

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE FELLOWSHIP, MYSURU



2nd Face to Face Training Workshop

9th & 10th August 2023

Satya Hall, SVYM, CA2, KIADB Industrial Housing Area Ring Road,
Hebbal, Mysuru-570 016



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Introduction

After numerous online sessions on topics ranging from Self, Gender, Identity to Governance¹, Fellows met again for the second face-to-face workshop on the 9th and 10th of August.

The agenda for the two-day workshop spanned a range of crucial themes, including the finalisation of research study topics, formation of cohesive research study groups, developing an understanding of stakeholder analysis, and practicing its methodologies, exploration of a few more Community-based Participatory Research tools, and ingraining the ethics of conducting Participatory Research. Additionally, a field visit to the Municipal Corporation provided an opportunity for firsthand engagement with the local governance institution and learn about on-ground experiences.

This report offers an overview of the key highlights, insights, and outcomes of the two days of intensive workshop conducted with the Y4G fellows. From refining research topics to understanding the intricacies of stakeholder management to getting a closer look at the Panchayat Raj Institutions and Municipal Corporation, the two days of the workshop were pivotal for the fellows in many ways.

Day 1

Refining Research Topics

Prior online discussions² in and around research, including participatory research, had already allowed the fellows to brainstorm ideas on topics they would like to take up for their research studies. Since the fellows were meeting face to face and were armed with preliminary ideas, it was decided that they are given some time to share among themselves their research study topics, objectives, target populations, and choose the groups they would like to work with.



Fellows Discussing Their Research Study Topics and Areas of Interest with Each Other

Fellows spent some time discussing and deliberating on issues focusing on participatory governance and social accountability they would like to work on, such as the education of

¹ Refer to Annexure-1 for details of sessions conducted so far.

² Refer for session updates- <https://www.pria.org/project/updates/youth-for-governance/589>

migrant artisans' children, the socio-emotional condition of beggars in a particular location of Mysuru, vector-borne diseases caused by contaminated water, and the health and nutritional status of mothers in a specific slum of Mysuru, among others (issues presented by the fellows). They pitched their ideas to each other, and, according to their interest, expertise, and inclination, grouped themselves. Later, they shared their research ideas with Dr. Basvaraju R. Shrestha, Executive Director of GRAAM, who provided feedback on all topics and suggestions on how to approach each issue. After all the brainstorming, discussion, and much deliberation, at the end of the day, four groups emerged, deciding to work on the following research topics:

- Group 1: Access to welfare schemes by people with disabilities
- Group 2: Status of Anganwadi Centres
- Group 3: People's Participation in Governance
- Group 4: Health status of selected slums of Mysuru

Each group was provided with a research study mentor who would offer guidance to the fellows with their research study topics. The groups spent ample time discussing their research study topics with their mentors, and the mentors helped them outline objectives, set deadlines, and determine the way forward.



Session with Dr. Basvaraju R. Shrestha, Executive Director of GRAAM, to Finalise the Research Topics

Understanding Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholders are an integral part of any project, and the project outcome is largely impacted by the process of stakeholder analysis. Since the fellows would be working on a community project and engaging with stakeholders, it was important for them to understand the process of identifying who the stakeholders in their project would be and to what extent they can affect the project. So, the session focused on who stakeholders are, what stakeholder analysis is, and the steps to conduct one.

Stakeholders were explained as any individuals, groups, or institutions that affect or are affected by a project, either positively or negatively. It was emphasised that the process of stakeholder analysis is important because it helps identify groups/individuals whose interests need to be taken into account when making decisions about a project outcome.

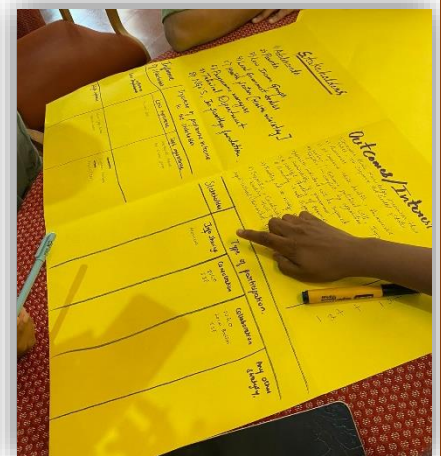
The four steps of stakeholder analysis were explained in detail through examples. The steps are:

Step 1: Identifying the stakeholders.

Step 2: Assessing stakeholder interests in the achievement of programme outcomes and the potential impact of programme outcomes in these interests.

Step 3: Assessing stakeholder influence and importance to achieve programme outcomes.

Step 4: Outlining a stakeholder participation strategy.



Fellows Conducting Stakeholder Analysis

After the session, the fellows were divided into groups, and each group was given a case study on '*Enabling Adolescents to Access Public Health Services*,' for which they were required to conduct a stakeholder analysis. Each group presented their analysis and received feedback. This exercise allowed them to practice stakeholder analysis before starting their community research studies, and many of them were also able to apply stakeholder analysis to their own research projects.

Visit to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC)

After lunch, the fellows were taken to Mysuru City Corporation (Zone 5) for an exposure visit to gain firsthand experience of the operations and functioning of the local self-government institutions. There, they met Mr. Madhukar, MCC Health and Sanitation officer.

A lengthy and comprehensive discussion between the fellows and Mr. Madhukar followed, covering various aspects of the roles, responsibilities, challenges, and achievements of the Municipal Corporation (MC). Mr. Madhukar emphasised that the MC is a self-revenue generating body, which means it generates its own funds to support its activities. He underscored the importance of waste management and highlighted the division of responsibilities between the community and the corporation. The community's role is to collect waste, while the corporation is responsible for its scientific disposal.

Furthermore, Mr. Madhukar explained the structure of local self-governments, highlighting the organisation of the corporation, the process of council body formation, and the relevant rules and regulations. He shed light on the various departments operating within the MC and emphasised the synergy required among them to ensure effective governance.



Fellows in Conversation with Mr. Madhukar, MCC Health and Sanitation

Mr. Madhukar addressed various questions posed by the fellows, which covered a range of topics. Some questions were related to their areas of interest, some pertained to their personal awareness, and others were aligned with their research topics, such as inquiries about schemes for the urban poor and the challenges the corporation encounters in delivering effective services.

The discussion with Mr. Madhukar opened their eyes to the complexities that surround the management of a city and its infrastructure. He informed us that solid waste management had been a neglected aspect until the Swachh Bharat Mission came along. He elaborated on the transformative aspect of the mission and how it had compelled local governments to prioritise waste management as an essential service.

After the discussion, the fellows were given a guided tour of the corporation's premises. They witnessed the entire process of waste disposal, starting from waste segregation to classification and ultimately its transformation into reusable products.

The visit, coupled with the in-depth interaction with the government official, allowed the fellows to gain a deeper understanding of the operations required to keep a city running and the efforts involved in creating a functional urban space.



Exposure Visit to the Mysuru City Corporation (Zone 5)

Session on 73rd Constitutional Amendment, Role of Panchayats in Delivering Services and Active Citizenship

A captivating discussion on the transformative Panchayati Raj institution was led by Dr. Meenakshisundaram, a distinguished ex-IAS officer, on the second day.

Dr. Meenakshisundaram served as the Principal Secretary to a former Chief Minister of Karnataka and held the position of Joint Secretary to three Prime Ministers of India. His session, filled with firsthand accounts and personal instances, provided an illuminating insight into the evolution, challenges, and potential of the Panchayati Raj Institution.

Beginning from the pre-Independence era, he traced the journey of the Panchayati Raj from its nascent days, starting with the existence of village communities, to Rippon's attempt to establish local self-government, and to Gandhi's idea of Swaraj. He discussed the challenges and setbacks, from the formation of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee to the decline of the institution during the emergency period, to its resurrection in the late 1980s, all of which culminated in the introduction of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts.



Session on 73rd Constitutional Amendment, Role of Panchayats in Delivering Services and Active Citizenship by Dr. Meenakshisundaram

He discussed what governance means and the types of governance that exist in the country. When it came to federalism, he pointed out that it is a system of governance in which entities such as states share power with a national government. The executive, legislative, and judicial powers of the state and the center were also discussed in detail.

As a key figure who was among the first to lay the groundwork for the Panchayati Raj Institution in the state of Karnataka, Dr. Meenakshisundaram shared insights into the decision-making process, the political dynamics shaping policies, and the expectations surrounding the institution's establishment.

Furthermore, he discussed the challenges that hinder decentralisation in India and various ways to enhance participatory governance by bringing this institution of governance closer to the people. He stressed the importance of empowering the institution with adequate powers, functions, and funds to meet the local needs of citizens and deepening people's democracy through community-based organisations, linking them to local government institutions.

He shed light not only on the historical evolution of the act but also emphasised the essence of our roles as active citizens and what we all can do to ensure our participation in governance.

By the end of the session, the fellows had a much deeper understanding not only of the Panchayati Raj Institution but were also reminded of their role as active citizens and their responsibility to participate, contribute, and engage meaningfully in their local communities.

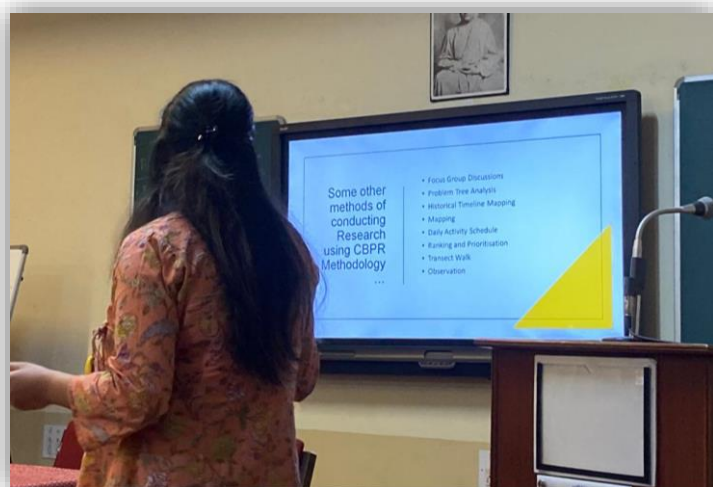
Session on CBPR Tools and Ethics of Conducting Participatory Research

In the last segment of the two-day workshop, fellows were provided with an array of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) tools. Although the fellows had previously participated in a virtual session on CBPR methodologies, this in-person session aimed to deepen their understanding of the methodology by introducing additional tools and techniques.

Various CBPR tools that the fellows can use in their research, along with their purpose, context, and techniques, were discussed in detail. These tools included Transect walk, Focused Group Discussion, Daily Activity Clock, Problem Tree Analysis and Ranking, Historical Timeline Mapping, and Observation.

In addition to these tools, the session also covered the principles and ethics of conducting participatory research. The facilitator emphasised the importance of empathy towards the community, ensuring that consent (either verbal or written) is obtained before taking pictures, maintaining confidentiality and transparency as a researcher, and establishing a collaborative and respectful relationship with the community they are engaging with. These principles and ethical considerations are paramount when conducting participatory research, and fellows were encouraged to be mindful of them while in the field.

Session on CBPR Tools and Ethics of Conducting Participatory Research



This session allowed the fellows to enhance their understanding of the nuanced interplay between research, community engagement, and ethical considerations that underlie the co-creation of knowledge with the community, which is the backbone of participatory research.

The workshop concluded with a brief discussion of the upcoming International Youth Day, scheduled for the 21st of August, and the roles and responsibilities of all the fellows.

Annexure

1. Sessions at a Glance

S.No	Name of Sessions	Facilitator	Date
1.	Orientation & First Face to Face Workshop	PRIA and GRAAM team	12 th -13 th May
2.	Democracy in Everyday Life	Dr. Rajesh Tandon (PRIA) Ms. Shruti Priya (PRIA)	21 st May
3.	Physical Self	Ms. Isha Saxena (Pro Sport Development) Mr. Akash Thapa (Pro Sport Development)	28 th May
4.	Gender	Ms. Samiksha Jha (Martha Farrell Foundation)	31 st May
5.	Mental Self	Ms. Anandita Anand (Mind Simplified)	11 st June
6.	Team Building and Feedback	Ms. Nikita Rakhyani (PRIA) Ms. Shruti Priya (PRIA)	18 th June
7.	Urban Governance and 74 th Constitutional Amendment	Ms. Kathyayini Chamraj (CIVIC)	2 nd July
8.	Gender, Identity and Sexuality	Pratyay Malakar (Educators for Equality)	9 th July
9.	Diversity of Self	Ms. Nikita Rakhyani (PRIA)	16 th July
10.	Research	Dr. Basvaraju R. Shrestha (GRAAM)	22 nd July
11.	Session on Participatory Research	Dr. Rajesh Tandon (PRIA)	30 th July
12.	Session on Community Based Participatory Research	Ms. Nandita Pradhan (Martha Farrell Foundation)	6 th August
13.	Second Face to Face Workshop	Ms. Nikita Rakhyani (PRIA) Ms. Shruti Priya (PRIA) Dr. Basvaraju R. Shrestha (GRAAM) Mr. Bhagavan Bidarakote (GRAAM)	9 th -10 th August

2. 9th and 10th August Session Agenda:

Time	Activity
Day 1 Wednesday 9th August 2023	
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Welcome and Discussion on Research Topics
11:00 am - 11:15 am	Tea Break
11:15 am - 1:00 pm	Session on Stakeholder Analysis
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Visit to Municipal Corporation
Day 2 Thursday 10th August 2023	
10:00 am - 1:30 pm	Session on 73 rd Constitutional Amendment, Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions on Delivering Services and Active Citizenship
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 to 4:00 pm	Session with Dr. Basvaraju on Research topics
4:00 to 5:30 pm	Session on CBPR Tools and Ethics of conducting Participatory research
5:30 to 6:00 pm	Discussion on International Youth Day celebration