

Workshop on
**Importance of Micro-Level Planning
in Rural Development**

Date:

29th July 2009

Venue:

**CREDA Rural Resource Centre
Vill. Sukhra (Rajpur), Halia, Mirzapur (U.P.)**

Workshop Report



Organized by:

**Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA)
Mirzapur (U.P.)**

Sponsored By:

**National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI)
Hyderabad (A.P.)**

Report on One-Day Workshop on Importance of Micro-Level Planning in Rural Development

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Organizer:

Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA), Mirzapur (U.P.)

Sponsor:

National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI), Hyderabad (A.P.)

- Participation from NCRI:**
1. Dr. S.V. Prabhath (IAS), Chairman
 2. Dr. S. Satpathy, Coordinator, Micro-Planning Unit
- NGO Representation:**
1. Mr. Ishwar Chandra, Vivek Sadhna Mandir, Allahabad
 2. Mr. Lalji Singh, Secretary, Shramjivi Seva Samiti, Allahabad
 3. Mr. Krantibhushan, Secretary, Jan Sanrakshan Samiti, Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi
 4. Mr. Arun Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, BKVS, Banda
 5. Mr. Vinod Shankar Pandey, Secretary, SGSS, Mirzapur
 6. Mrs. Shalindri Shrivastastava, Secretary, Mala Mahila Utthan Evam Shikshan Sansthan, Mirzapur
 7. Mr. Akhilesh Kumar, Secretary, Manav Samajik Kalyan Evam Arthik Vikas Sanstha, Mirzapur
- PRI Representatives:**
(Present and Former)
1. Mr. Idrish Ali
 2. Mr. Madan Lal
 3. Mr. Murli
 4. Mr. Ayodhya Prasad
 5. Mr. Izzat Ali
 6. Mr. Nasir Ali
 7. Mr. Sabhajeet
 8. Mr. Arjun
 9. Mr. Maiku Lal
 10. Mr. Ramshiromani Maurya
 11. Mrs. Basanti Devi
- Other Participants:**
- Participation of SHG members, village peoples, CREDA volunteers, ex child labourers, women's group members, schoolteachers, *dalit* groups, rural staff of the organization, health workers, local farmers, landless agriculture labourers, etc.
- Resource Persons:**
1. Prof. B.N. Juyal, Ex Professor of Sociology and Rural Development, Gandhian Institute of Studies, 1, Mahamanapuri Ext., PO BHU, Varanasi
 2. Mr. Shamshad Khan, Secretary, CREDA and Community Development Expert
 3. Ms. Shamim Bano, Project Associate, Women's Development, CREDA
 4. Mr. Ramnath Shivendra, Social Anthropologist, Sonebhadra

- Workshop Facilitation:**
1. Mr. Noorul Islam
 2. Mr. Raj Kumar
 3. Mr. Irfan M. Khan
 4. Mr. Ramroop Rao
 5. Mrs. Chandrawati
 6. Mrs. Sadhna Vishwakarma

Total Number of participants : 130

Objectives of the Workshop:

1. Introduction about the concept and framework of micro-level planning
2. To make the village people aware about importance of micro-level planning
3. Role of micro-level planning in village / rural development
4. To share the experiences on development and micro-level planning
5. To encourage the village youth leadership and their involvement in the development of the village through the intervention of micro-level planning
6. Strategies for ensuring people's participation in micro-level planning in village / panchayat
7. To find out special need of women and children in the village
8. Methodologies to prepare village development on the basis of outcome of micro-level planning
9. To share the findings of the micro-level planning with government functionaries at block, district and state level
10. To demand governmental support for the development of the village on the basis of result of micro-level planning
11. To encourage PRIs for their cooperation, support and participation in micro-level planning
12. To spread the message of Nai Taleem and its relevance in the rural development

- Methodology:**
1. Display
 2. Presentation
 3. Question and answer
 4. Sharing of experience
 5. Deliberation by experts

Workshop Proceedings:

Display of Materials

25 years achievements of CREDA was displayed through print materials, photographs, report from national and international agencies and researches, video film CDs, transparencies, and process documentation.



The workshop started at 10:30 am. The house was full. The number of participants was more than invited. To begin with, Dr. S.V. Prabhath planted the sapling of *neem* tree at rural resource centre of the organization.



Session-I

Dr. Prabhath chaired the first session of the workshop. The Secretary of CREDA Mr. Shamshad Khan welcomed the NCRI Chairman Dr. S.V. Prabhath and Coordinator (Micro-Planning Unit) Dr. Sachi Satpathy. Dr. Prabhath was introduced with resource persons and NGO representatives in the workshop. The Chairman, NCRI was also introduced with ex child labourers who with the help of CREDA were rescued from child labour and provided opportunity for education. Now they have completed graduation or post graduation and well placed in life. Dr. Prabhath formally inaugurated the workshop by lighting the lamp. Others who participated in this event were Prof. B.N. Juyal, Mr. Shamshad Khan, Dr. Sachi Satpahy and Dr. Sanjay Singh, Reader, M.G.K.V., Varanasi.



Mr. Ishwar Chandra from Allahabad highlighted the issue of migrant labour in silica mine and stone quarries in Shankargarh block of Allahabad district and also highlighted the exploitation. He told that these migrant labourers come from Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring districts of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. Numbering about 10,000 are living inhuman life while working in mines and quarries. These labourers are taken back by the political parties to their respective villages for casting their vote. They do not have any right of the land on which they erected their hut or mud house. Mr. Ishwar Chandra told that we are struggling for long time for the rights of these labourers.



Mr. Krantibhushan representing Jan Sanrakshan Samiti (NGO) told that they have been working for the cause of migrant bonded and child labourers working in the carpet industry. He further told that it is very difficult task because of the powerful carpet lobby and their relation with administration.

Mr. Ramnath Shivendra told that he comes from an area which is surrounded with forest. The cultivated land has been declared as forest land causing great hardship to the tribals who were subsisting on forest produce and cultivation from the land. It is difficult for the tribals to prove the ownership of their land because no record is available with them. He further told that the one of the causes of spreading the naxalism in his area is the deprivation of the tribals from their ancestor land.

Mr. Shamshad Khan told that he is highly grateful to NCRI for their kind support in organizing the workshop. He further told that in his 30 years of social life, it is the first time that a quick response has been received. He mentioned that it shows the work culture and commitment of NCRI. He then requested Dr. Prabhath to address the participants.

Dr. Prabhath in his address deliberated that although this is a short visit due to certain reason but this is useful to me to be aware about various issues. My purpose was also to come and meet the committed team here. The solution of the problem of the people and village can be effectively addressed by organization like CREDA. He gave the example of earthworm which benefits the farmers by making the land fertile and similarly the organization like this working in the rural areas playing the similar role. Person like Shamshad Khan and his leadership is making useful intervention for the cause of rural poor and our purpose is to highlight such persons and organizations.

Dr. Prabhath told to the audience that I want to know what type of work you intent to do for rural development. The good insight has come to me about the micro-level planning after hearing from the presentation.

The local resource and local talent are important for development planning. This is also important to know that what type of awareness is to be built on the basis of Gandhian thoughts and ideology. The problem of child labour, health issues and many other problems could be solved through micro-planning. It is important to be a part of village and be involved in planning of the village and also effectively collaborate with the government for development. He



emphasized that focus on issue-wise development plan and also encouraged that rural youth should be in focus and better training and education must be provided to them. NCRI will be happy to send a group of youths to this part of the remote area so that they can do in-depth study resulting in development planning.

Prof. B.N. Juyal highlighted the importance of models and techniques of micro-level planning. He emphasized on classification of the issues, wealth ranking, seasonability, and scarcity period in a village setup. He further told that where a little work has been done to understand the problem in the villages and thus no one is able to provide accurate solution. Either there is lack of solution or the responsible people are insensitive. Gandhian way of planning is Total Village Development (Samagra Gram Vikas) and total village development is possible only

through village level micro-planning because micro-planning will certainly highlight about the resources and productivity. He gave the example of water harvesting in this regard. While speaking on Nai Taleem he said that this is important the rural children should learn the rural craft and the choice of learning could be identified through micro-level planning. In Uttar Pradesh, the handloom industry ranks second after agriculture sector but the government is not paying required attention in this sector whereas Andhra Pradesh government is providing growth oriented support to the weaving community. Institutional barriers which are impediment in the development of the people should be broken. Mahatma Gandhi said that Gram Swaraj is the only answer for the village development and there should be good relation between the rural and urban areas.



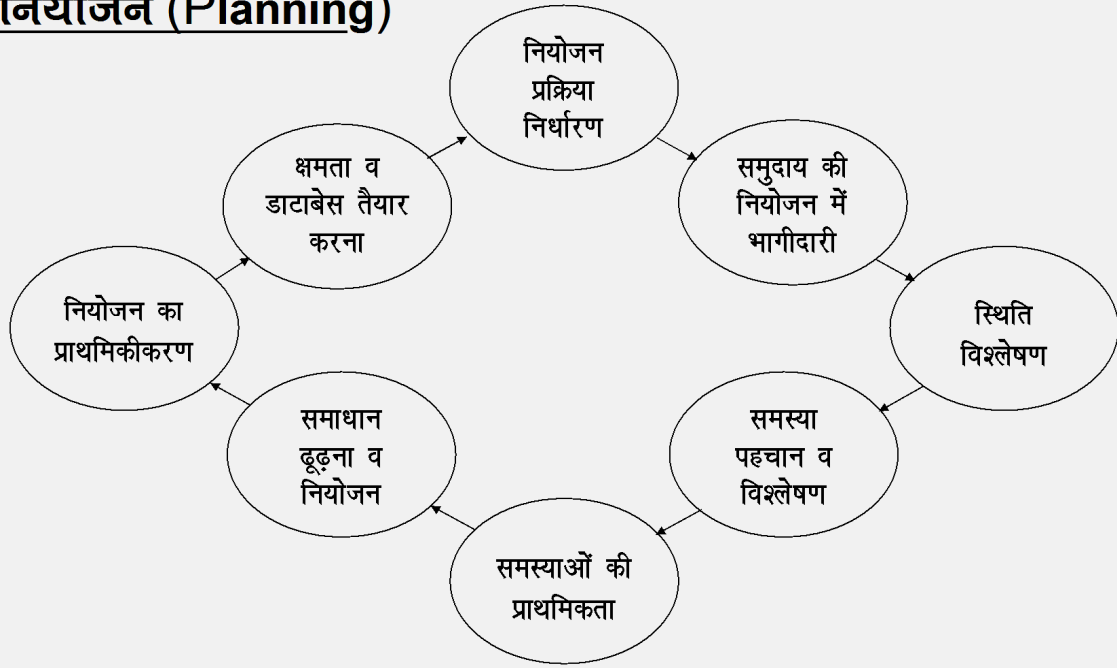
Mr. Shamshad Khan told the participants that micro-planning is one of the best tool to understand the various issues, problems, impediments, requirements for developing a plan for village development. Micro-planning in one way is the best exercise to identify various needs of the village. The plans which are prepared at state or district level do not generally focus to solving the issue at micro-level because the plans prepared at the top are not village specific because it lacks identify the need of the villages. The actual situation of the village or area could be understood only through micro-planning. Mr. Khan requested the participants that when go back to villages, they must give serious thought about the requirement of micro-planning for their villages and collaborate CREDA for further actions and initiatives. The panchayat representatives present here must rive for creating *Nirmal Gram* and for this a micro-planning will be required to identify the number of families requiring toilet in the village. He told it is just an example and many other issues could be taken up. Families could be identified who are underfed and for such families a grain bank needs to be established with the contribution of people. People need information for their development e.g. NREGA has several component which for the benefit of the rural workers and but do not have access to the information. The youth could be given orientation and training to educate the people about their entitlements.

Ms. Shamim Bano focused on micro-level planning by displaying charts and diagram. She also emphasized how micro-planning could be beneficial in solving various problems faced by women and adolescent girls. She presented few case studies in this regard. She told that the village themselves are not aware about their food calendar and thus nutritional requirement of the people for healthy living is not known to the people. She presented a food calendar to make the participants aware about it. When speaking on the importance of micro-planning she emphasized on the social mapping of the village. The map could be prepared through a participatory of the village people. On the basis of micro-planning, in-depth knowledge about the problem could be obtained and further discussion could be held for the solution of the problems on the basis of the findings of the micro-plan.

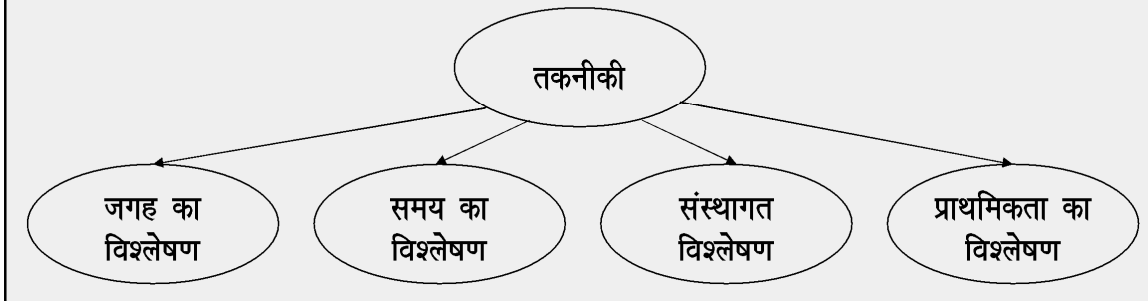


Annual Food Calendar

नियोजन (Planning)



पी.एल.ए. की तकनीकियाँ (Techniques of PLA)



She emphasized the role and involvement of women in micro-level planning, generally for any development work in the village they are not consulted and problems related to them are not discussed. Women's participation in micro-planning will certainly empower them and they will come openly to discuss many facts, problems and issues which are gender requirement.

After tea break, Dr. Sachi Satpathy addressed the participants. He told in detail about NCRI that it is an autonomous body of Ministry of Human Resource Development. NCRI is in the process of identifying lead NGOs to work for the rural poor with emphasis on Nai Taleem. NCRI also encourages the organizations in various ways to be useful to the rural people. He gave the example about importance of GIS and MIS. Mr. Satpathy focused on certain very important rural problems such as food security, sanitation, safe drinking



water, rural employment and underemployment in agriculture sector. He encouraged the participants to come out with the problems in their villages. Few problems that came out from participants were related to drinking water, electric supply, medical problems, RCH problems, higher dropout rate among girls at primary and upper primary level, safety and security in forest areas, irrigation and diseases among cattle. Micro-planning is a tool in which civil society and panchayat are to be involved effectively to plan the strategy for village development and try for resources from government and non-government sources for the development.

A *dalit* activist from village Rajpur focused on the land problem related to the forest department. Many PRIs told that certain programmes are imposed upon us for example the cost of the construction of a toilet is Rs. 1,500. This amount is insufficient to construct a quality toilet in the village. Participants anonymously focused on corruption in rural development programmes and told that organized efforts are needed against corruption, injustice and deprivation.

The Gandhian way of fighting corruption and injustice was appreciated and participants told that at gram panchayat level committees should be formed to have a vigil on quality of development work and combating the corruption.

Lunch Break



Session-II

The second session was chaired by Prof. B.N. Juyal. Because of the paucity of the time, it was suggested that instead of group discussion, question-answer session should be held. It was an open house discussion and questions were invited from the participants. The participants were asked following three important questions:

1. What are the problems existing in the village?
2. What could be done for the solution of the problems?
3. How micro-level planning will be useful in solving the problems?

The participants discussed the above issues and came out with the following:

1. They are aware of the various problems
2. Do not know how to plan a solution
3. Do not know the various steps in micro-planning
4. Want to plan but lacks knowledge of planning

5. How to involve people in planning
6. How to organize transparent planning
7. What are the limits of the planning which can be achieved.

Prof. Juyal said that Mahatma Gandhi was of the view that Gram Swaraj is the best answer for village development and for this the group of the villages or *nyay panchayat* should develop capability for development planning and there should be relation between one village to another village while doing the planning. Prof. Juyal further said that in micro-level planning of the village, one standard strategy can not be adopted. It varies from one situation to another situation. It is also important to keep in the mind about the resources available in the village and resources required from outside the village. It is also important to have transparency in the linkages. Fundamentally, the linkages should be an integral part of people's participation at local / village level. While speaking on techniques of micro-level planning, Prof. Juyal said that diversity exist in the community / village so that any standard for micro-level planning can not adopted. It will depend on situations. Mahatma Gandhi always dreamt for a joint family and village is a unit of joint family.

Concluding Session

In the concluding session, Mr. Shamshad Khan highlighted on major issues discussed in the workshop. He said that this one day workshop has built up a sense of understanding among the participants to visualize and think over about the development of villages by adopting the appropriate tools and techniques of micro-level planning. He hoped that NCRI will partner with us in preparing micro-plan of village in this remote rural part of Uttar Pradesh. The micro-plan which will be prepared will be shared with concerned department for their support and cooperation for better life opportunities to rural poor. Prof. B.N. Juyal confirmed that he will be in supporting role during the preparation of the micro-level plan in this area. Wherever required, Right to Information (RTI) Act will be applied. He hoped that basic thought about the preparation of micro-plan must have development among participants from rural areas and they will be active with their ideas and action in their respective village.

Participants openly discussed the problems and issue in their villages. These includes

1. Preparation of the BPL card, land *patta*, health services, RCH, NREGA, drinking water, drainage, etc.
2. Discussion was also held on role of panchayats and also inactiveness of village heads and representatives.
3. Participants decided to roughly prepare an identification chart about the problems of their villages
4. Will take in-depth training from CREDA in preparing the micro-level plan
5. Youths and women will be made aware about micro-planning and their participation will be ensured
6. Youth will be properly trained regarding micro-level planning in development
7. Certain clusters of the village will be identified to prepare micro-level plan with the help of NCRI

Vote of Thanks

The Founder Secretary of CREDA Mr. Shamshad Khan gratefully acknowledged the support of NCRI and presence of its chairman Dr. S.V. Prabhath and Coordinator (MLP Unit) Dr. Sachi Satpathy for their participation in the workshop in one of the remotest village of Uttar Pradesh. He also thanked to all the resource persons, NGO representatives, PRI representatives, SHGs and representatives from various villages.