



March 3, 1982

NETWORKING MEMO

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH



Now that the file for the PR Memo has become reasonably full again with letters and notes, it seems time to send out yet another edition of updated news.

As of this edition, we are sending a copy of the memo to two more people, Marja-Liisa Swantz in Finland and Guy Saez in France, both of whom are actively concerned with participatory research. At this point, the mailing list for the memo is fairly small because the memo is seen as a system of keeping the PR coordinators and a few other people who are involved with PR updated on the events and activities taking place in the various regions. It is intended to add to the process of networking amongst the regions. The updated mailing list for the memo is attached to this edition. Let us know if there are one or two other people who should be added to the list.

PARTICIPATE TO ACTIVATE

The Adult Education students of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education contracted the Toronto PRG to conduct a day-long training session on PR on February 27. The focus of the workshop was on learning and practicing some techniques of PR, interlaced with reflection on what qualities assure these techniques will be used to encourage a participatory process versus a relatively non-participatory product.

The day was divided into four major themes: theatre, song-writing, journalism and banner and poster making. The session involved a number of resource persons from the Toronto PR network. It was attended by 25 students and everyone left the day feeling energized and keen to continue learning about and practicing PR in their on-going work.

ART AND MEDIA: A TOOL FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

Following a similar structure to this day-long workshop, the Toronto PRG is organizing a ten session course for community organizers on tools of participatory research. The program will include an introductory session, 2 sessions on song-writing, 2 sessions on photography, 2 sessions on popular theatre, 2 sessions on the making of posters and banners and final evaluation session. Once again, the various sessions will involve different people from the Toronto PRG network.

SOCIETY FOR PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN ASIA

A three page description of this recently formed society has been written and circulated by Rajesh. The summary talks about who is in the network, the objectives of the society and a description of some of activities included in the work of the society. For copies of this description, contact Rajesh.

LEARNING GROUP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEORY OF PR

A working group to develop the theory of participatory research was set up as an outcome of the seminar "Integration of Participatory Research and Training in Local Development" held at Lepolamp, Espoo, Finland during September 9-11, 1981. This seminar was organized by the Basic Needs Working Group (BNWG) of the European Association for Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) under the auspices of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Helsinki and coordinated by Dr. Marja-Liisa Swantz who is the Convenor of BNWG.

During the discussion of documentation on PR, it was felt that considerable work is going on in the epistemology of participatory research in different languages and in different networks. A need was felt to consolidate this effort and to develop a more advanced statement on the theory of participatory research.

A sub-group was set up, comprising of the following:

- (i) Morten Leven, Institute for Industrial Social Research, Technical University of Norway, Trondheim
- (ii) Heinz Moser, Pedagogical Institute, University of Zurich
- (iii) Anisur Rahman, Rural Employment Policies, ILO Branch, Geneva
- (iv) Anton de Schutter, CREFAL, Mexico
- (v) Rajesh Tandon, Coordinator

It was felt that a person who knows about similar work being done in the French language and Dr. Gerritt Huizer should also be invited to be a member of the working group. In the meanwhile, Greg Conchelos of the Participatory Research Group in Toronto has expressed an interest to join this effort. Greg has just submitted his PhD thesis on Participatory Research.

The following steps were agreed upon:

- (1) Preparation of a Bibliography of materials that have a bearing on the theory of PR by members of the sub-group from their own language segments. While Anisur Rahman and Rajesh Tandon are looking after materials in English, Morten is to scan materials from Scandinavia, Heinz Moser from German literature and Anton de Schutter from Spanish materials.
- (2) The titles of different language materials for the purposes of the bibliography to be translated into English.
- (3) Compilation of a bibliography by Rajesh Tandon after receiving different segments from other members of the working group.
- (4) Annotation of selected pieces in English in about 200 words. Each member of the sub-group is to identify the 10 most important pieces from his/her language segment and annotate them first.

(Development of Theory of PR, continued)

- (5) Thus about 100 titles will be annotated and will be available to all members of the working group.
- (6) A synthesis meeting to be held in Mexico to coincide with the World Sociology Congress, being held in August, 1982. Members of the sub-group, Marja-Liisa and others could meet for about three days after the Congress to develop a synthesis on the theory of PR.

We have now reached step three and the bibliography has been mailed out to all members of the sub-group. It is hoped that annotations will now be prepared and be available to all members of the working group by the end of May, 1982. That will give us enough time to annotate further materials that may come to our knowledge by then.

We believe that it is a very important collective effort that we are undertaking and invite suggestions, comments and assistance in ways that supporters, practitioners and promoters of participatory research across the world may consider appropriate. (Rajesh Tandon, January, 1982)

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN MOZAMBIQUE

Budd recently received a letter from Brian McCall who is the Project Leader of the "Project of Regional Centres for Participatory Research and Development" (CRED) in Mozambique. The project comes under the auspices of the Institute of Agricultural Research and at this point, consists of three centres. Brian McCall indicates that he and Ms. Piera Brigatti who is responsible for training with the project, will be coming to the Paris conference in October. For more information about the project, contact Brian directly:

Brian McCall, Project Team Leader
Regional Centres for Participatory Research and Development
Instituto de Investigaçã Agronomica
C. Postal 3658
Mavalene, Maputo, Mozambique

"MATCH" INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

For people working on projects involving women and development, you might be interested in knowing about MATCH, a Canadian-based non-governmental organization which is designed to match the resources and needs of Canadian and Third World women.

MATCH grew out of the 1975 International Women's Year Conference and was formally established in November of 1976. It has a membership of approximately 1200 and has sponsored more than 70 projects in 34 countries. The funding comes from personal contributions in Canada which are then matched by funding at various levels of the Canadian government. Apart from sponsoring projects, MATCH also promotes development education through the development of a partnership between Canadian and Third World women. For further information, contact:

MATCH International Centre
401 - 171 Nepean Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 0B4

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN KOREA

Ji Woong Cheong of the Korean Association of Adult and Youth Education has sent the ICAE a copy of a report on a small scale nation-wide seminar on PR. The meeting was held, December 11-12, 1981, in the South ChungChong province of Korea. It involved 48 participants representing 25 institutions and organizations, including institutes of higher education, agriculture extension offices, high schools, non-government volunteer agencies and religious organizations.

The seminar was divided into 2 sections: the concept and case studies. Ji Woong Cheong, whose paper was presented in Yugoslavia provided the basic concept paper, including an overview of the philosophy, procedures and techniques of PR. The description of content was followed by 3 case studies: Vocation Education for the Poor Youth, Nonformal Education for Female Workers and A Women's Cooperative Village Store. For further information on the seminar and PR work in Korea, contact:

Ji Woong Cheong
Korean Association of Adult and Youth Education
Yoida P.O. Box 103
Seoul 150, Korea

THE ROLE AND TRAINING OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVISTS

In the last edition of the Networking Memo, we referred to work being done by Kamla Bhasin in India but failed to mention Kamla's excellent publication which looks at training for PR through a summary of a workshop for training development activists, held in November, 1979.

In providing the summary, the booklet looks at a description of development activists - what they do and how they relate to the people with whom they work. The booklet then goes on to discuss the training of activists about methods of participatory research and development. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this useful resource should contact:

Kamla Bhasin
FFHC/AD Programme Officer
FAO 55, Lodhi Estate
Delhi 110003, India

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES PROGRAM (GRIS)

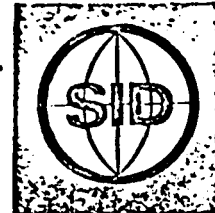
The first edition of a new networking newsletter arrived in the ICAE office recently. Rather than try to summarize its intent, it seems best to copy the first four pages of the edition to circulate with this memo.

The remainder of this first edition of GRIS is given over to brief comments about the potential of this network and newsletter by a number of people in Europe, the USA, India, Bangladesh and Argentina.

GRIS NOTES



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
SOCIEDAD INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO
جمعية التنمية الدولية



grassroot initiatives and strategies programme - gris

gris involves action research, analysis, conscientisation, networking, dialogue, linking isolated activities, as well as, exchanging new kinds of information with new methodologies between actor groups at the grass roots now outside the established development process. GRIS is not merely a conventional information exchange.

No. 0 30th October 1981

Contents

GRIS - A preliminary Description

What they say about GRIS

Edited by Louis-François Fleri

The Society for International Development is adding another dimension to its Alternative Development Strategies Programme and will attempt to pool some of the knowledge and technology emanating from spontaneous people-oriented activities in industrialised and Third World countries at the local level and provide a forum for voices hitherto unheard in the dialogue on development.

For this purpose Ponna Wignaraja Secretary General of SID circulated a note to a number of persons who had been interacting with those involved in such grass roots experiments and re-

quested their preliminary comments.

The note and the comments are reproduced in this first issue of the GRIS NOTES.

Subsequently a meeting was convened at Castelgandolfo, Italy to consult further on the conceptual framework for the programme and the steps for operationalising it. A report on this meeting will be published in the next GRIS NOTE. As further stages in the experimental phase of the evolving programme are undertaken GRIS NOTES will carry the information to those interested. Copies of these notes may be obtained by writing to the address below.

International Headquarters, Palazzo Civiltà del Lavoro 00144 ROME, Italy

Telephone: (06) 591,7897, Cables: SOCINTDEV ROME

GRIS c/o Collectif - Media Autonomie Développement, 5-7, rue Villehardouin

75003 PARIS, France Telephone: (01) 887,1414

GRIS - A PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION

PONNA WIGNARAJA

Background and Justification

Today, in people-oriented movements and development initiatives it has been demonstrated that it is possible for people to share what they have, build participatory institutions, use resources rationally where man's activities are not predatory on nature and evolve technology naturally from the knowledge available in the community.

In GRIS, development would be viewed in fundamental humanistic terms as a process of releasing and mobilising the creative energies of the people for their own well being. Here, people are the final arbiters of their welfare they are the subjects and not the mere objects of development. Participation and self-reliance follow as necessary corollaries of this approach.

Experiments which would contribute to the GRIS process would be those where people are raising their level of consciousness, building their own organisations, where there is evidence of an increasing awareness of the socio-economic reality around them, and where people perceive possibilities of change and are developing the capacity for change through their own collective efforts.

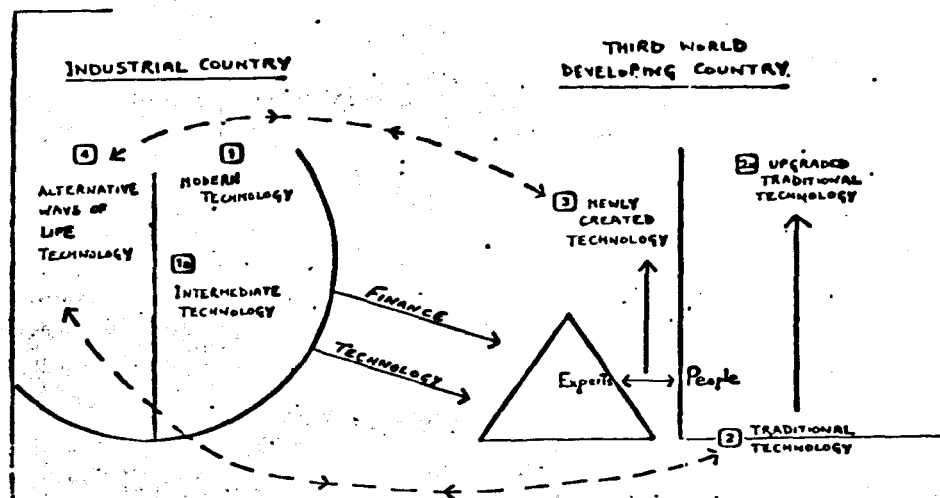
Such experiments could be identified in Third World countries or in industrialised countries. In the latter they may represent a first glimpse of a new society. If these are linked first within countries, then between groups of similar countries and finally N/S and S/N, the knowledge and experience may give greater coherence to our development options for all countries and provide a new basis in reality for these options.

Since there are positive and negative aspects of linkage of these isolated activities, the process has to be evolved slowly, so that any intervention by an external agency (meaning outside the activity or movement) must be very sensitively undertaken so that the negative aspects do not outweigh the mutual benefits from the exchange of information and experiences by these groups, which would result from linkage. Thus the role of the Society for International Development will be low key and a catalytic one - both at the operational and intellectual level.

Longer Term Conceptualisation

It is clear that a great deal of conceptual work needs to be done if there is to be good practical development action to benefit large numbers of people who are outside conventional development processes and that these concepts need to be based on actual experience. The following is presented as a starting point for eventually synthesising the still fragmented concepts that are emerging at the global level, at the national macro level and the grass root micro level.

The diagram below and the explanatory notes also provide a longer term conceptualisation of the GRIS programme and the general considerations which will guide the experimental phase of GRIS:



1. This experiment is based on the premise that there are other stocks of knowledge outside the 'modern' stock in industrialised countries (1. on diagram) which the conventional growth model indicated should be transferred through 'market' processes along with finance from rich to poor countries and which created islands of modernisation in Third World countries and left large numbers in rural areas uninvolved.
2. The intermediate technology (1a) is a corollary of (1) and if transferred through the same processes would have the same effects.
3. Traditional technology (2) is another stock, but some of it is half-forgotten and it would also need to be upgraded in its own environment. otherwise it would be merely "romantic."
4. As a result of a two-way interaction between 'experts' and the people in Third World countries a new technology is slowly being created which does not exist in categories (1) or (2). The experience here is different from the concept of 'experts to go and learn from the people' or 'experts go teach the people' (3) represents a new and still fragile R & D system gradually being built up by committed experts and the people in Third World countries living and working together to evolve a more humane society using resources and knowledge available locally.
5. Likewise. in industrial countries as a result of alternative lifestyles experiments the ecology movement, the energy crisis etc. individuals and groups are experimenting with technologies related to new values and new institutions and provide a glimpse of a different people technology mix.
6. These grassroots experiments are for most part being conducted in isolation - some of them are 'seeds of change' others are mere 'bubbles' Some linkage between these activities, first within countries, thereafter between countries or groups of countries could be mutually re-inforcing. if established with sensitivity.

This is what the GRIS experiment will attempt to think through and evolve along with participants and actors in the process.

Development Objective

The development objective to which the project is expected to contribute is to find development options particularly for Third World countries which go beyond the simplistic strategies provided either by imitative "modernisation" approaches, growth models, transfer of capital and technology and trickle down concepts or by a too facile 'return to tradition' approach.

These options would be identified not through a prior theorising as in the past, but through a better understanding of spontaneous people-oriented development activities which are in evidence at the grass roots/local level both in industrialised and Third World countries and where there is real participation and self-reliance, involving a new kind of Man/Man, Man/Nature and Man/Technology relationship.

The immediate objectives of the evolving programme are

- (a) To identify selectively, using criteria consistent with the above, grass-roots experiments within both Third World and industrialised countries, which now exist in isolation.
- (b) To link them, first within countries then between countries using an existing institution or one of the experiments themselves for this purpose.
- (c) To establish a suitable medium of communication between these experiments so that the fragile R & D systems that are emerging can be re-inforced and there can be a mutually beneficial exchange of information and experiences.
- (d) To identify training sensitisation methodologies for spreading and multiplying this kind of activities.
- (e) To subject these processes to deeper analysis and relate them conceptually to national and global processes for change.

Issues for Discussion

Written responses are requested on the evolving programme framework with particular reference to the following:

- (a) Discuss country/region specific experiences in grassroots experiments to see whether they are "seeds of change" or mere "bubbles"
- (b) See how best to bring these experiments out of isolation in a way in which the positive results from linking will not out-weigh the possible negative effects and who can do this?
- (c) Discuss in-depth the questions of "praxis" and "external" intervention and sensitising change agents to multiply activities.
- (d) See what kind of further conceptualisation is possible and when - also evaluate the fragile R & D systems that are beginning to emerge as a result of these experiments.
- (e) Evolve
 - i. the national processes to be set in motion
 - ii. the GRIS processes
- (f) See what further action research, linkages, networks, dialogues are necessary so that these grassroots experiments and movements have an impact on transitional strategies for social change - in other words how can we give greater coherence to intellectual and political processes of change implicit in these experiments?

PEOPLE TO WHOM THIS MEMO IS BEING SENT

Regional Coordinators

Africa

Kemal Mustafa
P.O. Box 5267
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Asia

Rajesh Tandon
A-2/172 Safdarjang Enclave
New Delhi 110029 India

Europe

Jan de Vries, Director
SVE: Netherlands Study and Development
Centre for Adult Education
Postbus 351, 3800 AJ Amersfoort
The Netherlands

Latin America

Francisco Vío Grossi
Casilla 6257, Correo 22
Santiago, Chile

North America

Lynda Yanz, Coordinator
Participatory Research Group
29 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 1B2

Others for information

Eileen Belamide
Farmer's Assistance Board
Box AC 0623, Quezon City
Philippines

Liz Sommerlad
56 Wybalena Grove
Cook A.C.T. 2614
Australia

Chris Duke
Box 1225
Canberra City 2601
Australia

Helena Kekkonen
Finnish Association of Adult Education
Organizations
Hietalahdenkatu 8 A-21
00180 Helsinki 18, Finland

Edward Ulzen, Executive Secretary
African Adult Education Association
Philadelphia House, Tom Mboya Street
Box 50768
Nairobi, Kenya

Paulo Freire
Pontificia Universidade Catolica de São Paulo
Rua Monte Alegre 984
São Paulo, Brazil

Willem Bax, Director
European Bureau of Adult Education
Postbus 367, 3800 AJ Amersfoort
The Netherlands

Betty Reardon
World Council for Curriculum Instruction
Box 171, Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, N.Y. USA 10026

Ted Jackson
499 Donegal Street
Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9H 4L9

Rezaul Haque
34, Gopibag 3rd Lane
Dacca 3, Bangladesh

Pat Charles
P.O. Box 1097
Castries, St. Lucia

Vera Gionotten and Ton de Wit
Casilla 15
Ayacucho, Perú

Esmond Ramesar, Secretary and
Executive Officer
Caribbean Regional Council for
Adult Education
c/o Extra-Mural Unit
University of the West Indies
Trinidad and Tobago

Pat Ellis, Programme Coordinator
Women and Development Unit
University of the West Indies
Barbados, West Indies

Anton de Schutter
CREFAL
Apdo. Postal 111
Pátzcuaro, Mich.,
México

Guy Saez
Peuple et Culture
9 rue de la Poste
Grenoble, 3800, France

Paulo Orefice
Universita degli Studi di Napoli
Istituto de Pedagogia e Filosofia Morale
80133 Napoli
Via Porta de Massa 1
Italia

Rosa Paredes
Centro al Servicio de l'Acción Popular (CESAP)
Apdo. 4240, San José del Avilá
Caracas 1010 A, Venezuela

Marja-Liisa Swantz
The Institute of Development Studies
University of Helsinki
Luotsikatua 4 A 1,
00160 Helsinki 16, Finland