Speaking for ourselves

Tool

Purpose:

Development dialogue is a twofold process involving (i) the development of skills of pastoralist and other communities to represent themselves through the development and application of livelihoods analysis tools, and (ii) the creation of appropriate forums through which to demonstrate and enact new representation skills.

The tool helps to:

- Explain livelihood problems faced by marginalised rural communities.
- Develop common understanding and ownership of solutions and actions.
- Empower communities to represent themselves in development dialogue and action.

Activities:

Building skills in livelihood analysis

❶ Get started

- Understand the sustainable livelihoods framework
- Develop a simple and flexible plan of field work

❷ Introduce the sustainable livelihood framework to communities

- Facilitate discussion on each of the five capital assets
- Ask communities to represent assets with drawings on separate cards
- Produce capital asset cards – a physical tool-kit

❸ Identify problems that affect their capital assets

- Identify problems related to each capital asset
- Encourage people to visualise problems (drawing)
- Place drawn problems alongside the corresponding asset

Keep in Mind

★ Train field workers in appropriate facilitation skills.

★ Build good relation-ships based on mutual trust and understanding with the community – this lays the foundation for success.

★ Work in community time and space; be punctual; always respect time arrangements, especially those made by you.

★ Engage constantly with the community. The process involves a series of on-going activities, which need continuing periodic engagement.

★ Laminate the asset cards to ensure durability – make a physical tool.

POWER TOOLS

❹ Identify solution to these problems
  • Brainstorm to identify solutions
  • Ask communities to categorise solutions according to difficulty to implement.
    Use three categories of solutions:
  • Using community resources
  • Using community resources with external assistance
  • Using external assistance with little community input

❺ Assess sustainability and feasibility of each solution
  • Using cards assess the workability of the proposed solution
  • Analyse solutions under the headings: resource needs, available resources, required
    from outside

❻ Develop action plan
  • Lay out cards and select solutions
  • Analyse the solution under the headings: time, place, responsibility
  • Develop action plan

Creating opportunity for presentation and representation

❶ Identify the target audience
  • Identify relevant institutions who will work with the community's solutions and plans

❷ Select the venue for presentation
  • Identify a convenient meeting place

❸ Hold an event for the target audience
  • Decide on the community presentation group
  • Build team presentation skills
  • Invite appropriate institutions and development partners

❹ Review the event
  • Review and learn from the event.
  • Analyse the impact, and discuss what's next

★ Involve relevant government offices – their early involvement improves their later listening and acting.

★ Give communities control over the presentation – let them do it.

★ Don't pay incentives to attend meetings (for either government or community groups).

Further information

Find full tool and other related tools and resources at:
www.policy-powertools.org

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