COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
INTRODUCTION

Social mobilization is the primary step of community participation. It allows people to think and understand their situations and to organize and initiate action for their recovery with their own initiative and creativity. Through mobilization, people can organize themselves to take action collectively by developing their own plan and strategy for recovery rather than being imposed from outside.
• Communities that take charge of their own recovery will make informed decisions reach sustainable solutions and achieve better results faster while at the same time enhancing their solidarity and capacity to undertake development initiatives.
DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community Participation is defined as the involvement of people in a community in projects to solve their own problems. People cannot be forced to ‘participate’ in projects which affect their lives but should be given the opportunity where possible. This is held to be a basic human right and a fundamental principle of democracy. Community participation is especially important in emerging food and nutrition programs.
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS A PROCESS

Community participation in development is the process by which groups of community residence affects the planning, implementation, management, utilization or maintenance service, facility or activity.
WHAT IS A COMMUNITY?

Made of people or families who have the following characteristics:

- living in the same geographical area
- Share common problems and aspirations
- Have similar development goals
- Have similar interests and relationship at local level
- Have a common way of communication
- Sociologically and psychologically linked
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
IN DIFFERENT SITUATION

1. Top – down - approach
As a traditional approach the decisions are made by senior persons so called “Experts.

2. Bottom - Up Approach
• Traditional approach we make decisions and Expert them to follow. All the decision making and priorities are set by the external agency
AIMS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The community develops self-reliance
The community develops critical awareness
The community develops Problem solving skills

TYPES OF PARTICIPATION

Passive Participation
Active Participation
Community Involvement
PASSIVE PARTICIPATION

• In this type of participation individuals or families are mere spectators

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

• In this type of participation they may carrying out some tasks in a program but are not involved with the final decision making in what is to be done. The final decision in such cases are made by people who are not members of the community in such situations, the community does not develop a sense of self-reliance
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- In this type of participation the community is involved in all aspects of a program. This type of approach allows the community to participate willingly to improve its own socio-economic status. It is important for a community to participate in every stage of any program for it to have long-lasting results.
  
  i.e. Thinking, planning, acting and evaluating
DIMENSIONS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation has three dimensions

1. Involvement of all those affected in decision making about what should be done and how

2. Mass contribution to the development efforts i.e., to the implementation of decision

3. Sharing in the benefits of the program (World Bank, 1978)
ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Expressing opinions about desirable improvements, prioritizing goals and negotiating with agencies

PLANNING
Formulating objectives, setting goals, targets

MOBILIZING
Raising awareness in a community about needs, establishing or supporting organizational structures within community
**TRAINING**

Participation in formal or informal training activities to enhance communication, Construction, maintenance and financial management skills

**IMPLEMENTING**

Engaging in management activities; contributing directly to constructions, operation, and maintenance with the labor and materials; contributing cash towards cost, paying of services or membership fees of community organizations
INCENTIVES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

• Community participation motivates people to work together – people feel a sense of community and recognize the benefits of their involvement.

• Social. Religious or traditional obligations for mutual help.

• Genuine community participation – people see a genuine opportunity to better their own lives and for the community as a whole.

• Remuneration in cash or kind.
FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE DEGREE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION POSITIVELY.

- Relevance and Accountability
- Education status of the community
- Community Infrastructure
- Economic factors
- Social and cultural factors
- The level of inter sector collaboration
- Political stability
- Good leadership
- Motivated community
- Locally available resources
BENEFITS FROM COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Community Participation comes from a variety of sources, including lessons learned from the failures of conventional top-down planning as well as the achievement of community-based programs.

- Communication often have detailed knowledge about their surroundings.

- It makes sense to involve communities in making plans because they know local conditions and possibilities for change.

- If the community is involved in choosing priorities and deciding on plans, it is much more likely to become involved in the program and take up the services.
TYPES OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Pressure Groups*
A group of self-appointed citizens taking action on what they see to be the interests of the whole community putting on pressure to improve the school, garbage collection do something to bad roads etc.

*Welfare Groups*
Exist to improve the welfare of a group  
e.g. feeding programs
APPROACH AND OBJECTIVES

AWARENESS BUILDING APPROACH

A conscious process of organizational development and empowerment of the disadvantaged people at the grass root level.

Objectives:

- Social Empowerment
  - Increased community control over resources and decisions
  - Institution building
  - Increased political participation
- Economic upliftment
- Participation as an end in itself
PROJECT APPROACH
- is a project centered approach initiated through solid interventions by both government and other community like the NGOs.

• Objectives:
  - Economic upliftment through
    ➢ PROJECT COST SHARING – beneficiaries may be expected to contribute labour, funds, materials or to undertake maintenance of project
    ➢ INCREASING PROJECT EFFICIENCY – consultation, with beneficiaries during planning or beneficiary involvement in the management of project implementation or operations.
- INCREASING PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS – Beneficiary contribution in project design so that appropriate activities are included to ensure that objectives are achieved and benefit those that need them

- BUILDING BENEFICIARY CAPACITY – Training beneficiaries to prepare them for active involvement in planning and management of the project

- EMPOWERMENT – Increasing the control over community resources and processes affecting their lives.

- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – Participation as a means of project implementation
LEVELS OF INTENSITY IN PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITIES

The following levels of intensity in participation are presented in a sequential order:

Information Sharing:
- Project planners and managers may share information with beneficiaries in order to facilitate collective and individual action.

Consultation:
- Beneficiaries are not only informed by consulted as well on key issues at some or all stages of the planning cycle.
Decision making:

Beneficiaries have a decision making role in planning and implementation. Decisions may be made exclusively by beneficiaries or jointly with others specific issues or aspects relating to the project.

Initiating action:

Beneficiaries are able to take the initiate in terms of action or decisions pertaining to a project: Initiative implies proactive capacity and the confidence to do things independently.
COMMON OPERATIONAL FEATURES OF PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

Clear focus on the target groups :-
The communities of the poor and disadvantaged groups (landless, small marginal farmers, women, backward classes, tribal communities, unemployed, depressed occupational groups, city slum dwellers etc.)

Institutional grassroots organization characterized by
- Clear social objectives
- Accountable leadership
- Homogeneity of interest (based on class, grades, community, occupation or social groups)
Conscious involvement of rank and file members of the group in:

• Identification of community interests
• Articulation of development objectives
• Formulation of action plan
• Group action for implementation of deployment projects
• Generation of local and external resources
• Selection of leadership style
• Collective evaluation of self-criticism
MICRO LEVEL DEVELOPMENT ACTION OR GREATER WELFARE OF THE GROUP THROUGH ENHANCEMENT OF ITS POLITICAL/ SOCIAL POWER AND HIGH LEVEL GROUPS THROUGH:

- Project activities and investment choices based on estimates of benefits and costs
- Technical assistance
- Project management
- Projects evaluation
- Other technical functions, e.g. extension, credit etc
MAIN CATEGORIES OF IMPACT IN THE EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT LEVEL

- The efficiency of project implementation
- Effects on project costs
- Speed of project implementation
- Quality of facilities and services
- IMPROVING PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS

• Condition of project infrastructure facilities
• Beneficiary involvement in the process of project maintenance
• Financial and labour contribution of projects beneficiaries to projects maintenance.
• Beneficiary involvement in the process of project maintenance
• Financial and Labour contributions of project beneficiaries to project maintenance
• Beneficiary involvement in the process of project management
- BUILDING BENEFICIARY CAPACITY
  • Creation and strengthening of community organization which can manage the project
  • Initiation of new projects by the community
  • Beneficiary negotiation with outside organizations involved in the project

- IMPACT AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL
  • Increased community control over resources
  • Increased resource mobilization in the community
  • Increased access to outside resources
  • Increased community involvement in project planning and in monitoring of the use of externally provided resources
- INSTITUTION BUILDING
  - Increased participation in community political and cultural activities
  - Evolution of representative community organizations to include organizational and administrative capacity of community organizations

- INCREASED POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
  - More active community participation in the activities of local and national organizations
  - More community involvement in labour and cultural activities of the city/municipality/province/region
  - Beneficiary negotiation with outside organizations involved in the project
SUMMARY

• Social Mobilization is a process of community participation
• The whole community shares the responsibility in solving problems through increased awareness, organizing, linking and sharing of services and resources and joint decision making.
• Political participation is reconciled with actions of community at large.
• Community participation can be project-centered and process-oriented to building awareness.
• The impact of community participation is measurable at community level.
Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them
Start with what you know
Build on what they have;

But of the best leaders
When their task is accomplished
Their work is done
The people all remark
“We have done it ourselves”

- Old Chinese poem -