1) Describe the various applications of participatory rural appraisal tools and techniques for conducting field work and in implementation of development projects.

Ans: 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

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.

Transect:

A 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

Transect 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. Serving as a monitoring and evaluating tool.

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 issues 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.

2) Discuss the various programmes being undertaken in the Orangi Pilot Project.

Ans: The Orangi Pilot Project collectively designates three Pakistani Non-governmental organisations working together, having emerged from a socially innovative project carried out in 1980s in the squatter areas of Orangi Town, Karachi, Pakistan. It was initiated by Akhtar Hameed Khan, and