



Participatory Research International Networking Memo

October 31, 1984



International

The meeting of regional and sub-regional coordinators has been planned for May 2-3, 1985 at Toronto. This will be hosted by Participatory Research Group in north America. Agenda includes the following:

1. Review of Regional Networks and their relationship with ICAE and International Network.
2. The international perspective on Participatory Research.
3. Planning future strategies, in particular about ICAE general assembly in Argentina in November 1985.

Regional Update

Africa

1. African Participatory Research Network has its registered office in Tanzania with Kemal Mustafa as Secretary, P.O. Box 35043, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
2. Following is the current list of African National Coordinators:

David Tsiane, Institute of Adult Education, University of Botswana, Private Bag 0022, Gaborone, Botswana.

Tesfaye Desta, P.O. Box 30184, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Shem Migot-Adholla, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya.

Jose Manuel Cardoso, National Service of Literacy, Ministry of Education, DNAE, Avenida 25 de Setembro 908, Maputo, Mozambique.

Papa Kane, Le Directeur, Direction de la Formation Permanente, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, Dakar, Senegal.

Yasin Haji Mohamud, National Adult Education Centre, P.O. Box 1032, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Joseph Kulang, CUSO/ACCOMPLISH, P.O. Box 30862, Nairobi, Kenya.

Odhiambo Anacleti, OXFAM-Tanzania, P.O. Box 6141, Arusha, Tanzania.

Mohmood Mamdani, P.O. Box 2875, Makerere University, Uganda.

Ernest Wamba-dia-Wamba, Department of History, University Dar es Salaam, P.O. Box 35050, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Derek Mulenga, Department of Adult Education, University of Zambia, P.O. Box 32379 Lusaka, Zambia.

Zimbabwe: Olivia Muchena, Department of Adult Education, University of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box MP 167, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

3. Members of African Participatory Research Network have given or participated in Seminars in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Botswana etc.
4. The second African Regional workshop is planned for 1985.
5. Kemal Mustafa has gone to England to complete his Ph. D. (Room A 1, Boulton House, Wychfield Site, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, England.)

Asia

1. PRIA Activities

- (a) Twenty grass-roots rural organisations from all over India are engaged in Participatory Research studies on the question of Land Ownership and Alienation based on initiatives taken by PRIA.
- (b) In several industries like textile, chemical, engineering, slate-pencil, fertilizer, brick-kiln in India, worker activists are involved in Participatory Research studies on occupational health and safety issues based on the initiatives taken by PRIA.
- (c) PRIA is conducting a study on the methodology of participatory research, evaluation and training efforts in India using seven case studies. Preliminary analysis will be completed by the end of 1984 and report will be ready early next year.
- (d) Quarterly newsletter of PRIA continues.

2. Participatory Research workshops in Malaysia

- (a) Mutual learning workshop was held in early February in Kuala Lumpur organised by National Coordinator James K.T. Lee.
- (b) In early April 1984, discussions on participatory research and its linkages with non-formal education took place during ASPBAE meeting held in Kuala Lumpur and hosted by Malaysian Association for Continuing Education. Report is available from ASPBAE.
- (c) A one day workshop was organised in Penang in June 1984 by Ms. Chan Lean Heng, Lecturer, School of Comparative Social Sciences, University Sains Malaysia, Minden, Penang, Malaysia.
- (d) James K. T. Lee organised a workshop on participatory research for local activists in Sarawak, Malaysia during July 1984.

3. IDRC Workshop on NGO-based Research

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada organised a workshop at Colombo for South-Asia during September 11-14, 1984. Building on a similar workshop held in May for South-east Asian countries, this workshop discussed the current experiences of NGO-based research, the strengths and weaknesses of such research, the relevance and importance of Participatory Research, etc. Several active members of Asian PR Network attended the two workshops. For details, contact; Dr. Dean Nielsen, Social Sciences Division, IDRC, Tanglin, P.O. Box 101, Singapore - 9124.

4. New Centre for Participatory Research in Bangladesh

A new Centre for Participatory Research and Development (177, Road 8-A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 9, Bangladesh) has been created in Bangladesh. The Centre aims to understand, document and popularise Participatory Research in Bangladesh. It is planning to document experiences in PR and promote the need for undertaking PR on the issues of development. An ad-hoc committee has been set-up comprising of Khushi Kabir, Shireen

Haq, Rezaul Haque, Majid Malik and Mohiuddin Ahmad.

Caribbean

1. Pat Ellis has come back to Barbados and is doing her dissertation study using participatory research methodology.
2. Caribbean newsletter on participatory research has been started.

Latin America

1. The third Latin American seminar on participatory research took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil during 13 to 17 October, 1984. It included the following topics: Theory and Epistemology of Participatory Research; Popular Knowledge; Identity and National Project; Participatory Research and Popular Movements of the Eighties; and How to improve our Practice.
2. A slide show on participatory research in rural areas and indigenous communities has been prepared by CEAAL.
3. The next member of CEAAL's monographic publication 'Apuntes' will be on Participatory Research; its title is "Participatory Research: Theoretical Frame, Methods and Techniques" by Francisco Vio Grossi, Sergio Martinic, Gonzalo Tapia and M. Ines Pascal. It will be published next August. This piece of work begins with a review of theoretical frameworks of social change, attempting to correlate various development approaches to epistemological concepts. In chapter two the authors examine Participatory Research and its basic propositions in more depth. Chapter three is devoted to the question of methods and techniques, emphasizing the assumptions that have arisen from particular experiences in several countries. Finally, rather than conclusions, some key questions are put forward as a way of illuminating future studies.
4. A project to organise a Latin American Seminar on the role of adult education in the development of indigenous people has been approved. In this Seminar one of the important topics to be discussed will be the practice of participatory research conducted by indigenous people to recreate and promote their culture.

Europe

1. An international seminar on the theme was organised by the Commune of Pozzuoli, Naples,

Italy during may 23-25, 1984. Attended by municipality officials, local citizens, school teachers, students, researchers, adult educators and experts on Participatory Research, the seminar was an attempt to identify strategies of PR for cultural reconstruction. The Commune of Pozzuoli faces emergency situation in the form of bradisismo—a phenomenon of shifting earth surface due to volcanic activity. The seminar was intended to generate possible strategies for local people to deal with this emergency. For details, contact Dr. Paolo Orefice, Università Degli Studi Di Napoli, Istituto di Pedagogia, Via Porta di Massa 1, 80133 Napoli, Italy.

2. On May 26, 1984 in conjunction with the above event, a meeting was held to discuss coordination of European Participatory Research Network.

The meeting was attended by: Rajesh Tandon (India), John Giventa (U.S.A.), Matthias Wesseler (West Germany), Marja Liisa Swantz (Finland), Colin Fletcher and Wyn Williams (Great Britain), Matthias Finger (Switzerland), Paul Bron and Guy Le Boterf (France), Alberto Melo and Conceicao Oliveira Lopes (Portugal), Jose M. Quintana and Paco Garcia d'Haro (Spain), Gella Varnava-Skoura and Dimitri Vergidis (Greece), Alexander Singer (Rumania), Paolo Orefice (coordinator for Southern Europe), Francesco Valenti and Giacomo Viccaro (Italy)

Several decisions were made:

- (a) Matthias Wesseler agreed to act as Northern European Participatory Research Coordinator (Universität des Landes Hesse, Steinstraße 19, D-3430 Witzenhausen, West Germany).
- (b) It was decided that greater involvement of East European countries should be sought.
- (c) The importance of having national coordinators was also recognised. Colin Fletcher (Department of Policy Studies, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield Bedford, MK 43 0AL England) was requested to act as coordinator of Great Britain and Pierre Dominic and Matthias Finger for Switzerland.
- (d) Alberto Mello and Paulo Orefice agreed to circulate a framework for preparing case studies of Participatory Research in different European countries.

- (e) The National coordinators agreed to take responsibility for updating bibliography of Participatory Research.
- (f) It was agreed that more national, regional and sub-regional meetings are needed to strengthen Participatory Research work in the region.
- (g) In September 1984 in a meeting at Madrid, the working group on "Participation and Needs" of EADI held further discussions on participatory research. For details write to: Dr. Marja-Liisa Swantz, University of Helsinki, Institute of Developing Studies, Luotsikatu 4A1, 00160 Helsinki, 16 Finland.

North America

1. The Participatory Research Group (386, Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1x4) in Toronto has started bringing out its newsletter in a new format.
2. The Participatory Research Group has following future plans:
"For 1984, we have a number of expanding priority areas for our work: in particular solidarity with Central America, Women's issues, and literacy Our plans for 1984 include a continuing commitment to building and supporting networks of researchers and educators working for social change in Canada, as well as sharing and building links with networks in the United States and internationally And we want to function more effectively as a resource centre for groups involved in different social and political movements."

New Materials

1. **Community Participation in Family Planning**
This is a report of the consultation between researchers, practitioners and support agencies on the issues of community participation as they apply to family planning projects. Prepared by Ian Askew in January 1984, it is available from Institute of Population Studies, Hooper House, 101 Pennsylvania Road, Exeter EX4 6DT, England
2. **Investigacion Participativa en America Latina**
This book contains the work presented in the 11 Latin American Seminar on Participatory

Research organized in 1982 in Patzcuaro, Mexico under the auspices of Consejo de Education de Adultos de America Latine (CEAAL), el Centro Regional de Educacion de Adultos y Alfabetizacion Funcional Para America Latina (CREFAL) and the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE). For further details write to CREFAL, Apartado-74 Patzcuaro, Michoacan-Mexico.

3. The Net-Power Structure in Ten Villages

This study based on discussions with landless and disadvantaged members of the rural community in Bangladesh reflects the manner in which people occupying positions of authority utilize their advantageous positions. This study, an attempt at Participatory Research, is published by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, 66, Mohakali Commercial Area, Dhaka — 12 Bangladesh (Rural Study Series: 02).

4. Ideology and Political Economy in Inquiry: Action Research and Participatory Research

This is a paper jointly written by Dr. L. David Brown and Dr. Rajesh Tandon for the Journal of Applied Behavioral Science Vol 19, No. 3 pp 277-294. This paper examines the two traditions of applied behavioral science enquiry — "action research" and "participatory research". This journal is published for the NTL Institute by Jai Press Inc, 36, Sherwood Place, P.O. Box — 1678, Greenwich, Connecticut 06836 — 1678 USA.

5. Grass Roots Participation and Self-Reliance

This just published book carries experiences of Asian Countries in promoting grass-roots participation and self-reliance. This work was coordinated and edited by Md. Anisur Rahman under ILO programme of participatory organizations of the rural poor. The book has been published by Oxford IBH Publishing Co. in collaboration with Society for Participatory Research In Asia (PRIA), New Delhi. Paperback edition is available from PRIA for Rs. 28 in India (and US \$ 6/ — outside) plus postage.

6. Socialist Health Review

This recently started quarterly focuses on health from a radical perspective. The second issue focuses on Women and Health. Annual contribution is Rs. 20/ — onwards. Contact address: 19 June Blossom Society, 60A Pali Road, Bandra (West), Bombay — 400 050.

7. ICDA News

The International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) brings out a monthly bulletin featuring development news in different countries. Contact ICDA, Rue des Bollandistes 22, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

8. Planning for Women in Rural Development

This is an extract from the Rose Hall experience about the bottom-up planning for women in rural development. It is a collaborative project of the Population Council of New York and the Women and Development Unit (WAND), Extra-Mural Department, University of West Indies, Barbados, West Indies.

9. A Popular Education Handbook

Published by CUSO/OISE in 1983, this booklet is written by Rick Arnold and Bev Berke. It presents the experiences of Central America in utilizing popular education for social change. It is available with PRG at \$ 3.95 plus 25% postage.

10. AH — HAH! A New Approach to Popular Education

Published by GATT — Fly (427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Canada), this book is based on the experiences of this organization. It is a document on education for social change.

11. Research for Organizing

This article has been written by Will Collette (Citizens Clearinghouse, P.O. BOX — 926, Arlington, Virginia, 22216, U.S.A.). It describes the use of research in organising workers, for example, on issues of hazardous waste.