

Future Plans for the Asian Regional Participatory Research Network

One of the major challenges of this network in Asia is to link up field level organisations with each other in the region as well as in the various sub-parts of the region. It was this in view that the coordination activity of the regional network was decentralised in the last year by having several national coordinators. The essential challenge is for the national coordinators to link up with those groups, associations and individuals who normally are not part of international circuit and hesitate to get involve with something that is too glamorous. Therefore, future activities of the region have been considered in the light of this challenge.

(1) Clearing House: It is suggested that a clearing house be established so that information flow between the members of the network could be speeded up at a rate for more efficient for what have been attempted so far. In this context, a proposal has been received by Shri A.V.Natarajan from South India which can be modified for this purpose. The establishment of the clearing house will act as a major facilitator for the development of the region's network.

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(2) Regional Workshops: The Asian region has peculiarly suffered from regional contact at a scale that has been successfully attempted in other four regions. A workshop has been planned by the Xavier Institute for Social Science at Ranchi in India during October 1 to 4, 1980. However, atleast two sub-regional and one regional workshop during the coming year and half could launch the network much more vigorously.

- (3) Support to the national coordinators for the national coordinator to function effectively a small funding is needed to take care of the postage and duplicating expenses. A strengthened core of national coordinators will help the network develop more intense grass-root contacts.

While, three national coordinators have been functioning effectively, more need to be identified and supported.

- (4) Training: There has been a ~~deas~~ demand for translating the concepts and methodology of participatory research into concrete learning experiences. Various organisations and individuals have begun to ask for assistance in developing the skills among the field workers in participatory research. Consistent with the rationale of participatory research, it is suggested that this training be conducted in non-formal setting and not been a part of the formal educational system. This means that effort will have to be made to find a supportere for training in participator research in Asia.

- (5) Network: While the network has gained support in countries like Australia, Newzealand, Philippines, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Island, Korea, India and Pakistan, two regions are still neglected. One of them is the middle east or west asian region and another is the pacific island region. Special efforts needs to be made to bring this sub-region into the main regional network.

③ + ④ ¹ including into regional languages also

⑥ increasing contact in various areas

- v) Participatory Research in designing and implementing a rural health care programme.
- vi) Community theatre as a method of human development.

There are number of other efforts which are being concretized and a clearer inventory will be available by the end of this year.

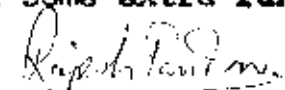
There are indications that the recent regional meeting in Bangkok will similarly lead to a increased in the documentation of existing Participatory Research efforts and initiation of new ones.

11. The next three months are going to be devoted to the following further activities:

- (a) Preparation of hand book for field workers in Participatory Research/training in rural development.
- (b) Planning for training in Participatory Research ~~and~~ ^{for} women activists.
- (c) Planning for the ^{inter-}national forum to be held in Yugoslavia in April 1980.

12. A number of forums are being used by the asian and national coordinators as well as other committed colleagues in further propogating the Participatory Research approach. These forums include seminars with professional researchers, workshops with training personnel, discussions with field activists, etc.

It is my assessment that the Participatory Research Project in the Asian Region is acquiring a momentum which will be reflected in concrete accomplishments by the end of this year. The network is already strengthened, and documentation activity quicked. A number of requests for support to undertake new projects are flowing daily and some extra funds can made a lot of positive differences.


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