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Monitoring of Watershed Programs

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- Monitoring is a process of continuous assessment of project activities in the context of implementing schedules.
- It takes care of day-to-day progress and management of the project. It is the regular observation and recording of activities taking place in the watershed project and also a process of routinely gathering information or data on all aspects of the project.
- Monitoring involves checking on how the project activities are progressing. It also involves giving feedback about the progress of the project to the donors/sponsors and beneficiaries of the project.



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- Watershed development committee (WDC), Project implementation agency (PIA) and District rural development agency (DRDA) have special monitoring tools, system and tables for recording the monitored data.
- Thus, monitoring setup involves defining the objectives of monitoring system to design a program to systematically look after the achievements, to select the indicators, location, methods and frequency of observation and to organize, motivate and train people.



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Purpose of Monitoring

- ✓ The purposes of monitoring watershed programs are as follows:
- ✓ To carry out the analysis of the situation in the village community and the project and to determine whether the inputs in the project are well utilized.
- ✓ To study the problems faced by the community in carrying out the project are identified to find a solution. And thereby it ensures that all activities are carried out properly by the right people and in time.
- ✓ To determine whether project plan is suitable for solving the problem at hand.



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Watershed Program Evaluation

- ✓ Evaluation is an important aspect of watershed programs. It is a multi-dimensional task which is generally performed at different times during the implementation of watershed programs.
- ✓ Until recently watershed program evaluators tended to favor either a quantitative or a qualitative evaluation.
- ✓ Typically, quantitative evaluations reflect a simplistic view that reality takes a single form that can be perceived and measured objectively. On the other hand, qualitative evaluations reflect a more constructive view, implying that reality can have multiple versions.



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Quantitative Evaluation of Watershed Programs

- ✓ The quantitative evaluation of watershed programs attempts to attribute changes in various outcome variables to a project intervention (i.e., ‘treatment’) and determine whether such effects are statistically significant.
- ✓ The first approach is called a “before/after” study. The evaluator measures the levels of outcome indicators in a watershed area before and after a watershed treatment. This is a fairly weak but feasible approach that involves an unlikely assumption that there have been no other significant changes during the study period.
- ✓ A second approach consisting of a “with/without” study, is useful when no baseline data are available. This is often the case when an evaluation is commissioned after a watershed project has been implemented.



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Qualitative Evaluation of Watershed Programs

- ❑ In contrast to quantitative evaluation, qualitative evaluators typically place less emphasis on measurement and more on context and on understanding the subtle manifestations.
- ❑ In general, a qualitative approach tends to be flexibly structured and uses open-ended questions in an inductive fashion. The objective is not to obtain a numerical estimate of some phenomenon, but to develop an in-depth understanding of an issue by probing, clarifying, and listening to stakeholders talk about a topic in own words.
- ❑ As with quantitative evaluation of watershed programs, sampling issues in qualitative evaluation also raise questions about biases in data. While quantitative researchers use random sampling whenever possible, qualitative researchers use several strategies to increase the internal validity of their findings.
- ❑ In qualitative evaluation, data collection and analysis become inseparable; as such researchers collect much of the data themselves, rather than relegating this task to field assistants.



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Need for People's Participation in Watershed Management



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Basic Principles

- ✓ PRA is a reversal of learning. It is an informal way of learning from the local, physical, technical, social and psychological knowledge of the people.
- ✓ PRA is conducted to establish rapport with the people. It also aims to identify and define their problems for prioritization in the village itself.
- ✓ Thus, the main principle is to gather information about the villagers, their willingness to participate and resources of the area through patient listening and interaction.



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Participatory Rural Appraisal and Peoples Participation

- A close relationship exists between resources such as land, water, forest and mineral and the community, particularly living in the rural areas of the watershed. Therefore, participation and awareness of the community about the development and management program of the watershed are very important. Two participatory and learning action techniques are adopted for community. These are rapid rural appraisal (RRA) and participatory rural appraisal (PRA).
- In PRA, investigators or members are all villagers. They control the whole project. They are learners, catalysts and facilitators. They do all the works of mapping, diagramming, viewing and analyzing. They identify the priorities and give shape to their information, knowledge, attitudes and aptitudes.



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Participatory Rural Appraisal and Peoples Participation

The people who participate in watershed management are villagers, farmers and common people. They are the participants, beneficiaries and promoters of any development works in the watershed.

They may participate in different modes. These participation modes are as follows:

- (i). **Passive Participation:** It is the indirect participation of people in the event which is going to happen or has already happened.
- (ii). **Participation to Supply Information:** This is the people's participation to supply information by answering questions through questionnaire, survey(s) or other methods.
- (iii). **Participation through Consultation:** People participate through consultation and the agencies who hear the people's views may modify the program as per the views of the people.
- (iv). **Participation for the Material Incentive:** This is the participation of people by providing resources such as labour in return of food, money and other material benefits.



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- (v). **Functional Participation:** People participate by forming groups to meet the pre-determined objectives related to a project.
- (vi). **Participation through Interaction:** People participate with the implementing agency through interaction.
- (vii). **Participation by Self-Mobilization:** People participate by self-initiated mobilizations and corrective actions.