

Trend Analysis

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Trend Analysis

- **Trend analysis**, a time-related method in **participatory rural appraisal (PRA)**, helps to analyse the changes and **trends** in the life of an individual, family, institution, systems, practices and community.

- Popular time related method
- Changes and trends
- People's account of past, changes and trends
- People's historical perspective

Brief Description

- Trend analysis visualise significant changes of key issues in the community over time.
- Topics for trend lines often reflect themes that the people consider important, for example, teenage pregnancy, infant mortality or soil erosion etc.

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Uses

- Helps you to learn from the community how it views changes in issues considered important by the people.
- It assists in problem-identification and analysis.
- It focuses community attention on positive and negative changes over time.

- It might show the different perceptions of the various socio-economic segments in the community, if the trend line is done in groups formed according to age, gender etc.
- It provides information for the formulation of possible basic messages, discussion themes and appeals to the participatory team.

Materials

- Materials the people can use as symbols and feel comfortable with, Manila paper and markers (especially where the people are literate).

Participants

- Although the trend lines focus on discussions among elders and long term residents, young people can also be included.
- Make sure that people from both genders drawn from all ecological zones, socio-economic levels and various age groups in the community are included.

Trend Analysis : Steps

- Select a group
- Initiate a discussion on the present situation
- Also facilitate the selection of time landmarks across
- Ask participants to make the matrix on the ground
- Also find out new aspects
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Trend Analysis :

Steps.....contd.

- Ask to explain the diagram
- Facilitate the discussion further to arrive at the aspects of trend analysis.
- Take up one of the aspects, ask the participants to depict the situation

Trend Analysis :

Steps.....contd.

- Explain the purpose of the exercise.
- The participatory team and the community decide on a list of topics of interest for the trends.
- Groups of villagers are organised according to gender, socio-economic status, age etc., depending on the topics selected and the community composition.

Trend Analysis :

Steps.....contd.

- Explain the concept of trends using a simple graph.
- Explain how time (in years), moves from left to right along the bottom axis, and how the topic increases/decreases on the upright axis. The child-growth card from the clinic usually rings a bell.
- Ask the groups to draw their lines on the sand, or on the floor.

Trend Analysis :

Steps.....contd.

- Quantification is not always easy.
- Ask questions if necessary e.g. 'when was the most, the least?'
- Another way of doing so, is with stones (e.g. 1 stone is 1 cow, or 1 extension officer, or 1 malnourished child etc.) on an individual.

Trend Analysis :




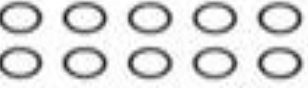
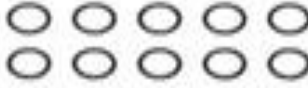



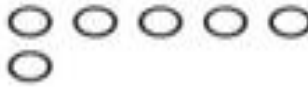


Steps.....contd.

- Use the discussion of trends to probe for explanations of the changes. This will help identify underlying problems and traditional activities to correct the situation.
- For instance, if soil erosion is getting worse, ask why and find out what measures have been tried in the past and how well they have worked.
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Trend Analysis :

Steps.....contd.

- Ask what they think might ease the situation.
- Copy the trends and the explanations onto paper.

Natural resources \ Period	 Water	 Tree	 Farmland
1960 (Independence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains daily during June No wells Water always in the river 		
1970 (End of civil war)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains at least once in 2-3 days in June 		
1979-80 (Shagari)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains at least once in 4 days in June 		
1999 (Today)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains sometimes once in 8-10 days in June River and well dry in dry season 		

Participants: Adama, Elizabeth Sule, Omojo Peter, Ochesija Nichlas and Oglinulu Okpachu
 Facilitators: Paul C

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Conclusion

- It is important to ensure participation in the exercise.
- Discussion can be extended to understand the changes in the context of management of forest, use of forest produces, pasture/ grazing land, cropping pattern, livelihood profiles etc.

Questions?

Many thanks for your audience

