

WELCOME



COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

R. R. PRASAD

Women's Empowerment

Problem: Power

Solution:?

The idea of 'power' is at the root of the term empowerment. Power can be understood as operating in a number of different ways:

Understanding of power	Implications in practice
power over	Power is seen as a win-lose kind of relationship. Having power involves taking it from someone else, and then, using it to dominate and prevent others from gaining it.
power to	refers to the unique potential of every person to shape his or her life and world. When based on mutual support, it opens up the possibilities of joint action, or power with.
power with	has to do with finding common ground among different interests and building collective strength. Based on mutual support, solidarity and collaboration, it multiplies individual talents and knowledge.
power within	has to do with a person's sense of self-worth and self-knowledge; it includes an ability to recognize individual differences while respecting others. Power within is the capacity to imagine and have hope; it affirms the common human search for dignity and fulfillment.

The World Bank (2002) defines empowerment as “the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to:

- **participate in,**
- **negotiate with,**
- **influence, control, and**
- **hold accountable institutions that affect their lives”.**

There are two dimensions of the empowerment concept : the **static and the **dynamic**.**

•The former concept emphasizes on capacities to participate in making decisions that directly or indirectly affect their lives, and to influence those decisions.

•Persons are assumed to be disempowered when they cannot influence decisions that alter their lives.

•The *dynamic concept* regards empowerment as a ***process*** of *developing* the capacity of individuals to participate effectively in making and implementing decisions that directly or indirectly affect them.

• Viewed as a process, empowerment is something an individual or a group of individuals acquires over time. It is not something you can give to people, although the conditions could be created to increase their chances of acquiring it by themselves.

EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES

- The **static empowerment** may lead to **exogenous empowerment strategies** while the **dynamic empowerment** may lead to **endogenous ones**.
- **Exogenous strategies** are those built on the premise that **disempowered groups** can be empowered by **external individuals or groups**

By contrast, endogenous strategies are those whose underlying premise is that external groups can only facilitate empowerment by creating enabling conditions for disempowered groups to empower themselves.

The exogenous empowerment strategy implies a *top down approach* while the endogenous strategy implies a *bottom up* one.

- In the economy, the various forces that work against the poor are highly organized.
- To overcome the constraints and effectively use the space, that is, to be empowered, it is necessary for poor people to **organize** themselves.

Organization is essentially a means of empowering the **poor to enable them to deal with the problems and issues of their poverty.**

Organising is a slow and continuous process of enabling a group of people to perceive common interests and act collectively.

Individually, Poor people can not overcome powerlessness -collectively, they can. Their strength is in organisation.

**Unity + Self Respect + Organisation
= United Action a New society**

"Strength" is the key concept here. Collectively, actions taken and problems solved can be more effective if a strong group works on them. Risk is shared, more people sharing ideas leads to better planning, more ideas for solving problems that arise.

To give poor rural visibility, and to enable society to come in contact with rural poor, they must get organised into groups. Then society will perceive them, will have to listen to them.



Geese bird flying in V formation

"Go and meet your people, live and stay with them, love them, work with them. Begin with what they have, plan and develop from what they know, and in the end, when the work is over, they will say: "We did it ourselves".

Lau Tse

SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO SOCIAL MOBILISATION

ATMA

A stands for **AIM**

T stands for **Transformation**

M stands for **Means, and**

A stands for **Activities**

THANK
YOU

