

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

Several PRA tools are available for data collection, however a few of these are discussed which will be used in rapport building as well data collection at the village level.

a. Social Map

Social mapping is perhaps the most popular method in PRA. For many, in fact, it is synonymous with PRA itself. The focus here is on the depiction of habitation patterns and the nature of housing and social infrastructure: roads, drainage systems, schools, drinking water facilities, etc.

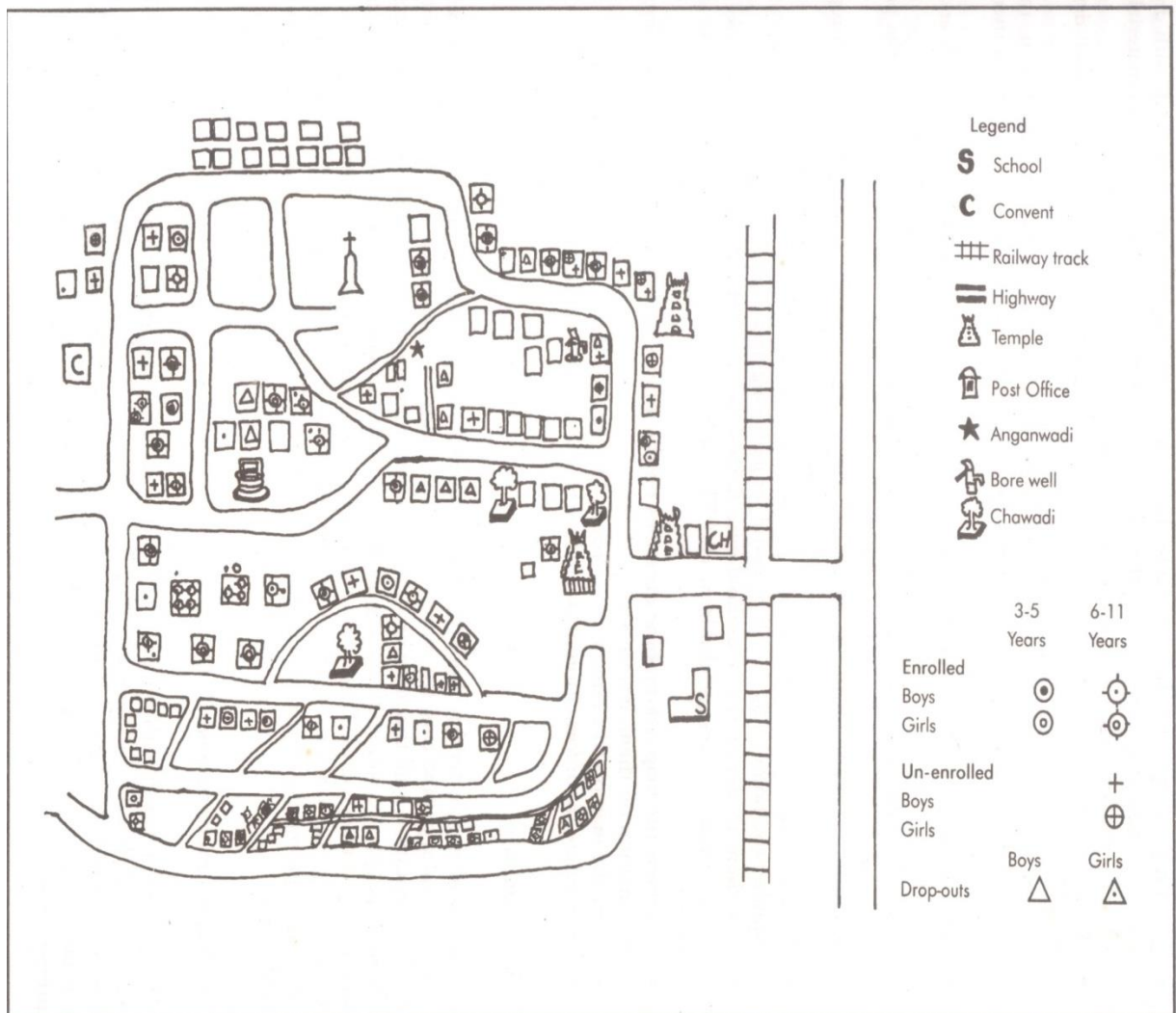
Social map is different from other regular maps in significant ways. For one, it is made by local people and not by experts. For another, it is not drawn to scale. It depicts what the local people believe to be relevant and important for them. Thus it reflects their perceptions of the social dimensions with their reality with the high degree of authenticity. In spite of there being many overlaps, a social map is different from a resource map. The latter depicts the natural resources – land, water sources, flora and fauna, etc. In certain cases, though, a map could be a rich combination of the two. This is a quite often so in the case of areas having a dispersed settlement pattern.

Applications

The chief feature of a social map is that it is a big help in developing a broad understanding for the various facets of social reality, viz., social stratification, demographics, settlements patterns, social infrastructure, etc. The diverse applications of social maps include:

- Developing a comprehensive understanding of the physical and social aspects of village life.
- Collecting demographic and other required information household – wise
- Providing a forum of discussion in high to unravel the various aspects of social life
- Serving as a monitoring and evaluating tool.

Figure 2.1 Social Map of Chetlamallapuram Village



Social Map

b. Resource Map:

Resource map is one of the most commonly used PRA methods next to social map. While the **social map** focuses on habitation, community facilities, roads, temples, etc., the **resource map** focuses on the natural resources in the locality and depicts land, hills, rivers, fields, vegetation etc. A resource map may cover habitation as well. At times, the distinction between the resource and social map may get blurred.

A resource map in PRA is not drawn to scale. It is done not by experts, but by the local people. The local people are considered to have an in-depth knowledge for the surroundings where they have survived for a long time. Hence the resource map drawn by the local people is considered to be accurate and detailed. It is important to keep in mind, however, that it reflects the people's perception rather than precise measurements to scale. Thus, a resource map reflects how people view their own locality in terms of natural resources.

Applications

Resource maps have been used for depicting of various aspects related to the natural resource management of a locality including:

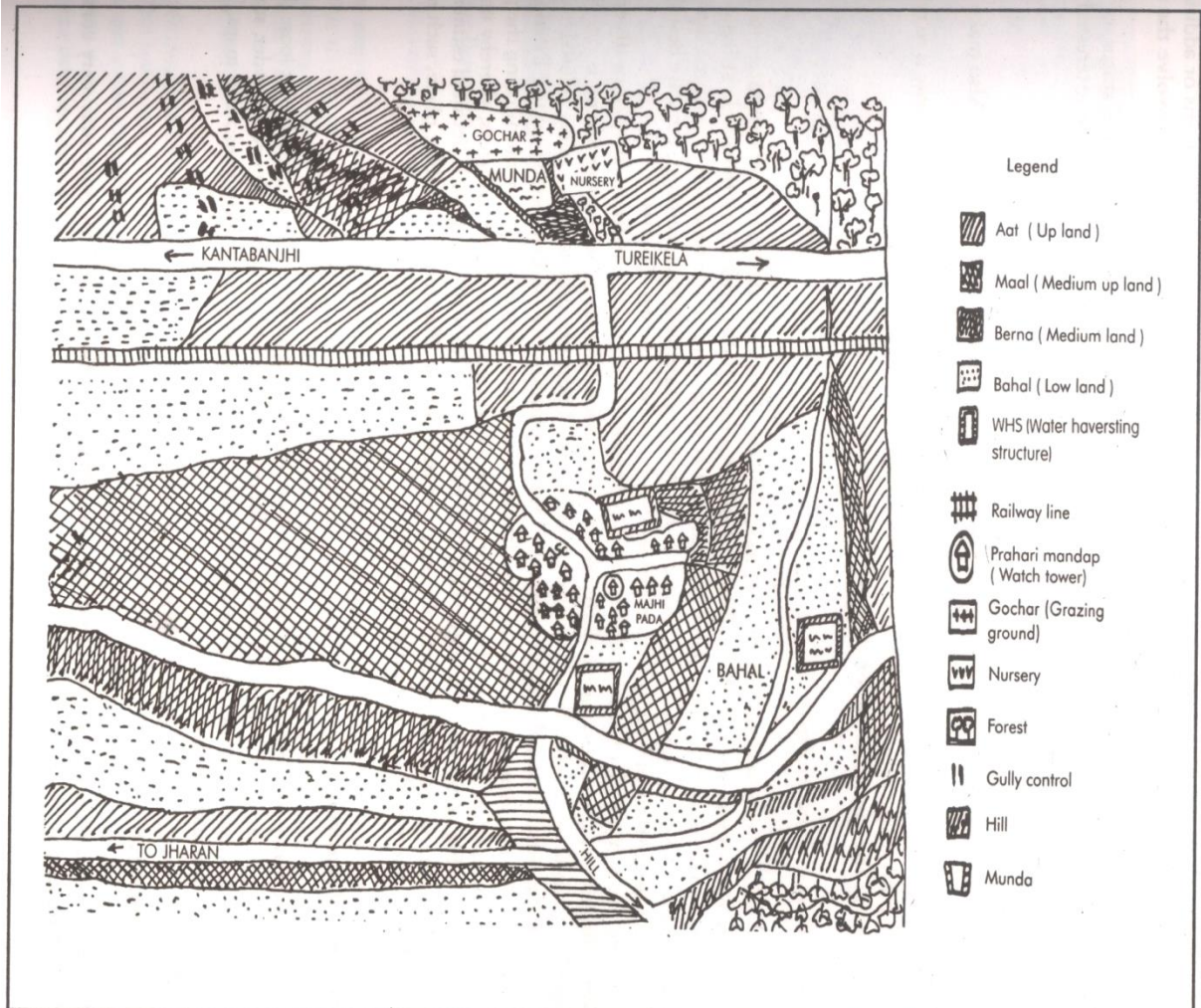
- Topography, terrain and slopes
- Forest, vegetation and tree species
- Soil-type, fertility, erosion and depth
- Land and land use, command area, tenure, boundaries and ownership
- Water, water bodies, irrigation sources, rivers and drainage
- Watershed development, various soil and water conservation measures, denuded areas, etc.
- Agricultural developments, cropping pattern, productivity, etc.

Resource maps have been found especially useful because they provide a focussed spatial structure for discussion and analysis.

Figure 2.8 Resource Map

Village: Nuapada

31 July 1998



Resource Map

c. Transect walk:

Transect is another PRA method used to explore the spatial dimensions of people's realities. It has been popularly used for natural resource management. It provides a cross sectional representation of the different agro- ecological zones and their comparison against certain parameters including topography, land type, land usage, ownership, access, soil type, soil fertility, vegetation, crops, problems, opportunities and solutions.

Though natural resources remain the focus of any transect, this does not mean that there is no place for the depiction of social aspects. Various social aspects for e.g., the caste and ethnic determinants of a settlement, access and control and gender-related dimensions are captured in detail, depending upon the objectives of the exercise.

A transect is different from resource map despite areas of overlap. The resource map provides a bird's eye view of the locality with a focus of natural resources. A transect, however depicts a cross sectional view of the different agro- ecological zones and provides a comparative assessment of the zones of different parameters. It is generally done after a resource map and, therefore, helps in triangulation. It also helps in taking forward the process of problem identification and planning for the development of the natural resources in the area.

Applications

Transects has been used for various purposes including:

- Appraisal of natural resources in terms of status problems and potential
- Verification of issues raised during other PRA exercise particularly during social mapping, natural resources mapping, etc.
- Planning of various interventions and checking the relevance of the planned interventions
- Monitoring and evaluation of interventions and projects.

d. Timeline:

Time line is an important PRA method quite commonly used to explore the temporal dimensions from historical perspective. Time line captures the chronology of events as recalled by local people. It is drawn as a sequential aggregate of past events. It thus provides the historical landmarks of a community individual or institutions. The important point to note here is that it is not history as such but events of the past as perceived and recalled by the people themselves.

Applications

The time line method helps:

- To learn from the community what they consider to be important past events.
- To understand from the community the historical perspective on current issues.
- To generate discussions on changes with respect to issue you are interested in, e.g., education, health, food security, gender relations economic conditions, etc.
- To develop a rapport with the villagers, since a discussion about the past of the village can be a good non threatening and enjoyable starting point.

Figure 3.1 Time Line

Village: 49 Bannur

April 19

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1905 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of irrigation tank • Main crops were jowar, horse gram and a coarse cereal locally known as Korra |
| 1931 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought—20 families migrated |
| 1940 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private school building constructed |
| 1945 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 irrigation wells excavated. Led to changes in crops cultivated later. |
| 1950 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church built |
| 1954 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First 'sarpanch' (chief of the local self government at the village level) was elected |
| 1960 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought |
| 1969 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel road laid |
| 1977 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity connection to the village |
| 1983 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government school buildings—one Telugu and one Urdu medium constructed |
| 1985 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two drinking water tanks built |
| 1991 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus service started to the village |
| 1992 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings and credit programme started |
| 1995 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First woman elected as 'sarpanch' |
| 1996 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanction of government housing colony for the weaker section |
| 1997 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention of BIRDS—a voluntary organisation in the village • First television set in the village |

Participants: Fakruddin (male, 70 years), Sarojamma (female, 50 years), Subbamma (female about 90 years), Tirapalu (male, 55 years) and others
Facilitator: Anil Kumar

Time line

e. Seasonal Map:

Seasonal diagram is also called seasonal calendar, seasonal activity profile and seasonal analysis. Seasonal diagram is one of the popular PRA methods that has been used for temporal analysis across annual cycles, with months or seasons as the basic unit of analysis. It reflects the perceptions of the local people regarding seasonal variations on a wide range of items. Seasonal diagrams, however, are not based on statistics, though they may be triangulated against secondary or primary data in order to verify the information generated.

Seasons are an integral part of people's lives and exert an important impact upon the livelihood of the local people, particularly in rural areas. Seasonal diagrams have been used to explore what happens during the year and when. Quantification and depiction of the magnitude of the various activities adds to their utility and richness.

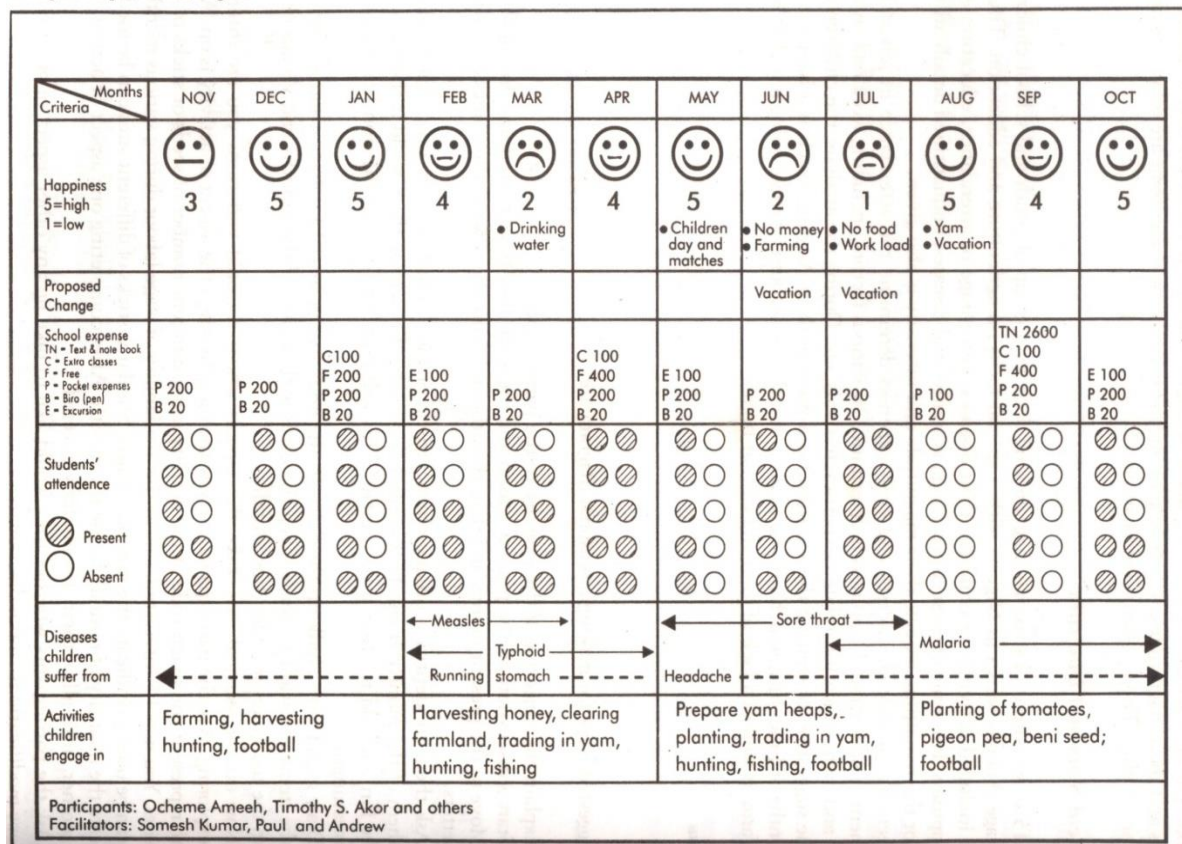
Applications

Seasonal diagram helps to identify heavy workload periods, periods of relative ease, credit crunch, diseases, food security, wage availability etc. It has proved to be useful in project planning, i.e., when to implement various activities. It has been used to identify periods of stress and to plan for when intervention is most required. With a seasonal diagram it is possible to identify and analyse the livelihood pattern across the year. The major strength of seasonal analysis is that it depicts a range of items and their magnitudes, which helps in understanding how these items are related to and influence one another. These relationships can be quite revealing.

Figure 3.15 Seasonal Diagram: Agriculture and Education

Village: Aukpa-Adoka, Nigeria

June 1999



Seasonal Map

(Notes on PRA are taken from the book on Methods of Community Participation by Shri Somesh Kumar)

Responsibility Chart under the guidelines.

Sr. No.	Authority	Responsibility
1.	Sarpanch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman of VDC Chairman of Standing Committee The bills, vouchers, acquittance rolls shall be prepared, approved and signed by the V.P. Secretary and Sarpanch.
2.	V P Secretary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shall maintain registers as prescribed in form No. 9 separately for Part – I, Part – II and Part – III of VPDP for the grants available/received as Resource Envelop during the year of implementation. Shall intimate to the VDC, the quantum of funds available/received as Resource Envelop for Part – I, Part – II and Part – III of VPDP during the year of implementation. Shall also maintain Asset Register containing the name of the project/work, ward number and location, estimate, amount sanctioned, date of its forwarding the proposal to the office of BDO, date of sanction received, date of commencement of the project, amount incurred for its execution and savings, if any, name of the agency/persons to whom the work is awarded, date of completion of the project/work, total amount paid to the agency/persons, date of social audit, and such other details required from time to time.
3.	VDC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shall create awareness about preparation of VPDP Shall prepare situation analysis report.

		3. Shall be responsible for the preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan every year.
4.	Convenor	1. Responsible for VPDP along with other members.
5.	Standing and Functional committees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They are members of VDC. 2. They will submit reports and conduct social audit in their respective sectors.
6.	Co – ordination, Supervision, Monitoring Committee	1. The co - ordination, supervision and monitoring committee at the Panchayat level shall be constituted by the VDC amongst the members themselves, comprising of members not exceeding eleven.
7.	Village Panchayat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall also identify a group of 15 volunteers to assist the resource team and VDC in the participatory process. 2. Shall furnish reports as per existing proformas prescribed by Director of Panchayats and as may be prescribed from time to time. 3. Shall also update reports through Management Information System (MIS) regularly. 4. Shall maintain photographs of projects undertaken during the process of execution of projects. 5. Shall display the list of works/projects to be executed in the different areas in detail the village on the notice board. 6. Shall display the list of completed works/project executed in the village.
8.	Gram Sabha	1. The Gram Sabha shall prioritize the proposals as per the situation analysis vis- a vis resource envelope and propose the VPDP for estimation.
9.	Block Development Officer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BDO shall take steps to constitute the committees as required. 2. Any dispute regarding the viability or admissibility of VPDP shall be referred to the Block Level

		<p>Empowered Committee. The decision of the Block Level Empowered Committee shall be final.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Block Development Officer shall verify the VPDP in all respects and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. accord administrative approval and financial sanction to Part – I of the VPDP and convey the same to the Gram Panchayat within seven days, from the date of its receipt from the Village Panchayat, under intimation to the Director of Panchayats. b. Forward Part II of the VPDP to the Director of Panchayats, duly verified in all respects, within seven days from the date of receipt of the VPDP from the Village Panchayat. c. Forward Part III of the VPDP to the concerned line departments, within seven days from the date of receipt of the VPDP from the Village Panchayat, under intimation to the Director of Panchayats. 4. Block Development Officer shall be the Chairman of the committee. 5. Block Development Officer shall monitor, co-ordinate and supervise the overall planning process of the VPDP at block level.
10.	Block Level Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Block Development Officer shall be the Chairman of the committee. 2. Other members of the Committee shall be as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Block President of Mahila Shakti Abhiyan. (ii) Executive Engineer of line departments or his representative not below the rank of Asst. Engineer and the functionaries of line depts. to be appointed/nominated by the Block Development Officer.

		(iii) The Extension Officer Village Panchayats shall be the Member Secretary of this Committee.
11.	Technical Wing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The estimates of the projects shall be prepared by the Junior Engineers of the Panchayat or by the other functionaries of the line departments. 2. Estimates upto Rs 2.00 lakhs shall be executed by the Junior engineers after obtaining administrative and financial sanction by Block Development Officer. 3. Technical approval shall be accorded by Junior Engineers for the proposals upto 2.00 lakhs as per prevailing technical guidelines. 4. The technical section in the Office of the BDO and the line departments shall be responsible for providing technical support. 5. The technical wing shall prepare estimates and accord technical sanction of the prioritized works of VPDP and put up before VDC for approval.
12.	Director of Panchayats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director of Panchayats shall be the Member Secretary of the State Empowered Committee. 2. The Director of Panchayats and GIPARD shall create the necessary environment and awareness various means such as organizing workshops, distribution of IEC material and also through print and electronic media, Doordarshan and local channels. 3. The Director of Panchayats shall appoint the charged officer for each Village Panchayat. 4. The Director of Panchayats shall issue guidelines from time to time on all areas / issues relating to the preparation of VPD Plans. 5. The grants/support under State Government will be released by Director of Panchayats

		<p>6. The Director of Panchayats shall release funds to GIPARD to conduct training and related activities for capacity building.</p> <p>7. Any query arising with regard to preparation and implementation of any project/work of VPDP shall be addressed to the Director of Panchayats and the decision of the Director of Panchayat shall be final.</p> <p>8. The Director of Panchayats shall dispose such query within a period of thirty days by affording reasonable opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.</p> <p>9. Necessary guidelines, notifications, etc. shall be issued by the Director of Panchayats.</p> <p>10. A Co coordinating and monitoring cell comprising of IT personnel and support staff shall be constituted at the Directorate of Panchayat for coordinating the preparation and implementation of the village development plan by the Village Panchayat.</p> <p>11. Any dispute regarding the viability or admissibility of any project/work of VPDP shall be referred to the Director of Panchayats whose decision shall be final.</p>
13.	Line Department	<p>1. Line department shall be the member of the State Empowered committee concerned.</p> <p>2. The estimates of the projects shall be prepared by the Junior Engineers of the Panchayat or by the other functionaries of the line departments.</p> <p>3. The Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Panchayats, Project Directors of DRDAs and Heads of line Departments shall extend their support in the process of preparation and execution of VPDP.</p>
14.	Secretary Panchayats	<p>1. The Secretary Panchayat shall be the member of the State Empowered Committee.</p>
15.	Chief Secretary	<p>1. The Chief Secretary shall be the Chairman of the Empowered Committee at State level.</p>

16.	State level empowered committee	1. The Committee shall oversee the co ordination, supervision and monitoring of GP Plans.
17.	GIPARD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GIPARD will create the environment for intensive and extensive approach of participatory planning through capacity building. 2. GIPARD shall be the nodal agency for capacity building for participatory planning. 3. GIPARD shall conduct training programmes to the resource teams, volunteers and VDC members. 4. GIPARD shall create the necessary environment and awareness various means such as organizing workshops, etc. 5. A pool of resource persons from NGOs, Women's groups, youth groups, and academicians shall be identified as resource persons by GIPARD. 6. GIPARD shall provide the capacity building and training support to the Village panchayats for participatory planning process. 7. Handbooks, manuals, checklists for trainers as well as for trainees shall be provided by GIPARD. 8. GIPARD shall develop annual schedule of training and capacity building programmes for all the Elected Representatives, all committees and the functionaries involved in preparation and implementation of VPDP. 9. GIPARD will carry out research studies in the area of participatory planning and development process and publish the same. 10. GIPARD will document the best practices in participatory planning process at Gram Panchayatlevel.

		11. GIPARD will prepare manuals, training modules, reading material and shall also train resource teams, master trainers at all levels of preparation with the assistance of senior officers from line departments, NGOs, academic institutions, etc.
18.	Master Trainers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train the Resource persons 2. Train the Standing, functional and Village Development Committees 3. Assist in monitoring
19.	Resource Persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource persons will act as support teams to prepare village development plans. 2. Based on the data collected the members of the VDC along with the resource persons/teams shall prepare the status report of each sector prior to the commencement of village participatory planning process.