ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY 1988 – MARCH 1989

SOCIETY FOR PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN ASIA

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This Activity Report has been prepared for the period of January 1988 to March 1989. This period was one of further consolidation of PRIA'S programmes and activities, and also marked the beginning of our evaluation, the process of which was finally concluded in 1989. This event has helped us not only to assess our present work, but also to plan for the future. During this period also, the strategy of diversifying the activities of PRIA in each programme and building collaboration with other organizations so that joint initiatives could be undertaken was further intensified and implemented.
PARTICIPATORY TRAINING PROGRAMMES

* Training of Trainers: Round IV

The Training of Trainers Programme completed its fourth round in 1988. Unlike the previous Rounds, in this Round, Phase One was held twice, the second of which was at the beginning of the year in Madras at the Life Help Center for the Handicapped from February 5-12, 1988. Twelve participants from seven organizations attended this training. A report in English has been prepared by PRIA.

Phase II of Round IV was held at Wardha at the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, from April 4-12, 1988. Twenty one participants attended this Phase. A report of this Phase has been prepared by PRIA.

The third Phase was held at the Rural Development Trust, Anantpur from August 2-8, 1988. Fifteen participants attended this Phase. A report has been prepared by PRIA.

* Training of Trainers: Round V

The first Phase of Round V was held at the Kaya Rural Training Center, Udaipur from January 9-17, 1989. This was attended by thirty-six participants.

* Training of Trainers (Hindi)

The first round of the National Training of Trainers programme in Hindi was completed in 1988. The first phase was held at Udaipur from February 20-27, 1988. Twenty four participants from fifteen organizations attended this training. This training was jointly conducted by ASTHA and PRIA. The second phase was held at the Kasturba Gram, Indore, from July 12-20, 1988. Twenty-two participants attended this phase. The third phase was held at Chitrakoot in October 1988.

* Participatory Training Network

As part of the follow-up activities of the Participatory Training Network which was formed in January 1987, the following activities took place during the year:

Regional Workshop on Participatory Training Methodology:

A two day workshop was organised by the Child In Need Institute, Calcutta on Participatory Training Methodology on March 26-27, 1988. Fifteen participants from different NGOs of the region attended the workshop.
Support to Organizations

Shramik Bharati: A one day orientation and programme planning workshop was held for the staff of Shramik Bharati, Kanpur on December 28, 1988.

Training of Trainers for Adult Education Functionaries

A Training of Trainers Programme was organised by PRIA in collaboration with Deepayatan, Bihar for Adult Education Functionaries at Netrahat, Bihar. Thirty two adult educators participated in this training held from January 9-17, 1988.

National Literacy Mission: Training of Trainers

Also in collaboration with Deepayatan, PRIA conducted simultaneous programmes of Training of Trainers in five districts of Bihar. This was the second phase of training that was planned as a part of the launching of the National Literacy Mission. The first phase was held in Patna, in May 1988, where the master trainers for this programme were trained. In the second phase, these master trainers formed teams and worked in seven centers simultaneously. These were - Pusa (2 centers), Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur, Madhopur (2 centers) and Ranchi. About 250 adult education functionaries attended these training programmes.

Workshop on Training in Development, Needs, Methodologies and Strategies

A three day Training Workshop was organised by the Ford Foundation at Surajkund, Haryana from April 27-29, 1988. Forty five participants from all over the country participated. PRIA also participated and presented a paper, "Training vs. Learning", as well as a case study presentation of Training of Trainers.

NIPPCD Workshop

To identify training needs for women in Rural Development a workshop was organised by NIPPCD from April 13-15, 1988. PRIA participated in the plenary and small group sessions as resource persons.
**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

* A workshop on Worker’s Education and Occupational Health held from 23rd to 25th April, 1988 at Kodaikanal. This was organised in collaboration with the Institute for Self Management, Madurai. Sixty participants, who are working with the unorganized sector in Tamil Nadu attended the workshop.

* A workshop on Occupational Health and Safety was held at Jamshedpur from May 21-22, 1988. Forty-two participants including worker activists, lawyers and supervisors attended the workshop.

* A workshop on Occupational Health and Safety was held at Hyderabad from July 19-20, 1988. The participants included Trade Union leaders, Safety Managers, Safety Officials, Occupational Health Physicians and activists.

* A workshop on Occupational Health and Safety for the workers of Stone Quarries was held in Attara, UP, in collaboration with Abhiyan, from August 3-4, 1988.

* A workshop on Worker’s Education was held in Jallundhur, Punjab in collaboration with Volunteers for Social Justice, from September 9-10, 1988.

* An exhibition on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy was held in Baroda in collaboration with Vyavasayik Swasth Surakshaa Mandal, Baroda, from December 2-4, 1988.

* The following workshops/seminars were attended by the Occupational Health and Safety team:


- A workshop organised by the Asian Workers Solidarity Link, from August 18-19, 1988 at the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi.

- A Refresher Course for Industrial Medical Officers, organised by the NIOH, from September 19-24, 1988.
LAND OWNERSHIP AND ALIENATION

* In February, PRIA team participated in a four day workshop on Land and Water Management, organised by Lok Chetna Manch, Ranikhet.

* PRIA team participated in a three day workshop on the Ecological Development of the Tribal Regions, held in Kurkheda, Maharashtra in February. An unique feature of the workshop was the participation of local tribals.

* PRIA team participated in a national workshop on big dams organised by Shri Baba Amte, Maharashtra. In this workshop, a detailed action was planned in which the responsibility for publishing popular material on big dams was given to us. We published a brochure titled, "Whither Big Dams?" (in English and Hindi) for wider distribution.

* In July, a regional orientation workshop on the land related issues was organised by us in Bihar. Nearly 40 participants from different groups working with rural poor took part in the workshop.

* In September, PRIA team participated in a national seminar on the Subarnarekha Dam, Bihar.

* The first trip to document the issue of coastal poor in Tamil Nadu was taken during September. A report on the visit is being prepared.

* In November, PRIA organised a national workshop on "The Issue of Land Records" in New Delhi. In this workshop, nearly 25 participants working in different parts of the country on such issues took part. A manual based on the deliberations of the workshop is being prepared.

* PRIA team paid a first visit to document the issue of Community Agriculture, with the cooperation of ASSEFA in Tamil Nadu.

* During November, PRIA along with Jay Prabha Adhayan Kendra, Bihar organised a three day workshop on, "The Impact of Subarnarekha Dam on the People". Nearly 30 participants from the region took part in the workshop. A report based on this workshop is under publication.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Seminars on Participatory Research, NGOs and Development:

* The Coordinators and key contacts from the various networks of Participatory Research met in Nicaragua during the week of January 11, 1988 to reflect on the practice of PR and the status of network.

* Reflection on the status of NGOs and role of CUSO were held in Penang end of January 1988 with Asian Field Staff of CUSO. CUSO consultation of South-Asian strategy was held from October 8-9, 1988.

* An International Forum on Participatory Evaluation was held in Delhi during March 1-5, 1988. A report of this has been published.

* Institutional development and support:

- Institutional development, support and Governing Body meetings of ASTHA in February and November 1988.

- Institutional development support and Governing Body meetings of Shramik Bharati in February and December, 1988.

- Institutional development, support and Governing Body meetings of Center for Science and Environment in March and September 1988.

- Institutional development, support and Governing Body meetings of Gram Vikas in March and November 1988.

* With the initiatives of about 25 senior leaders of NGOs in India a common platform for voluntary action (VANI), was set-up in April 1988. The meetings of the VANI were held in April, July and November 1988.

* An Evaluation of PRIA was undertaken during the year 1988-1989. In connection with this a Partners' Meeting was held in February 1989 to discuss the findings of the evaluation. A report is being prepared.

In addition to the above, members of PRIA staff attended a number of seminars and meetings. Some of these are: