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GRT PROCESS, METHODS AND STRATEGIES OF PROBLEM ANALYSIS IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION



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Abstract: Proper diagnosis of the problem is a crucial stage in community development. For proper diagnosis analysis is the first stage. How many people are suffering because of the problem, the social implications of the problem, the resources and energy needed to solve the problem, nature and extent of the problem, etc are very crucial aspects in community organization. Unless community becomes homogenous, people will not come together to solve their problems, therefore making aware about the existing problems and motivating them for taking action is very crucial in community organization. Community education for problem analysis is very essential aspect. For this purpose the professional social worker has to collect various types of information related to the social problems. Prioritization of the problems depending upon the resources is a key action in community organization. Various processes of problem analysis, its stages and the procedures are discussed in detail along with tools and checklist of the community problems and situation analysis.

Key words: Problem Analysis, Basic data, Community information, sources of information, identification of gap, dissemination of information, prioritization, checklist.

INTRODUCTION:

You are working hard in a community for a cause that you believe in. You are working with a community where internal conflicts are at extreme stage. Non cooperation, un trust, unfaith, no communication, suspicion, no leadership, no social responsibility, no mutual understanding all these characteristics you are experiencing at every stage while interacting with rural community. This situation is grossly affecting development of the community, and want to help to avoid the struggles/conflicts for development. The first stage of your action is to develop the mutual understanding between group in which coalition is needed. Naturally you became treasurer of a coalition that helps villagers to prevent conflicts. Or may be you were just worried about the future of children, so you attended a Grampanchayat meeting on community now, somehow, you find yourself the Grampanchayat is working in this situation and running its organization. The point is, whatever the problem you are working on, you know how important it is. You have seen the consequences, and, to the extent possible, you don't want to see them anymore. But how can you convince other people of the problem's importance? That is where this section collecting information about the problem comes in. One way to convince others about a problem is to tell stories or provide information about how the problem affects the quality of people's social life. People need to have an understanding of issue. Telling the story of how conflict has changed the life of villagers especially marginal section or weaker sections of the community can certainly help to increase awareness of the problem of conflict, and may help you generate support for your organization.

But descriptions alone don't tell how severe the problem is. If you can tell people just how many "groups exist" in your community compared to other communities, then that can be very helpful, for a variety of reasons. A quantitative approach helps you be very specific and accurate about the level of the problem both in your community, and in other communities as well. It helps you compare the problem across communities and across periods of time. That's what this section of the community organization is all about. In the preceding text will consider hard data: where to get it, and also how to use it. The explanation about the limitations of using this information. Finally, at the end of this chapter you'll find specific examples related to topic. First, however, let's look at some of the reasons why you might want to collect this information when you are conducting community organization.

Why should you collect information about the problem?

Many of us hate doing research. Perhaps you, too, have found yourself staring at pages of figures and equations and decided it was a really good day for not to start work a root canal. The advantages of having this information at your fingertips, however, are enormous. We think it's really a worthwhile task, for many reasons. Some of the best include:

Knowledge. Reality talks. Knowing the facts is a straight way of determining the size of the gap between your vision of a healthy community and the reality in which you live. Gathering information from the time period before your organization got started is an excellent way to show the magnitude of the problem.

Credibility counts. If you are able to talk easily in a

casual conversation about the exact numbers of people affected by the issue you are involved in, you come across as knowledgeable, serious, and well organized. Writing down those same figures (in greater detail, of course) as part of a grant application or project summary for potential supporter and evaluators says that you are a well-run group who can get the job done.

Awareness leads to change. You can use the statistics you have found to raise community awareness of a number of things: how serious the problem is, how well (or how poorly) your community is doing in relation to other communities or to the nation as a whole, and last but not least: how well your coalition is attacking the problem at hand.

How do you collect this information?

So, how do you go about finding this information? There are two ways to go about it: you can use information that's already out there (after all, there's no sense in reinventing the wheel); or, if what you are looking for just doesn't seem to exist, you can collect new information yourself. Either way, there are ten steps you will have to go through, to help make your information collecting as efficient and as painless as possible.

Ten steps in information collection

1. Agree on the value and purpose of the information that you will collect : As we have said, we think there are a lot of excellent, general reasons to have the facts about your issue at your fingertips. But why, exactly, does your group need this information? How will you use it? Will it be shown only to members of your organization, or do you want to make it public? For example, the AIDS project in a small community might come up against large amounts of prejudice trying to discuss the percentage of young people who practice safe sex. The staff of the project may decide that information is useful for planning purposes, but may decide to publicly discuss a different topic, such as the number of babies who are born HIV-positive.

2. Determine when you want to use this data : Another important decision you need to make is when is this data important. This is really two decisions:

For what time period do you want to find information? Often, it's helpful to look for information either right now, or from the time when your coalition first got started. This latter information, sometimes known as baseline data, tells the scope of the problem before you started work. Later on in the lifespan of your coalition, you can track how things have changed, and determine how effective you have been. Additionally, many organizations find it a good idea to collect information on a regular basis, such as once a year. This helps you to keep on top of the latest information (always helpful for grantmakers, as well as for your constituents), as well as to determine your effectiveness, as we mentioned above. This also lets you examine the trends important to your group as they change from year to year.

When do you want to make this information public? Often, you want to make the information known right away. Other times, however, you might want to wait a bit. Maybe

you would like to announce it in a communities important event that is happening, in hopes of gathering even more media coverage. For example, you might want to announce the dramatic rise in the number of people in your community who are HIV-positive on December 1st, which is International AIDS Day. Alternatively, an important local event, such as a Grampanchayat meeting, youth festival can be an excellent time to get the message out.

3. Determine exactly what you want to know : What, exactly, do you want to know? Are you just looking for statistics, or do you want to collect some qualitative information (life stories, local heroes, etc.) as well? Do you want to determine incidence rate, or prevalence rate, or both (see the example at the end of this chapter for information on these rates)? And on which issues? The more precise you are in your thinking at the beginning, the easier you will find your search.

4. Determine who will find the information : Will it be you? A staff member? A volunteer? Do you want one person to focus on collecting the data, or do you want to have several people working on it? Brainstorm who in your organization has experience in collecting data, and also who might be interested in doing so. And do they have enough time to do the job?

5. Identify possible sources of information : There are a lot of different places where you can find relevant information, depending on your topic. Some of them include :

- (1)The Grampanchayat office of ULB health department can help you determine health indicators on a variety of issues.
- (2)The Anganwadi service center should be able to tell you the number of recipients of Medicaid, and food stamp program participants.
- (3)Local dai or CHW can give you information on teen fertility, causes of death, etc. Depending on where you live, some of the data may not be part of the public record, but it may be possible to purchase some of it, or arrange to use it in some form.
- (4)Census data: Demographic information is available for your community and the United States as a whole. This information can be found on web site. Many states have similar information on their own web sites as well.
- (5)Police records can tell you crime rates and the incidence of problems such as domestic violence or motor vehicle accidents.
- (6)Industries data discusses job growth, the unemployment rate, etc.
- (7)Nonprofit service agencies, such as the NGO, GO or PO generally have records on a variety of different issues. Often, these agencies have already conducted surveys and found the information you need.
- (8)School districts can tell you graduation rates, percent of passing and failures, drop out rates and truancy rates for your school and others. For comparative figures across school districts, check with your state department of education.
- (9)Centers for Disease Control reportable disease files can give you national information on the rates of many diseases, such as AIDS.
- (10)Your reference librarian is often a very helpful person.
- (11)Other professional contacts you have can lead you to sources of information particular to your interest.

(12)Statistical Abstract of the Block/ District/ Village is a good general source in print for national information. It's done annually, and is available in most local libraries.

(13)Specialized local, statewide, or national organizations may help. For example, if you were interested in Tuberculosis disease, or tree planting, you would want to track down and consult with an organization specializing in that field. Many such organizations have good web sites of their own, too.

(14)Many web pages of panchayat Samiti listed above may now exist with the information you are looking for. For some of the best, see the section of the Community.

6. Set limits as to how much information you want to collect : Too much information will be just as much of a problem as not enough. Decide on the limits of what you are going to collect, or you will just get lost among the stacks of data that have piled up on your desk.

7. Collect the data : If you have done all of the preparatory work up to this point, this is the easy part. List the sources of data you have found, both in order of those you think are best and those you think are easiest to find. Start with those, and then get to work.

8. Identify gaps in your knowledge : After you have finished collecting, it's time to take a hard look at the information you have found. Were you able to determine everything you were looking for, or did you not find some important data? Perhaps the information that you have found has made you realize there is other helpful information that you didn't originally research.

9. Redo the process to try to fill those gaps — or collect your own data : Now that you have identified what information you still need to find, you have two choices. You might have simply missed a good information source the first time, so brainstorm with others in your group to see if you can think of any places you missed. However, it's also possible, that the information you want to find just isn't out there, in which case it's up to you to collect it.

10. If possible, you might want to compare data for your community with that of other communities, or that of the State/District as a whole or to trend out your own community's data over time.

It's good to put the information you have found in context, either positive or negative. Saying, "The level of violent crime in our community is twice the national average," helps put the magnitude of the problem you are facing in the proper perspective for the rest of the community. And on the other hand, if you can say, "The rate of students who graduate from high school in our city is 10% above the national average," it's a great way to celebrate your community's strengths.

Collecting new information

Usually, when you are trying to determine facts about the problem, the information is already out there, in one form or another. If you've looked, though, and are absolutely sure that the information you need just isn't there, it's time to create it yourself. To do so, you'll still need to go through the ten steps listed above, except for number five; but in addition, you will want to do the following:

1. Identify the method of collecting information - that is best

suited to your purpose. Different methods that are often used include: Surveys are one of the best ways to find the quantitative information that your organization may want to know. They can be written, face to face, or done by telephone. For more information on writing and conducting a survey, Focus Groups public forums, and listening sessions are all good ways to find information as well. However, these approaches are better suited to finding qualitative information than to determining quantified facts. Interviews of the villagers, community leaders, key persons, Public representative of other village functionaries who would be helpful in data collection you think.

2. Decide if you want to inform the public of what you are doing. - If you decide that it is tactically wise, then let people know what you are doing from the start. (You will probably want to update them during and after the process as well.) You might consider writing a press release to do so. Include key facts that you have gathered from earlier data. For example, you might say, "In 1990, the child marriage rate in village was 26 out of every 1000, or 2.6% in village X. Child marriage Prevention Program is in the process of finding out how this figure has changed in the last eight years." Remember, though, that when you tell people what you are doing, they will usually have questions. So be prepared with a clear process for responding to any queries or concerns that might arise.

3. Train the people who will be collecting the information. - Sending poorly trained staff members or volunteers to collect new information can cause serious problems and lead to results that are unhelpful at best. At worst, this can invalidate all of the time and effort you spent trying to determine the information. The manner in which questions are asked, who is asked, and even when they are asked can have a huge impact on the results you receive. So train your information collectors before you start. For information on training staff and volunteers,

4. Collect and tabulate your data. - Although this can take a while, as mentioned before, if you have done all the steps leading up to this, you're once again at the easy part.

5. Report (and use) your findings.- Even if you decided during the planning process to wait to go public with your findings, you will still probably discuss them with members of your group right away. You might ask everyone at a staff meeting to talk about how this new information will change their individual projects, or work together to rewrite the project plan. In any case, be sure to use the information you have found, don't just file it away somewhere!

6. Continue to review and collect information on a regular basis.- Unless you're planning to conduct a short intervention or initiative and then leave town, you'll need to update the information you have. Communities and conditions change, and you can't assume that what's true today will still be true in six months or a year. If the data you have is more than a year old, it's simply not reliable. You have to plan to keep collecting data for the long term.

What are the limitations of using this information?

Of course, knowing the incidence and prevalence of a problem is certainly not a cure-all for solving all of your coalition's woes, nor is it the only information worth

collecting. In the worst case, the information can actually mislead people who are trying to understand the problem. When you are collecting or speaking about your data, be sure to :

- (1)Obtain your data from enough people to make it worthwhile. Or, if you are using previously gathered information, find out how many people were studied. As a rule of thumb, don't determine a rate from a population of less than 30 people - and although that's the smallest number that can be used to generate most statistics, it's probably nowhere near enough to give an accurate picture. There just aren't enough people for your data to be credible. If you did a voluntary survey on drug use among high school students and only got 5 respondents, your results might vary widely from the truth. For example, you may have had 5 students who never attended schools at all, (There are non enrollment in schools!) Don't draw any conclusion based on inadequate or inaccurate data.
- (2)When you are giving a rate, never forget to give it, as the definition states, in terms of another measured quantity. Just saying, 43 students were dropped from school. It doesn't give the listener enough information to really understand the problem. Is it 43 students out of 50? Or out of 5000? Always be sure to give your information in context. A confused listener is not someone who will be helpful to your cause.
- (3)As helpful as statistics can be, they don't ever tell the whole story. People relate to individual stories: the friendly neighborhood person who died of Tuberculosis. Just the facts might be good police work; but for your organizations work, never forget the people behind those statistics.
- (4)To summarize the above discussion there is a story about a group of birds who took a class to learn to fly. They all attended the class faithfully for weeks, and then, when it was over, they all tucked their diplomas under their wings and walked back home. So use the information you have found to further your cause, and fly with it. There's no question that changing our communities for the better is a tough battle. But by being able to determine the magnitude of the problem, you've made a powerful first step towards winning the war.
- Collecting Information bout the Problem: Tools & Checklists

Tool #1 Determining the places to find information

In the first column of the table below, list all of the possible sources of information that you have brainstormed. In the next column, decide which you think is the best source of information, and put a one (1) beside it. Assign the second best a two (2), and so on, until you have ranked all of your sources. Do the same in the column labeled Number from easiest to most difficult, with one (1) being the source that will be easiest for you to find and use. Finally, in the last column, add up the numbers you have listed in each row. The source which has the lowest final value (lowest rank order) is the source you should start with, the source with the second lowest value should come second, and so on.

The first three rows give you an example of how to do this for an organization trying to preserve area wetlands. In this instance, the Environmental Protection Agency has

the lowest value, so members might start there, and then move on to the local Green peace affiliate, and their reference librarian.

Checklist: Here, you'll find a checklist summarizing the major points contained in the text. You understand why it is important to collect information about the problem :

- To know the facts.
- To be seen as a credible, effective organization.
- Because awareness leads to change.

How do you collect this information?

- Agree on the value and purpose of the information that you will collect.
- Determine when you want to use this data.
- Determine exactly what you want to know.
- Determine who will find the information.
- Identify possible sources of information.
- Set limits as to how much data you want to collect.
- Collect the data.
- Identify gaps in your knowledge.
- Redo the process to try to fill those gaps, or collect your own data.
- Compare data for your community with that of others, or with national data.
- Collecting new information:
- Follow the steps above.
- Identify the method that is best suited to your purposes.
- Decide if you want to inform the public of what you are doing.
- Train the people who will be collecting the data.
- Report and use your findings.

Understand the limitations of the information:

- Obtain your data from enough people to make your results worthwhile.
- Be sure your information is in context.

Analyzing Community Problems

- Communities have problems, just like people
- What is a community problem?
- What is analyzing community problems all about?
- Why should I analyze a community problem?
- How should I analyze a community problem?
- When should I analyze a community problem?
- Going beyond the basics — does analysis really work?

Communities have problems, just like people-Problems are part of life — they go together with being alive. And every community has problems, too; they go together with being a community. That's just a fact of community life.

Two more basic facts :

- Communities, like people, try to solve their problems.
- And analyzing those problems helps in their solution.
- Example: A community problem

The Tribal area of a Block A is declining. Peoples are migrating are closing, and moving out; no new persons/

industries are moving in. We want to revitalize that tribals. How should we do it?

Our thinking here is simple :

We'd be better off analyzing why that decline is taking place, why the problem is occurring, rather than simply jumping in and trying to fix it.

A good analysis will lead to better long-run solutions. And therefore:

A good analysis is worth taking the time to do.

So this section explains what analyzing community problems is about, and why it can be helpful — and then how to do it.

What is a community problem?- This covers a lot of ground. There's a long list of nominees. And you probably know some of the main candidates. Can you name the leading problems in your own community? Chances are you can at least start the list.

Below are examples of community problems : Some example community problems - Adolescent addiction, access to clean drinking water, child abuse and neglect, crime, domestic violence, drug use, environmental contamination, ethnic conflict, health disparities, HIV/AIDS, hunger, inadequate emergency services, inequality, jobs, lack of affordable housing, poverty, racism, transportation, violence.

What others would you add? -Rather than aim for a complete problem list, here are some criteria you may consider when identifying community problems :

- The problem occurs too frequently. (frequency)
- The problem has lasted for a while. (duration)
- The problem affects many people. (scope, or range)
- The problem is disrupting to personal or community life, and possibly intense. (severity)
- The problem deprives people of legal or moral rights. (equity)
- The issue is perceived as a problem. (perception)

This last criterion — perception — is an important one, and can also help indicate readiness for addressing the issue within the community. Keep in mind that what is seen as a problem can vary from place to place, and from group to group in the same place. Although there's no official definition of a community problem, the above examples and criteria above should help you begin to name and analyze community problems.

What is analyzing community problems all about?- Analyzing community problems is a way of thinking carefully about a problem or issue before acting on a solution. It first involves identifying reasons a problem exists, and then (and only then) identifying possible solutions and a plan for improvement.

Why should I analyze a community problem?-

To better identify what the problem or issue is: The tribal people gather on a street. Sometimes they drink; sometimes they get disorderly. What is the problem here? The drinking? The rowdiness? The gathering itself? Or, the possible fact

that tribal have nowhere else to go and few positive alternatives for engagement? Before looking for solutions, you would want to clarify just what is the problem (or problems) here. Unless you are clear, it's hard to move forward.

To understand what is at the heart of a problem: A problem is usually caused by something; what is that something? We should find out. And often the problem we see is a symptom of something else.

To determine the barriers and resources associated with addressing the problem: It's good practice and planning to anticipate barriers and obstacles before they might rise up. By doing so, you can get around them. Analyzing community problems can also help you understand the resources you need. And the better equipped you are with the right resources, the greater your chances of success.

And finally:

To develop the best action steps for addressing the problem. :Having a plan of action is always better than taking a few random shots at the problem. If you know where you are going, you are more likely to get there. In general, when you tackle a problem, it's almost always smarter to analyze it before you begin. That way, you've got a deeper understanding of the problem; and you've covered your bases. There's nothing worse for member involvement and morale than starting to work on a problem, and running up against lots of obstacles — especially when they are avoidable. When you take a little time to examine a problem first, you can anticipate some of these obstacles before they come up, and give yourself and your members better odds of coming up with a successful solution.

When should I analyze a community problem?

Every community problem should benefit from analysis. The only possible exception is when the problem is an immediate crisis that requires action this very moment. And even then, analysis should help later. However, there are conditions when analysis is especially important. And these are:

1. When the community problem is not defined very clearly
2. When little is known about the community problem, or its possible consequences
3. When you want to find causes that may improve the chance of successfully addressing the problem
4. When people are jumping to solutions much too soon
5. When you need to identify actions to address the problem, and find collaborative partners for taking action.

How should I analyze a community problem?

The ultimate goal is - to understand the problem better and to deal with it more effectively, so the method you choose should accomplish that goal. We'll offer some step-by-step guidelines here, drawn from the Community, and we'll go over a couple of specific ways to determine the causes of the problem.

1. Justify the choice of the problem. Apply the criteria we've listed above – frequency, duration, range, severity, equity, perception – as well as asking yourself whether your

organization or another can address it effectively, in order to decide whether the problem is one that you should focus on. Let's take the problem we used as an example earlier: Migration of tribals in the community has been steadily increasing, and now approaches 25%. Since we know that migration creates problems of slums and that slums and being migrants are linked to deterioration of civic amenities. This is a problem that needs to be addressed now. Our organization has the will and the ability to do it.

2. Frame the problem. State the problem without implying a solution or blaming anyone, so that you can analyze it without any assumptions and build consensus around whatever solution you arrive at. One way is to state it in terms of a lack of a positive behavior, condition, or other factor, or the presence or size of a negative behavior, condition, or other factor. There are too many children in the community who are overweight or obese. The problem is particularly serious among low-income families.

3. Identify what and how environmental factors need to change for the problem to begin to be solved. This can be as straightforward as individuals changing their behavior from migrating to benefit yet another group by changing the environment. All, and particularly low-income tribal children should have the opportunity and the motivation to stay in village. Government may need to take corrective steps by providing employment opportunities to tribal communities. In low-income tribal needs to have be greater access to employment. So that they can be held together.

4. Analyze the root causes of the problem. The real cause of a problem may not be immediately apparent. It may be a function of a social or political system, or may be rooted in a behavior or situation that may at first glance seem unrelated to it. In order to find the underlying cause, you may have to use one or more analytical methods, including critical thinking and the "But Why?" technique

Very briefly, the latter consists of stating the problem as you perceive it and asking "But why?" The next step is to answer that question as well as you can and then asking again, "But why?" By continuing this process until you get an answer that can't be reduced further, you can often get to the underlying cause of the problem, which will tell you where to direct your efforts to solve it. The difference between recognizing a problem and finding its root cause is similar to the difference between a doctor's treating the symptoms of a disease and actually curing the disease. Once a disease is understood well enough to cure, it is often also understood well enough to prevent or eliminate. Similarly, once you understand the root causes of a community problem, you may be able not only to solve it, but to establish systems or policies that prevent its return. There are too many families who are migrating. The problem is particularly serious tribals of low-income families. (But why?) Because many low-income tribals don't have employment opportunities and wont get daily wages. (But why?)

5. Identify the restraining and driving forces that affect the problem. This is called a force field analysis. It means looking at the restraining forces that act to keep the problem from changing (social structures, cultural traditions, ideology, politics, lack of knowledge, lack of access to healthy conditions, etc.) and the driving forces that push it

toward change (dissatisfaction with the way things are, public opinion, policy change, ongoing public education efforts, existing alternatives to unhealthy or unacceptable activity or conditions, etc.) Consider how you can use your understanding of these forces in devising solutions to the problem.

Forces restraining change here include :

The desirability and availability of employment oportunities
The reluctance of local industries to give employment to illiterate and low-income tribals.

The domination of the industries or non-tribals.

Some forces driving change might be :

Government concern about tribal migration.

Tribals desire to participate in Local labor market.

Media stories about the problem of migration and its consequences for urban, both now and in their later lives.

A full force field analysis probably would include many more forces in each category

6. Find any relationships that exist among the problem you're concerned with and others in the community. In analyzing root causes, you may have already completed this step. It may be that other problems stem from the same root cause, and that there are other organizations you could work with to mutual benefit. Or perhaps you'll have to find a way around another problem in order to deal with the one you're aiming at. Understanding the relationships among community issues could be an important step toward resolving them. We've already seen connections to lack of education, unemployment, lack of after-school programs, and gang violence and crime, among other issues. Other organizations may be working on one or more of these, and a collaboration might help both of you to reach your goals.

7. Identify personal factors that may contribute to the problem. Whether the problem involves individual behavior or community conditions, each individual affected by it brings a whole collection of knowledge (some perhaps accurate, some perhaps not), beliefs, skills, education, background, experience, culture, and assumptions about the world and others, as well as biological and genetic traits. Any or all of these might contribute to the problem or to its solution...or both

A few examples :

Some ethnic groups have a genetic predisposition not only to migration, but to create other conditions.

Many tribals don't have the knowledge of getting opportunities that would allow them to create better condition.

People working several low-wage and often physically demanding jobs may find it difficult to take the time to provide healthy meals for themselves and their children.

Children like and demand junk food.

8. Identify environmental factors that may contribute to the problem. Just as there are factors relating to individuals that may contribute to or help to solve the problem you're concerned with, there are also factors within the community environment that may do the same. These might include the availability or lack of services, information, and other

support; the degree of accessibility and barriers to, and opportunities for services, information, and other support; the social, financial, and other costs and benefits of change; and such overarching factors as poverty, living conditions, official policy, and economic conditions. As with personal factors, most of these might either help to solve the problem or make it worse, depending on which way they tend.

Some sample environmental factors :

Poverty.
Lack of employment and hope for young men in low-income neighborhoods.
The lack of availability of employment opportunities to low-income groups.
The general availability in urban areas as well as elsewhere.
9. Identify targets and agents of change for addressing the problem. Whom should you focus your efforts on, and who has the power to improve the situation? Often, these may be the same people. The best solution to a particular problem may be policy change of some sort, for instance, and the best route to that may be to mount an advocacy effort aimed at officials who can make it happen. People who are suffering from lack of skills or services may be the ones who can do the most to change their situation. In other cases, your targets may be people whose behavior or circumstances need to change, and you may want to recruit agents of change to work with you in your effort. The point of this step is to understand where and how to direct your work most effectively.

Targets of change might include :

Informal leaders of low-income group of tribals
The tribals themselves
Grampanchayat members
Government officials
Owners of industries located in that area
Elected representatives

A short list of potential agents of change :

Community leaders of tribal people as controllers of their tribal.
The Gramsevak or Grampanchayat office
Local public officials of Grampanchayat/ block Panchayat who could create incentives for tribals to stay and work in the same vilage
Community schools, SHG, Cooperative credit societies

Public relations offices of block development office for project office

With your analysis complete, you can develop a strategic plan that speaks to the real causes of the problem and focuses on those targets and/or agents of change that are most likely to contribute to improving the situation.

Going beyond the basics — does analysis really work?

Try this analysis out with a current problem in your own community setting. What do you conclude? We hope you'll find some value in analysis. We do know that when we have tried this method with real problems in our own communities, we have drawn some additional conclusions of

our own, going beyond the basics :

- 1.Analyzing community problems can be hard work. It takes real mental effort. We're not used to sitting down and thinking deeply about a problem. (We're too busy!)
- 2.Real community problems are likely to be complex. Economic development may depend on the global economy, a force you can't have much effect on. You may have opposition, either from within the community itself, or from powerful forces trying to protect their own interests.
- 3.When you go looking for reasons and underlying causes for significant problems, you are likely to find more than one. Several different reasons may be influencing the problem, in different amounts, all at the same time. It may not be an easy task to untangle all the reasons and their relative strengths, but it may be necessary in order to reach a solution.
- 4.The problem may not only have more than one reason; it may have more than one solution too. Problems often call for multi-pronged solutions. That is, difficult problems often must be approached from more than one direction. So in revitalizing the downtown, you might want to (a) beautify the streets; (b) expand the staff of the chamber of commerce; (c) run sidewalk sales; (d) look for outside loans; and (e) recruit new businesses. These are all parts of the solution. Many different types of actions might be necessary for revitalization.

When solving real community problems, the analysis may not be cut and dried. There may be multiple reasons behind the problem, and multiple reasons to consider, with many unknowns. The analysis may not always be easy. The solution may be more difficult still. But that's why problems are problems. Community problems exist precisely because they often resist clear analysis and solution. They persist despite our efforts. They can be real challenges. Yet this doesn't mean we are helpless. Analysis, including the analytic methods we have described, can take you a long way. With good analysis, some resources, and enough determination, we believe even the most troublesome problems can be addressed, and ultimately, solved.

Analyzing Community Problems Tools & Checklists - Here, you'll find checklists summarizing the major points contained in the text. I understand that Communities, like people, try to solve their problems and analyzing those problems helps in their solution.

Criteria for analyzing the problem: I have taken into consideration the following

- Frequency of the problem
- Duration of the problem
- Scope or range of the problem
- Severity of the problem
- Legality of the problem
- Perception of the problem

Reasons why you should analyze this problem: I understand that

- To better identify what the problem or issue is....
- To understand what is at the heart of a problem....
- To determine the barriers and resources associated with

addressing the problem.
To develop the best action steps for addressing the problem.

How to analyze a community problem: I have
Stated the problem, in general terms.
Given some specific examples of the problem.
Thought of some possible reasons or causes.
Found the most probable reason.
Identified some possible solutions.
Chosen the best solution.
Implemented that solution.
Evaluated the solution.

The value of analyzing community problems: I understand that
Analyzing community problems can be hard work.
Real community problems are likely to be complex and hard to solve.
When I look for reasons and underlying causes for significant problems, I'm likely to find more than one.
The problem may not only have more than one reason; it may have more than one solution too.

Common criteria for the best possible solution: In coming up with the best possible solution, I have taken into consideration- Cost, Time, People, Obstacles,Impact.

Measuring impact: I have asked myself the following questions
How many people will be affected/ will benefit?
For how long will they benefit? How long will the solution last?
How intensely will they benefit — what is the extent of impact on their lives?
Are there any possible side consequences, or spin-offs, or unanticipated effects?
What is the community's preference?
What is the likelihood of success?

Questions to ask about the likelihood of success: I have asked myself the following questions
What is the best evidence that this solution is going to work?
Summary

Where there is human settlement, problems are bound to be there. The nature and extent of the problem and the gravity of problem varies from place to place depending upon the social structure, culture and the resources available with the community. Therefore, when the community organizer is thinking about community development or to solve the problems of community it becomes essential to understand the problem for which analysis of problem is essential. In this chapter the details of problem analysis is discussed. For this purpose ten steps in information collection is explained in detail. Apart from the routine information there are some other areas where the information is needed. Therefore, organizer has to trace various sources to gather the information. Systematic analysis and drawing the inference from the information is some other aspect of problem analysis. The details about the tools and checklist

for collecting informatin about the problem is given.

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