 8. Social Science and Social Transformation

A brief review of the present situation in Bangladesh.

This is a paper jointly written by Khushi Kabir and Mohiuddin Ahmad, Nijera Kori, 40-A, Road 4-A Dhanmendi, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The authors review the Social Science Situation in Bangladesh, in a historical perspective. It focuses on the problems involved in academic research divorced from reality and any intention to influence it.