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DOCUMENT / DCM.7-MIN

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Minutes of the Seventh DCM held at Bangalore from 11th to 14th July 1994

Sharing Session

11/7/94

Samuel, ISI Bangalore: Indian Social Institute was started to support the activities in the NGO sector. ISI help organising social action, social movements and indigenous people. Bangalore ISI centre is focussed to the needs of South India, now vigorously into Research, Documentation and Publications; language publications and documentation from regional language newspapers. Also conducting training programs in social sciences, have a big social science library which help local activists. Instead of relying on the primary data & govt: reports we had a weakness for depending on the mainstream media. We have the problem of not having a consistent classification system. The methodology in documenting is not very important to us, but we see and keep

touch with the needs, we must keep in touch with the pulse of the people. So the staff needs sensitisation, political sensitisation for example. Access to information is very important and our plan is to collect info and share it with the NGOs and activists.

Sucharita Eashwar, Madhyam Communications: Documentation is central to any type of work or organisation and the various processes of communication. Our main target groups are women and tribals. Enables NGOs to strengthen themselves in their work. MC brings out a journal called VOICES. We are an audio-visual resource centre for NGOs. Also provides information updates on special issues. It is a platform to shape ideas and build linkages. The documentation is made for our own internal use. We find it difficult to do documentation even on a specialised basis; maybe networking can help. We lack info on alternate media, where and how to get it. A database on filmmakers would be of great use in this respect.

Shabnam Virmani, Drishti: Drishti is a group of media professionals who came together to create dynamic video programmes depending on context and the budget. We did a series of women programmes after having many sessions with women themselves. Also made some comic strips on women and legal rights as well as rural documentation through films.

Asmita, Olakh: Olakh, meaning identity, acts as a bridge between the grassroots and the mainstream. A documentation centre has been started with the hope of giving and getting hold of information. Activities include bringing out a bi-monthly magazine, documentation, calendar booklets and mobile library. The calendars for the coming year are human rights violation on women within the family context. Documentation is done on a small scale. Started by 11 women, Olakh is not getting funds from anywhere. After seeing the uninformed grassroots

We all know as to how the economic climate was in the wake of the Ayodhya problem. Until a government is stable and there is an optimistic wave there can never be economic clarity.

Asit: Was Nehru a real socialist?

Prof: At that particular time what Nehru and Mahalonobis did for India was the right strategy. Nehru believed in non-alignment. What they did not realise is that the concept of Public Sector where capital is held by state but it is as efficient as the private sector. Sick industry according to Mahalnobis are to be closed. There was a shift in the Non alignment movement. The collapse of USSR. Due to it, it could not militarise as strong as United STATES. From the global perspective the political ideology was the same.

Samuel: Japan intervened so it prospered. How do you feel the government should intervene?

Prof: If we were to close our economy and go to Gandhian economy that ideology cannot survive as you cannot stop people thinking globally and there is no alternative but to open up. Then we can think how to open economy according to our advantage. There are things in which India has competitive economy. Then they go to world market and our prices have to match up with world price. Goods to domestic product increase and the poor are adversely affected. We have to carefully visualise what we should Import, what to export and prepare an action plan.

Avinash : What are the sources of getting information on this particular topic?

Prof: International Centre of Growth in San Fransisco. We get this at subsidised prices. World Bank Observer, International Labour Organisation out fit on poor by Dr. Arun Ghosh, UNDP Publications, Economic and Political Weekly bibliographical notes.

Munira Sen: What are the ramifications of this package on the media?

PROF: Make things available for the local man. They are restricted only to few things. Local dailies should carry more and more related articles. Many people are not bothered. People who do not know should be informed. Compensatory mechanism should be developed.

Group Discussions

Gender Documentation: The group agreed to form an informal network called Women India Link which will share responsibilities on preparing a thesaurus on gender documentation as well as to link up with other women DCs in this effort. The group members will contact others at the local level and talk about this at meetings. The coordinator of the network will be sending out a common letter on the thesaurus. The core group plans to meet again in December to review its efforts.

Language Documentation: Problems of collection, translations, dissemination and production came up. Translations and repackaging require human exchange, need to transcreate. Suggestions to generate information from the field & to have training workshops one for DCM members and another for other groups. To form a translators' pool - for Telugu in H'bad, for Hindi in Delhi and for Kannada somewhere in Karnataka.

SAP: The group decided to prepare a list of available sources on SAP, to make a bibliography all the SAP materials and to make a list of institutes working on SAP.

Setting up Documentation Centres: Lakshmi Menon outlined the different processes involved in documentation, viz., 1. understanding the nature, scope, objectives and targets of the organisation

2. Collection 3. Organising, classifying, cataloguing and indexing 4. Storage 5. Retrieval and 6. Dissemination and information services. The members of the group found problems with regard to each of the above processes. It was felt that they needed training. Training could be offered by groups like ISI-Bangalore, CED-Bombay or VHAI-Delhi. But as each group has its own specific problems, group training cannot solve the problems. It is preferable if one trainer visit the organisations requesting training and on-site training planned to suit their specific needs. Akshara was referred to for training on women's documentation, may also consider training for other groups.

Audio-visual documentation: The group expressed the need for in-depth analysis and documentation of mainstream media. There should be more A/V material available in regional languages; the possibility of adaptations and co-productions could be explored. It was agreed to prepare a resource book on audio-visuals.

14/7/94

Computer Communications - India Link

Leo Fernandez of ISI, Delhi and Sujit Nanda of BBS Live Wire, Bombay took the sessions on computer communications.

The concept of India-Link emerged in July 1989 as an outcome of the workshop on computer communication held at CED, Bombay.

Agenda for this meeting are:

- what is computer communications
- what are the options available in getting connected between cities
- finance and costing
- membership
- resource mobilisation

Computer communications is mail that can be sent faster without a post man. It needs a telephone and a computer at the sender's end. Since physical connection between two computers across cities is not possible, the telephone lines are made use of for passing messages. One system serves as the host and the rest have the

facility to pick up messages. E-Mail is one to many dialogue. When the e-mail is gone to a group of people and the network has something common it is called Electronic Conference. With this facility Person.1 can put in a message in the host computer, Person.2 sends in his reply, Person.3 makes comments on it, thus it becomes a conference. In e-mail file transfer of texts and programmes is possible.

Telnet: Logging in from one system to another, commercial networks cannot provide this service. Assuming that there is a network of computers, one can use computer programmes of an area sitting in a different region. Thus while being in India one can access to the networks in California as though belonging to that network. For this one has to hop via Australia to California dialling particular codes to get into the programmes available at the network there.

Internet: It is a large global network of many smaller networks. World Wide Web (WWW) is one such. Once you access the programme on the WWW, ask for index or table of contents which will give you a glance and you zoom on what you want. If there is some more specific details you want, once again the WWW is given the command and you can avail of it after it is identified.

High Speed Link: Similar to WWW, one can only specify which area one wants the message from.

Online: You search for the info yourself while the system is connected.

Offline: Somebody other than yourself browses through the data for you pass it on to you later without being continuously connected to the system.

Internet is a network of 30 million computers world wide. It provides communications between many academic and commercial computers. AXcess is one of the smaller networks linked to Internet. Association for Progressive Communications, APC is a network of NGOs having host nodes in 60 countries. Internet is made use of for linking between APC networks. APC carries conferences of NGOs all over the world. APC hosted the communication at the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights, they are planning to do the same for the Beijing Conference in '95 also.

List services is like a mailing list. For instance if one wants to participate in the women's conference in UN, even if one is not connected to that particular network one can be on the list service and the messages one requires are posted to you.

India-Link is a representative partner of APC in India, not a member. It is linked to APC via the Internet. There can be exchange of mail either directly from one host to another or via the central host to APC. In India the Bombay host is linked to APC via Green Net which is a Full APC Network. The central host can either collect messages from various hosts and pass it to APC or the other hosts can route the message to the central host. Currently India-Link has three hosts in Bombay, Delhi and Madras: leo@unv.ernet.in / sujit@inbb.gn.apc.org / loyola@food.unv.ernet.in.

Right now the Delhi host runs free of charge, so anyone can avail of it. Delhi host has about 100 users including 50 NGOs, 15 NGOs use Bombay and 3-5 users for the Madras host.

It is ideal to have a single host for a place. It is inconvenient to have two hosts at the same place as it might create confusion.

Host sites at various cities reduces STD and gives support services to the users of that city. Now all the cities in India are linked to ERNET which is connected to Internet & APC. ERNET, Educational Research Network for educational network; but they are slowly opening up to NGOs. SIRNET is a subnet of ERNET. Plan to have ERNET in all important cities. ISST-Delhi is directly connected to ERNET without India-Link. But ERNET doesn't provide NGO dialogues which is done by India-Link. Once the link between Bombay and Delhi is established, the Green Net link between Bombay and APC will go and communication going out will go via Delhi.

Commercial networks: AXcess, UUNet, ICNet etc
Most of these networks are linked directly to Internet or APC, what happens is that if you are a member of aXcess with its host in the USA your message from Bangalore to Bombay goes via the USA which is charged at a higher rate. The commercial networks provide only E-Mail service, they are not capable of running Telnet and Electronic Conference services.

Equipment requirements:

A computer, modem, telephone and software.

Computer - 8086/486/8088/80286

Modem of 2400 bps - 240 words per second are transferred. The host must be connected to a 14400 bps modem

Softwares: Commercial software eg Procom, Bitcom
Shareware software (ideal) eg Telix, 3.21, Odysse
Freeware software Not tested

Fax Modem: Internal & External

In internal fax modem card which has three points is inserted into the computer. The external fax modem sits separately beside the computer. It is more convenient as it has indicator lights to show whether you are getting connected. But it is bulky and needs a cable connection. Internal on the other hand is cheaper by 20%.

Connecting a fax machine to a computer is also possible, but it is not very practical.

Now all computers are being sold with fax modems which does not cost more than 5 or 10 US dollars. Winfax Version 4 is recommended. One can directly fax messages from the computer by giving the command to fax without first getting a printout that is to be faxed to the receiver. One can also get the benefit of STD rebate by directing the computer to send the fax at, say, 10 pm.

You can also send a fax on your letterhead. The letterhead data and signature if necessary, must be captured on your computer so that it gets printed out. For this one has to fax some matter printed on your letterhead with the signature from any local fax machine, keeping your computer open to receive message. Once the image gets captured on your machine retain the letterhead and signature, store it in a particular file and use when necessary.

Fax server: This software runs very closely to that of the computer. When you don't have a fax modem, you can send an E-mail to the host who in turn can send the fax for you. The only problem arises when the receiving end is engaged or when one can't get through the host.

Modem models:

1. ZXYEL
2. Multi-Tech
3. USR Sportex
4. INTELSATISFACTION

COSTS

in K : 1K = Rs.1000/-

	Host	Cost	User	Cost
Computer	386 system 250 MB Hard disc RAM 4-8 mB	Rs.40K	any computer	-
Modem	14.4 K Fax	Rs.11-20K	2400 -9600 bps with MNP	Rs.8-11 K
Software	-	Rs.10 K	Telix	No cost
Operational	STD	Rs.2K per month	Local calls	
Modem Licence fee	-	Rs.300/year		Rs.300/ year

Subscription to a host costs around Rs.2000/- per year.

Requirements:

Host	User
Technical support	Motivation
User support	Hunger for info.
Info needs of NGOs	Skills to use the basic
Popularity	-computer operations

Discussions:

Sujit Nanda: Computer communications are useful but the usership is at the roots. The users have not contributed to the movement of computer communications. What needs to be done ? Newsletters, training programmes for users ??

Sucharita Eashwar: You need to build up the user base. We need more information on things like India-Link. Build up more awareness and organise workshops on E-mail and computer communications.

Saravanan: In fact many people have modems but do not know which network to use like I-net, Geo Net or Tool Net.

workers the need was felt to operate at the grassroot level and need based activities. Apart from calenders all other activities are in plan stage. ISRE in Bombay runs a mobile library. Olakh is also planning to network with other NGOs to pool in resources for a mobile library. ISRE also have started membership to Olakh.

Jayashree Joshi, Chetna: CHETNA is Centre for Health, Education, Training, Nutrition Awareness. Target groups women and children. Started in 1980 affiliated to the Nehru Mission, Ahmedabad. Chetna tries to

Foundation for development

achieve its objectives by direct and indirect modes, training people involved in Health and Nutrition, acts as a liason between the grass-roots and policy makers. Chetna brings out two publications, the quarterly Chetna News and the Information Brochure. The library has about 4000 books. Developed a variety of training materials on health education and nutrition. Library is open to all in three languages, Gujarati, Hindi and English. CDS-ISIS package used for computerised documentation. New decimal classification followed. Give information to researchers, NGOs and other interested people. Specialised master training available to those interested in the areas of child, health, education and documentation. Training on documentation is for User Training

how to use Chetna library. Other trainings- gender sensitisation, adolescent training, communication skills in theatre and puppetry etc. We are part of interlibrary-loan-link.

John D'Souza, CED: A centre for specialised documentation started in 1974. Documentation is the sole activity, documentation done systematically on a daily basis. Specialised in doc services, CED is professional, ~~apolitical~~ and hence systematic. Clippings from 1979 is available; the classification is stable and expanding depending on the need of the day. The first section of the documentation is the clippings; we are more known for our clippings. It covers 700 categories of topics and important issues. The next section is the books numbering around 9000. Third section is the NGO and govt. reports. Then comes the journals which are indexed. We do not prepare abstract only make discriptives. CED follows the same classification for all sections i.e., the same code is used for news clippings, reports, books and video cassettes. but the filer code is different. CED is open-accessed & computerised. Even new debates are filed under proper mother codes. All the books, reports and journals are indexed in the DCM format in DBF in Foxbase. Video cassettes about 100 are copied, the copy is available for borrowing, master is retained. Cassettes are charged. Docpost service is available through requests on the mail. Xerox materials are sent via the post. CED is also an outlet for NGO publications, 250 titles from the NGO sector are kept for distribution. CED doesn't have interlibrary loan facility.

take it into Chetna volunteered to give guidelines for intralibrary loan to CED, CED to circulate it among participant members.

Lalith Jain, Astha: Astha documentation centre has 2000 books, paper clippings, reports and audio & video cassettes. It gives training in social change- TOT (Training of Trainers), Project works, Field Adult Education, Health, Women's development, Wages etc. The training courses extends from 1-9 days. Adult Education training given to NGOs active in tribal areas. Trainees are given xeroxed information, training is most in Hindi.

Antappa, AICUF: Started in 1924 in Trichy, witness to social and

national issues. The national documentation centre has a comprehensive collection of AICUF movements especially those concerning the student. A collection of 2650 books, 75 journals & 4 dailies. Student News is bi-monthly publication. Information is given out to all other centre of AICUF. Other activities include conducting training programmes and seminars. AICUF is not politically motivated.

CP Jayalaxmi, Co-ordination Unit for Beijing Meet Sept '95: Working on gender issues. To get maximum representation by grassroots movement in such meetings as the Beijing one. Recommendations of such meetings finally becomes policy papers. This is a way to make inroads into govt. policies. We work out methods to get interlinkages between women groups. We operate on a commercial E-Mail network to get all the women groups interlinked to form a powerful representation.

Laxmi Menon, Akshara: In 1987 developed the Akshara classification system starting with our own material. Officially set up in 1994 at Dadar. Involved in reports & publishing in non-academic languages. Akshara has brought out a 'Manual for Information Process' called "Use Your Head" It helps in information processing. By this December we will become functional, we have decided against keeping news clippings, videos and academic research material because of having CED & SNTD in Bombay. We will have documents, seminar papers, journals etc. Target group is women, focussing on the issues of health and labour, to serve as a bridge between the mainstream media and grassroots issue.

We offer training in setting up documentation centres especially for women's issues. Depending on the requirements of the trainee organisation the training is for one day to three months. The prime aim of Akshara is to be independent of a professional librarian. Our classification is not standardised, it requires modifications as per the need. We develop course modules and publish booklets which are for sale. Akshara translates its own publications into Marathi.

The question of duplication: Having the same books is not duplication. They should be available to the needy. Duplication arises when labour is duplicated.

John: Having easily available information is no sin, each NGO is uniquely special and hence contributes a lot to their special view. Duplication of labour becomes essential as sharing involves many practical problems whose modalities have to be arrived at first.

Lakshmi was requested to collect and distribute the expensive publications, journals and other reference collections from other countries as she has a better access to it.

Yamuna, Equations: Equations is a documentation & research centre working mainly on tourism. We have two quarterlies, the Documentation Update based on news clips and the Alternate Network Letter. We mark 5 newspapers. Equations has compiled information on women and tourism.

Aloysius Britto, Ishwani Kendra: Doing documentation and research on tribals, using computer logic with human hands. Documents newspaper clippings, reports and other literature covering 15 subjects. We have national and regional level understandings with other groups. We monitor serious literature from journals mostly on religion and its combination with politics. Even materials from foreign journals are sometimes translated and key-worded so that anyone can understand it. Ishwani Documentation Journal comes out thrice a year priced at Rs.50.

annually. Our classification is standard with a traditional index. Concept category is in alphabetical order; journal articles are on concept cards and easily retrievable.

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Ramnani Rao, ISST Delhi: It is a research organisation though the focus on research has changed from time to time. Documentation centre started from 1981. Most of the collection are unpublished materials and seminar papers used by researchers. We avoid duplication by not collecting material available elsewhere. Receive journals related to women's issues. Also has 5-6 years' clippings from 4 newspapers arranged subjectwise. Back volumes of periodicals are kept, not thinking of weeding out old issues. We find it difficult to use a standard classification system, we use only key-words; catalogue arranged according to the key-words. Prepare bibliographies. ISST Bangalore specialise on Panchayati Raj and conduct training for women elected to panchayats. Though based in Delhi we have difficulties in getting govt. reports.

On Thesaurus - RR: Thesaurus is not strictly followed, all the key-words are alphabetically arranged in the catalogue.
Laxmi Menon: Some international as well as Indian groups have developed thesaurus. Even at DCM we were developing one, I don't know what happened to it.

Minal Khedkar, TISS: The Women's Studies Unit of TISS was started in 1981 with UGC grant, but the documentation centre's grant comes from the Ford Foundation. That's why I call myself an NGO. Basically it is an academic library catering to MSW & Ph.D students and the faculty members. Besides outside academics foreigners and a few NGOs make use of the doc centre. We don't get many journals since the TISS library has most of them. Books about 2000 and nearly 2000 pamphlets arranged subjectwise in boxes. Various newsletters from NGOs and women's studies centres arranged alphabetically. Newspapers are arranged into subject files, if they are old, they are kept as bound volumes. We conduct refresher courses for UGC and Academic Staff colleges. In 1985 published a directory of Services for Women in Bombay. Prepared annotated bibliographies on women & work, health, religion and law. It is available to outsiders also. We follow the CDS-ISIS scheme for annotations. Govt. documents come to the TISS library; if anybody wants any such reports which is not available to them we can copy it. We service queries through mail. A list of video cassettes are available with the A-V unit of TISS.

Pamela Fernandes, Jagruti Kendra: We want to organise our library. It has no classification system. It is aimed at broadening the awareness among our target groups - women, youth & children in the neighbourhood. The entire area of our work is in slums and chawls. Ours is a primitive documentation; categorised books and journals under broad sections pertaining to our work like health, law etc. We have one publication in the form of a six-monthly report. Jagruti Kendra was initiated by a priest and a nun five years ago. We have a staff of 14 para-professionals; only two of them are professional MSWs. We identify leaders from the community and train them. Work in five places in Bombay with a mass base of women; in the credit society there are a lot of women members. We are documenting the process of our work. To evaluate our work we are interviewing a lot of Jagruti Kendra's beneficiaries. Our problem is with the news clips, we don't have anyone qualified to do the job. Encourage staff to read books in their own language. Workers write monthly reports which are collated later.

Jyotirmayee K, Alternatives for India Development: AID is UK based, with the national head quarters in Madras operating in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Our thrust areas are education, health and environment. We publish Grassroots Action journal annually, it is going to come out quarterly. The special issues so far were on Girl child, Education for Liberation & Dalits. The next issue is on Indegenous People.

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Reggie Gomez, INSAF: It is a social action group working on children, women, dalits, adivasis and human rights. We formed a commission which prepares papers on our perspectives on these issues. At the National conference agenda for the issues were set out. 60 NGOs attended the meeting and discussed problems at the state level. Each state should have their own conventions. We also have workshops and plans of action for the year, one such is the Children's Report of Goa. We do not want to have a big documentation centre as there are already a number of them in Goa.

Shubro Roy, CYSD: Centre for Youth and Social Development was started in 1987. We dream of a self-sufficient society, to excel for the poor, their participatory methods, people's organisations and sustainability.

Ours is a three-fold role of enabler implementor and disseminator. We have 3000 books, 100 journals and news paper clippings in Oriya. We bring out publications in Oriya, some of the Action Aid booklets were translated into Oriya. We have lending facility; students of the Utkal University are the main users. I want to know how to index journals.

Leslie Rodricks, Vikas Adhyan Kendra: We are a group of people who were with BUILD, a left-oriented organisation. With the collapse of the USSR, we shifted over to analysing the present socio-economic problems, documentation & dissemination, seminars and trainings. We deal with dalits, women, children, adivasis, fundamentalism etc. Three publications- Vikalp, Action Goods and Theoretical Journal. We have a highly modified classification system, has a number easily stored and retrievable in the computer. Ours is more of a research than documentation centre, it is more for our own use and reference. We have a collection of 2000 books, we started indexing EPWs recently. Articles, pamphlets and booklets are given a standard classification number. Our daily clippings are highly catagorised consisting of editorial, features and comments. We do not keep them as CED is there. We have eliminated the card catalogue. Books we buy are relevent to the areas we work on. Our publications are translated into Gujarathi and Hindi, now people demand it in Marathi also. The next issue of the journal, "New Perspectives" is going to come out in English and Marathi. We conduct symposia, workshops and seminars; one problem we find with seminars is transcribing them.

Asha Dixit, Disha Kendra: Our work is mainly related to educational activities especially adult education. We also organise mass marriages. We do not have a documentation centre.

Lakshmi R, CRY: We support 80 projects all over India. Documentation is a non-financial support with a collection of 1500 books and 40 journal. We work mostly on children's, especially street children's issues. Other areas are women, health and income generation, we have a project meeting once in six months. Our doc centre is in Bombay which is used by NGOs and others. We would like to know more about info dissimination and accession, doc training, translations especially on gender and income generation and process documentation.

Christu John, YMCA: Our library is an academic one, we had given away our collection to UGC. Since one year we have collected 5-6 thousand books. We got some documents from CED also. We follow the Dewy classification system. We are processing the materials as we are still collecting them. We plan to bring out publications after two years.

Madhusudan, CWC: CWC has four programmes; the rural pgmme in South Kanara, Ankur-Banglore pgmme, Documentation & Research pgmm-CARD & Field pgmme in Kundapur. Our documents are mainly in English published by other NGOs. As information is flowing we have a new info cell to decide which info should go where. Our doc and info centres are different. We bring out Molake newsletter and Bhima Patrike, a wallpaper for working children. Bhima is translated and circulated in Bombay also. We have a series of A-V cassettes on campaigns like last year's on Varahi Parichaya; an environmental campaign on migration

problems of children.

Our documentation centre also has films; we made one on agriculture and its related problems on children called " Julujulu anthakali".

We train children in certain crafts and other activities.

" Devarakadu" is another movie we have produced which is a national award winner. Documentation centre of CWC was used to get information on this.

Alex V, Dalit Research Centre: Dalit Research Centre is four year old having 1050 books, periodicals and paper clips classified under fifteen subjects. We conduct seminars and publish books based on them. 90% of them are in English and the rest in Tamil. We also have a few materials in Marathi.

Ramakanth, Integrated Rural Dev. of Weaker Sections in India, WIDA : Work with dalits, tribals and other weaker sections on issues of land, women economic development, community development programmes, skills assistance, health programmes etc. Health staff work in 130 villages covering immunization and nutrition programmes. Community development pgmmes are done through films, videos, slides and puppetry. We brought out a literary primer in Oriya. WIDA gives financial assistance to students & women. With the help of the Dept. of Science & Technology we give training in making baskets, brooms and ropes. We conduct

workshops on Eucalyptus plantations. Our doc centre has 2000 books, documentation is not yet computerised.

J B Rajan, PCO: Pogramme for Community Organisations is aimed at the education, training, info dissemination, research and documentation of fisherfolks. We do fisheries related documentation. We have 3000 books, 1300 reports, 32 English and 12 Malayalam journals; we subscribe 8 newspapers. We follow our own classification on fisheries - Kerala fisheries, National fisheries and World fisheries. We have paper clips mainly on fisheries and a few other subjects and videos under various topics. PCO publishes research reports and get them translated to Malayalam.

Radha Kunke, LAYA: LAYA is a resource centre for tribals engaged in networking, training and documentation. We have carried out a census survey of the tribals affected by the upcoming Polavaram dam in East Godavary district. LAYA has given training to the tribals to do the

survey. Similarly we have managed to get the land records from govt. sources. The info is maintained in computerised database. We also conduct para-legal training to tribal youths with respect to the land alienation issues. Documentation of herbal medicines is also done. In 1991 we organised an environment padayatra of 52 days. That was process documented in the form of a book, later it was translated to Telugu, but yet to find a translator for Oriya. Another programme is the video documentation with CED aimed at generating dialogues among the tribal communities.

Munira Sen, Madhyam: Set up in 1983 Madhyam documents folk forms, dalit, tribal, women and children's issues on video. Produced a video on girl child called GIRIJA, it's been made in five languages. Our field activists are based in five regions - Assam, AP, Delhi, Karnataka and ??

Asit, CISEC: CiseC is a specialised group doing radiation studies. It is a collective of ex-students of JNU and Calicut Medical College, film makers, feminists and lawyers. I am doing a project on the political economy of health. We deal only on radiation and occupational health. We had done the first study on the Indian Rare Earths' radiation; analysed blood samples from 50,000 households for radioactivity levels. We set up an Ayurvedic Hospital called Pratiksha. Now doing a study on genetic aberration on 30 pregnant volunteers.

12/7/94

Presentation on Language Documentation - The Interface Between DCs and Action Groups by Usha Rao

A. ACTION GROUPS

*(taken on paper)
say, Nisha Sen reported here
Munira.*

1. Action Groups & Readership

The language of reading: In many voluntary agencies only the project head may have access to English. If it is a large project some of the senior staff too can read English while the rest have access only to the regional language. In recent times in a large number of small organisations even the project head has access only to the regional language. So most of the staff in action groups can read and write only the regional language.

Access to reading: Though access to regional language or mother tongue is given to every member of any social group, the access to reading in

regional language is not readily available. Given the relative poverty of resources available to the languages in India with the notable exception of Malayalam and Bengali, even those having university education are not necessarily habitual readers of documents. If this is the case with project heads and senior staff, most field level workers come out of very poorly resourced schools. Very few of them are readers and some even profess a distaste for reading. They denounce reading saying that it is not a socially useful productivity. Some hold that practical/experiential learning alone has value. On the whole volags suffer from lack of reading and some of these attitudes are the result of non-availability of material that relates to their concerns.

Access to referring: Of the readers, most read for entertainment and

read what easily comes their way. The ability to seek information by referring to a library or documentation centre is indeed rare. This is

a very important skill if one is to use a doc centre or library. Most people who can read but are not habitual readers is because they don't know what book can interest them or where they can find them. This is more true when they work in remote areas where there is no library or collection of books that they can choose from.

The need and potential for promoting readership among the action groups: Trainers and project heads give a great deal of emphasis on trainings and workshops. This form of learning is of great value, but if it is not supported by learning through reading, it means the activist has to depend on his or her own learning. If there is no active effort to promote reading, then the activist takes no initiatives in self-learning. The activist gets exposed to only the set of ideas that the trainer is able to share. It is important for the activist to have a wider exposure so that she can see the work in that context and arrive at a mature perspective.

Activists are relatively more concerned about people and society. It is easier to arouse their curiosity and desire for further knowledge. Thus it is much easier to develop readership among them than in any other groups in society.

2. Action Groups as Sources of Documents:

In most organisations activists, trainers and project heads are producing reports and other materials. But they are all seen as internal documents. It is important that activist see their work as part of socio-political & economic trends, see that their experiences hold valuable information and knowledge for a whole lot of other groups. An activist is best able to relate to the the work of another activist doing similar work. No other writing, however refined and solid its contents might be, is going to strike a chord as much as the story of another soul in the same boat. So documentation by activists itself is a very important source for documentation centres who wish to cater to the activists.

B. DOCUMENTATION CENTRES

Origin, History and Form

Documentation centres originated with the need to collect and preserve documents of historical importance. Even in India documentation centres started in English. The focus was on collection and classification. They catered to a scholarly clientele who were well-read and very much capable of using a library. The doc centres have come a long way since then. The books now chosen reflect progressive thoughts and are people-oriented. But it is still shackled by its history in its preoccupation with collection and classification; it still continues to be predominantly in English. Even regional language centres are doing it along with English and continues to cater to researchers and policy makers. Documentation for action groups is an area yet to be addressed.

C. THE PROBLEMS OF INTERFACE BETWEEN THE ACTION GROUPS & DCs

1. Language: Most of the doc centres are in English, even regional language doc centres do it along with English. For example, DEEDS has been able to find very little published material in Kannada. Despite sincere efforts to keep material in regional languages doc centres are predominantly in English.

2. The Reach: Most activists have come across very limited variety of books. Most of them are from rural backgrounds, some places even news papers are not available. At best they have come across fiction and magazines. They are totally unused to the idea of reading on develop. issues and reading to further knowledge.

3. Lack of Environment: In most areas children don't get to see books other than text books. And where books are available they are discouraged saying it is a waste of time. It is very difficult for an adult to acquire reading habits, atleast it requires a lot of effort on somebody's part to reach books to them, coax and tempt them to read, keep track of their likes and interests and carefully select books for them.

The promoter would have to ensure that the new reader gets at least a few highly satisfying experiences of reading and gets a taste for reading. So far our documentation centres have not considered promoting reading among low-reading groups and are not geared towards it. They are meant for those seeking info but not for the hesitant beginner.

4. Quality of material in DCs: Usually DCs have clippings, books, journals and magazines and the more widely circulated reports and papers. Newspaper clippings contain bits and pieces of information. A person who already has some knowledge of it is able to relate it to other known facts. But someone with little background to it will not get a satisfying reading from it. Books and journals are way beyond the reach of an average activist. They may not be the greatest on the subject and the activist can't get anything out of it. As most of the things are printed materials the activist cannot access to it; they are addressed to people with higher education. Documentation centres do not have materials corresponding to the activists' needs - that in simple language, limited vocabulary and are comprehensive and complete in themselves. The average activist does not have the kind of educational background to understand a language using a very large vocabulary and a complex form.

D. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

1. Reach: The doc centre should take the initiative to reach the appropriate material to the activists. DCs should help action groups to establish a library and reading room. The library should have at least a minimum number of books and materials covering its area of work. The material should be very carefully selected and it must be very much readable and relevant to the activists. Within the DCs we need to develop our expertise; we should be good at assessing the reading skills and the needs of the group.

DCs should work with a set of action groups and should offer exposure workshops, user-friendly packages, info dissemination, reaching selected material for programmes and sub-centres. The objective of the exposure workshops are enabling the activist to know that there are

material that can be easily read, providing an opportunity for the activist to have very positive post-reading experience and developing reference skills. DCs should develop packages of material to be used for specific programmes. The objective is to make it accessible to the trainers who do not have much ideas on locating suitable material. It can include posters and audio-visuals. DCs must have wide range of classified lists. These lists should be widely published and circulated. It should be of very specific areas and for specific readerships. The user should be able to straightaway locate what is appropriate to him.

Reaching selected material for programmes is a good working arrangement with the groups. The group keep the DC informed of its training calendar and other events. 1) The DC takes the responsibility of reaching appropriate reading material for the participants. The trainer or project head may need material to refer to while designing the programme. The services can be of two kinds: 1) a knowledgeable person sends requests for specific material and the DC responds to it. 2) Or the group can ask the DC to select and send the material that they need. The material can be reached and returned by post. The group may also require a person to integrate reading exercises. 3) DCs should be able to send good resource persons. 4) If the action group has a well used library then the DC can consider that as a sub-centre. The DC acts as the source library. At a time about 100 books and other documents can be lent; these can be exchanged after a suitable period for a fresh lot.

2. Collection of Appropriate Material: Activists are able to relate to the work of another activist doing similar work. 1) The reports and writings of activist are important sources of documents. If it is a matter of communicating new new ideas to activists, it is done through various workshops. Here the trainer is making valuable efforts to communicate in the language and idiom that is understandable to the activists. Such workshops ought to be documented and these are perhaps the most valuable of documents. Similarly there is a great need for backgrounders and articles which present the subject in a comprehensive manner. After reading such material it becomes easy to assimilate new information. Such articles should form part of the basic minimum library among action groups.

3. Efforts to Generate Appropriate Material: Till now not much thought and effort has been made to create materials for activists. It requires special efforts to generate awareness and to equip people with the skills to do so.

English has been through a Basic language movement, a good amount of literature was created using a vocabulary of about 850 words with another 100-150 words added in the cases of technical subjects. Our regional language too need some efforts of this kind. Materials should be created for activists using a limited vocabulary of 1000 words.

Most activists are made to write some form of report. Usually the pressure comes from outside and is passed down the line. Writing and documenting one's work and the work of the collective is a very important act of reviewing, critiquing and setting directions for one's work. Documenting must be primarily for oneself and then it can be of value to others too. DCs need to train action groups to document for their own use; the training should help them develop their writing skills.

There are always people who write on subjects of interest to the

activists. They need a sense of the target audience to be able to write for them. DCs could arrange for such interactions. Over the process of communicating ideas to this group the writer will get a sense of content and form that is appropriate. Such interactions in itself generate good documents.

DCs can generate secondary literature that are useful to the activists. It can be reviews of series of articles on a topic, reviews of very good reports, training materials, books or newsletters. These can be circulated as list of documents or as part of newsletters with wide circulation.

Often it is suggested and attempted that if there is not enough good material available in regional languages resort to translations. There is an inherent problem with translations. When something gets written in English, it is addressed to a group with a certain level of education, experience and knowledge base. All this is taken into account while writing the original. When the same gets translated it becomes unreadable except to readers of English. The translator should try and communicate the idea to a representative target readers. On the basis of this experience it should be translated and adapted. Translators with a sense of the audience already in the mind are rare. Hence it becomes important to arrange for such interchanges to occur in person and then document it.

4. Some Important Considerations in Documentation:

All work done in the regional languages must first be documented in that language itself. It has value primarily for people who worked to create it and then for others who know that language. It will be of secondary importance to those who do not know the language. The work done by the activist is used to develop theories, draw future policies etc. But the activists themselves are kept inaccessible to it. We in documentation centres must try to change this trend.

Writing is for oneself. Documenting is an act of enriching oneself and one's work. But practised in the form of being accountable to another reduces it to an unwanted chore. Asking a person to write must be in the spirit of helping him/her to think and grow.

To sum up lots need to be done: collect all the unimportant-looking reports - they are important for the readers. Locate resource persons

and organise workshops on writing in simple language with limited vocabulary, backgrounders and documenting for the activists. Adopt action groups and cater to their needs of the written materials. They in turn can feed the DC with documents generated by them. Avoid translations, instead document actual communications. Help action groups to develop forms of reporting and documenting their work. Focus on readership as DCs principle goal, then everything else will fall in place.

Documentation centres for activists is in a sense like putting the cart before the horse. Readership starts with transitional literature. Promoting school and public libraries and getting the activists use them is of prime importance. The urge to learn from books can come only after attaining a level of ease in reading books coupled with knowing where to find what books. The ease in reading comes from reading a great number of racy books- short stories, novels, simple poetry, film songs, epics, plays, stories and plays in verse.

Discussions:

Radha: We find that village level activists are not comfortable with reading and writing. So we prefer to do our trainings orally and to have the reports orally.

Usha: Training programmes are important and serve a certain purpose it cannot replace reading, it is important that we should encourage them to read.

Radha: We have a system whereby activist groups discuss and a social workers listen and record.

Usha: Reading and writing are sources of power which makes it very important that people develop the skills of reading and writing

Radha: How do you make a field based activist write? If the activist shares and someone else writes it can help; it is a sensible solution.

Usha: It is important for the activist to write because it helps to reflect.

Shabnam: I agree with it.

Radha: Activists have their own way of communicating, reading is not a part of their culture.

gmf - | Vijayendra: What this implies is we have to help the tribals get the integrated into the mainstream. Example, formal education for tribals.

2) Non-formal education does not lead to providing all aspects of formal education.

Asit: I am critical of formal education. Will the tribals not become pillars of bureaucracy with formal education? Do you want to educate or literate?

Radha: Let us come to the point. We are deciding the basic means of communicating while documenting.

John: Resistance to reading and writing has been emphasised by Usha's lecture. All agencies have good training programmes. Documents of the training programmes have to be communicated to the groups.

Laxmi: Let us focus on what needs to be concretely done.

Avinash: MCS should have a field for deciding the level of readability of the book.

John: We have a kind of field, we are half way through that.

Madhusudhan: Translation of related literature needs vocabulary of technical terms.

John: Govt: has made a dictionary of technical terms.

Vijayendra: There is a need to restrict vocabulary to help the common man read. In 1930 IA Ricahrdson started Basic Language, he found that only 850 words are needed to explain all difficult words which are about 20,000; like " Lady Bird" series and " Ladder"series are in simple English.Hindi became more difficult after Independence. Example AIR. Structure of Hindi is in English, therefore there is a need for a more democratic language.

XYZ : LAnguage is becoming difficult because of language movements. ^w

Madhusudhan: There is need for standardised terms to understand the efforts of each other.

Shirdi Prasad: Language of fourth standard level is being used in our publications.

Vijayendra: In order to help people read we should look for how people grew through reading. Their autobiographies provide a lot of insight.

✓ John: Need to stress on how action groups can develop reading/writing potential of activists.

Laxmi: Our job is also to give information to activists , for this we need to get in touch with who is doing what.

Leslie: CED can be a link between the activists and groups who are into documentation.

Others: Why CED ? All of us.

Presentation on Language Documentation by Umashankar

I will be very brief. I am not from the documentation groups, I am with the activists at the field and am talking from that point of view. An activist is somebody who is more at the field than at the office. My sharing of the training workshops for activists is about documentation. There are two forms of documentation; one written and the other audio-visual. For an activist the more important thing to do is networking and communicating. Then why regional language documentation ? Because activists are very poor in English; the alienation of having to read books in English for the rural based activist is very frustrating. This is why there is a need to have documentation in local languages. As a trainer our slogan was Not to Collect, But to Create Materials.

Documentation centres are anti-activist, centralised & mystified. There is a need to produce documents for the activist. The best and only person to do so the activist. The communication of the activist is oral, he wouldn't engage in intellectual discussions. There is also another myth that the activist doesn't write.If there has to be some training done for the activist we have to take into account the oral traditions of the activists. These w/shops were used to explore the skills in writing and reading. Our group, " Trainers Collective" had organised a w/shop on Creative Writing. There were a lot of exercises planned for the w/shop. It had six components: writing Letters, Reports

Articles & features, Dialogue, drama & script, Short stories, Poetry and Translations.

Each of the 16 trainees were asked to write 16 different kinds of letters and to post them. They were all genuine letters. After writing them they were read out and the best one in each of the 16 categories were published in a booklet form. Dialogue writing was difficult, the two persons did the dialogues and it was written.

Neo-literates like a lot of colour materials and photographs. They will not bother about the mere formats, they can discriminate the contents; they will go for what they like. A booklet on the discrimination of the girl child called Heegekke Heereeti ? came out through different stages in 4 years. At first it was prepared for Mahila Samakhya, later it was adapted for the Total Literacy Programme as calender, it was reprinted again, once again it changed its shape to chart format. It is these kind of materials that enrich DCs at regional level.

Tape recorders and video were used in Public Speech Course. It was recorded and played back to the trainees. Workshop on puppetry was shot on slides and the Mandal elections in 1983 in tribal areas was shot on VHS and edited to 20 minutes.

DCs should decentralise themselves at the project areas and the field Documentation for an activist must be produced from the activities of the activists. Reading and writing among them is very important. The one engaged in documentation should not be an indifferent person; the main job is to recreate experiences into documents.

Presentation on SAP by Prof. Krishna Kumar

Let me just mention to you that I happen to have some interface with NGOs already. So I have some idea about the kind of audience I am addressing. Another reason why I accepted the invitation is that normally I tend to sit in my office and have abstract version of SAP; very rarely I get an opportunity to do field work to get an idea of the ground realities. Knowing fully well that NGOs are quite active and they know the ground realities very well, I thought if I share my views with you and maybe spent lot of time after that for discussions then I may learn a lot from you which may improve my own perceptions of what kind of impacts. I am already amazed by the trees and branches identifying various components of SAP.

I do not know how many of you have read my paper in EPW, normally I don't write in things like EPW; I write in economic journals. I consider EPW to be a general, left oriented political magazine and I never wanted myself to have either a left orientation or a right orientation but an objective scientific orientation to economics. But it is hard on me after having several years of objective scientific research that you cannot be an economist without looking at the political economy angle. But only about three-four years ago I realised that one must look at economics at a political economic angle. And my first piece was on SAP which I was provoked to write because I

feel most of my colleague economists have been misrepresenting facts, have been blindly following what we were told to do than impartially examine it. This is what prompted me to write that paper; a paper which is different from much of my writings, I had been writing more than 60 papers in national and international journals. But I am very happy for having written that paper in EPW because that reflects change in my own attitudes and perceptions towards economics. For some of you who have read that paper, perhaps what I am going to say today is repetition. But at the same time, it is one thing to read a paper and another thing to discuss issues face to face. So I would like to beg your pardon if anything that I am going to say is obvious to you.

Let me start off from 1929. In 1929 there was a big crash of the world depression. Most of the countries were worried about the depression and wanted to do something about it so that, that kind of a catastrophe would not happen again. That was the time John Maynard Keynes, a famous economist, wrote a theoretical framework; in that framework he identified a major role for the govt: to intervene in the

working of the economy and said the state should intervene through controlling, say for example, credit and creating demand. These are the

two types - fiscal and monetary policies. So creating demand through fiscal policy and controlling money supply and price etc through the monetary policy. But when he saw the kinds of problems the world was going through he was so much concerned about the world that he said that his theory has no value unless that theory was applied to the critical problems that the world was facing at that time. So he was very much instrumental in putting down on paper the proposal to establish the two Brettonwood institutions, namely the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. When he proposed to establish these two institutions many people mainly govts including his own in the UK were not really enthused to have that. But what happened fortunately was that some international banking community in America saw selfish interest in that proposal. So what they did was the international bankers in the USA put sufficient political pressures within the USA more or less to accept in principle the proposal put forth by J M Keynes. As a result IMF & WB were established in 1944 as two multilateral institutions. It is very necessary for us today because we read in most of the newspapers and in popular articles that most of

these policies we adopt in our countries are thrust on us by IMF & WB. If that is the case we need to know what is the framework and what institutions are developing these policies. This will be my major focus of discussion this afternoon.

For example when these institutions were established through a charter they said that these institutions would have a board of governors and executive directors. They said there would be 12 executive directors. Out of 12 executive directors 5 would come from countries which have the maximum amount of foreign exchange reserves deposited with the IMF. That means, you can understand, the richest countries having the maximum amount of forex deposits those have the drawing rights on IMF. Those few countries would have 5 permanent representatives. And in addition they said, this is the IMF charter, the charter says, there is two representatives from the Latin American countries because they are close to America and all other countries would have five representatives. Then the voting would be proportionate to the

amount of forex with the IMF. There was a calculation made that about 89.8% of the votes in IMF rest with the developed countries. In other words if you look at the political economy angle IMF is predominantly controlled in its decision making by the developed countries; so predominantly that nearly 90% of the voting rights rest with the developing countries; only the other 10% for the developing world. A lot of people including our finance minister Dr. Manmohan Singh say that, that is an international organisation and we have our own representatives, we are members of that organisation; all that is non-sense if you look at the reality. There is a book written by a legal advisor to the IMF, a book by Mr. Gould; he wrote on the voting behaviour in the IMF and in that book he says very clearly that the way some of our representatives like Gopi Arora who go to IMF and executive directors - what they do is, they are there as executive directors and members to take decisions but when they sit around the table to talk, they talk in such a way that they would not like to offend the majority view. At best what they say is try to prevent the maximum harm that can be done to us and reduce that harm as much as possible and this is what perhaps some of the members in IMF can do and nothing beyond. And this is well documented by a legal advisor on how decisions are made.

We also must remember that the IMF decisions are governed by some other features which are not there in the charter of IMF but which are in the constitutional and legal framework of USA. Many people don't know. When the Brettonwood institutions were started, founded in 1944, there was in the USA a Brettonwood Act of 1944. According to that act it was said that USA had agreed to establish those two institutions and hence those conditions are very important and everyone should know. Those conditions were that the USA will have executive directors, not anybody from the govt., but the executive directors for the IMF & WB have to be selected by the President and conformed by the Congress. That means the entire political machinery is involved in choosing America's representatives to the IMF & WB. That is number one; secondly, that the Brettonwood Act also says that these executive directors cannot function on their own, independently. They are supposed to be advised as to how they are to function in the board by an advisory council. The advisory council would consist of the secretary of the Treasury, that is like our finance minister, the secretary of state, that is like our foreign minister and secretary of commerce that is like our Pranab Mukherji and then the chairman of board of reserves, that is like our Rangarajan, then the chairman of the import and export bank. These people constitute the advisory committee that would advise the members representing the USA on how they have to behave in taking decisions at IMF and WB. From this we know what kinds of decisions will be taken; not only that it also says that when these people take decisions the advisory committee is supposed to submit to the president and congress of the USA semi-annual reports in which they have to tell them, not the congress but the President, semi-annually what kind of decisions they are taking and how they are beneficial to the USA. That is number one. Secondly once in two years

this advisory committee has to place before the entire congress a report showing how the policies, international monetary and other policies, financial policies, how they have been beneficial to the USA and also to the world security. That is the word they use, world security, world security as perceived by the USA. So we know what the

mean. these are the political control of the USA on IMF and WB. This we must keep in mind and secondly most of our economists forget or rather

they are overwhelmed when they see the theoretical arguments that are advanced in favour of some of the stabilisation and structural adjustment policies. I will come to that a little later, but having talked about IMF and WB let me now go to the events that have led to the current crisis not only in India but the entire world.

One of the basic features of IMF was to fix the exchange rates and also to maintain the exchange rates at a stable rate so that there would not be much of a speculation about exchange rate fluctuating and

then capital moving haphazardly between one country and another country. That was supposed to be one of the basic functions of establishing IMF, according to JM Keynes. And hence the Brettonwoods, actually one identifies a fifth exchange rate as a Brettonwood instrument for stability and security in the financial economy of the world. There was a 5th exchange rate prevailing since the inception of IMF and WB in 1944 until 1973. 1970 onwards USA economy had run into major problems with its own balance of payments and dollar became very

weak viz-a-vis the Japanese Yen and the Deutschmark. Until 1970 the USA was vehemently opposing any introduction of a currency other than the dollar for international transactions. But when they had their own problems they realised that they themselves needed some other flexible

currency and hence they agreed to the introduction of the special drawing rights. The same country, that was opposing it from 1944 to 1970, in '71 or so in principle had agreed to this special drawing rights because of their own problems. Another thing is that we all know that the major economic crisis arose in 1973 as a result of the first oil shock. Who was responsible for that oil shock? USA had been giving economic as well as military aid to Israel to fight the Arab countries. Arab countries could not really fight Israel which was backed by USA with their own economic potential. So they needed to raise resources to match the giant economy - the USA. They got a brilliant idea that the only way to do that was to use their own natural resources namely the oil. Then they formed into a charter and hiked oil prices. The oil price shock of 1973 would not have been there if the USA had not supported Israel and put Israel against Arab countries. To put it in other words the first oil-shock was due to the political gambling or political strategy of USA. Infact if you see any World Bank report today, there was no classification before 1973. After '73 the countries are classified into oil-importing countries and oil-exporting countries the reason being that all of a sudden the oil-importing countries faced a major shock as a result of the price rise. In their statistics you will find that the balance of payment should be unfavourable to the oil-importing countries and favourable to oil-exporting countries. That means among all the countries of the world after 1973 a major balance of payment crisis arose for those countries importing oil. Fortunately at that time IMF started working towards giving what is called stabilisation

loans. For all those oil-importing countries IMF was giving a loan to cope up with the BoP problems. The first BoP problems and IMF's intervention to solve the problem started in '73 which I again attribute

to the USA's political role in supporting Israel. When they were already struggling and trying to recover, IMF dictated terms to them. Those countries which took loans from IMF were given certain terms, the so-called conditionalities under which the loan would be given to them.

A fellow economist got a Nobel Prize in 1976 for devising those conditionality instruments for Latin American countries and you may also have seen in papers that he was instrumental in advising the USA govt to overdraw the Chilean govt. Hence in 1976 when that economist, Milton Freedman, was given the Nobel Prize there was an uproar among the entire economic profession all over the world that why should a Nobel Prize be given to a person who was instrumental in overdrawing Allende's govt. in Chile. So that was the guy who framed the conditionality instruments for IMF - Milton Freedman. So when some of these countries having no alternatives when they were trying to cope up with the problems, in 1979 another major oil-shock came. The second oil-shock in magnitude was not as big as the first oil-shock. But over-&-above the first oil-shock it had serious repercussions in many countries particularly in some of the South American countries which had first an oil-shock, followed by an IMF loan - IMF loan going with some conditionalities, and conditionalities were very harsh to them. And when the conditionalities were very harsh, they had already taken IMF loans and had severe BoP problems, they had a second oil-shock. Soon after that in August 1982, Mexico declared bankruptcy. You must remember that all these IMF loans are sovereign loans, that means they are loans given by the

IMF to the governments of the countries ; they are not private loans. What Mexico did was, Mexico in August 1982 had declared that Mexico had gone bankrupt as a country and that they would not be able to honour the repayment obligation to IMF on the loans they had taken.

By this time one examines how IMF and WB have been operating. In the beginning these organisations were operating on a capital that is based on contributions made by member countries in terms of special drawing rights or whatever. Member countries were making contributions. But what happened from 1970 onwards, IMF & WB, WB in particular started raising capital from the capital markets. That means they were taking private loans from companies, international banks and so on. And putting them as the capital of IMF and WB to be given away as loans to countries. It meant not only sovereign capital, but private capital of major banks and international banking agencies were involved in IMF and

WB loans. Hence those international banking agents were concerned that their capital was at stake. If sovereign nations declared bankruptcy then their capital is at stake. They have to write off

all that investment they were putting in IMF and WB. So they put pressure on the USA government and the USA govt: in turn put pressure on IMF and WB to introduce certain conditionalities so that this kind of a bankruptcy can never take place. To safeguard the returns on their private loans they introduced the notion of

conditionalities.

We have to understand the issue of conditionalities because there are two sides to it. One side is, they keep telling us, look these conditionalities are meant for your own good so that you improve your economy, so that you are able to repay your loan. That's what they say. The other side of it is that there is a private capital involved. People who hold the private capital in these advanced countries are putting conditions so that they can recover money fast. These are the two sides; one might say both are one and the same. That is a different issue, maybe at the time of discussions we can talk about it. Now this is about the conditionalities.

What happens is that if you look at what are the conditionalities both in popular and professional writings, there is some confusion regarding what is structural adjustment and what is stability. Let me clarify that issue, to start with. Whenever there is a BoP problem, like oil-shock or something like that, due to external problem there is a BoP problem. Similarly there is a huge fiscal deficit, that means govt: is borrowing too much from the public and the central bank, then the govt: has payment obligations. There is so much money created as a result, price level goes up. So there are two aspects which give rise to an instability in the economy. One is a BoP deficit and the other is budget deficit and borrowing from the reserve bank which increases the price level. In other words inflation and BoP problems are short term instabilities in any economy. So whenever there are these two problems, BoP deficit and inflation, the economy is supposed to take care of those instabilities by some corrective measures. Any such corrective measures of solving these two problems are called stabilisation policies; that means you want to stabilise the economy by removing the instabilities in BoP and in price level or inflation. With these experiences of '73 and '79 --- I hope I am not boring you with economics, you know now-a-days it has become essential to understand some of these basic things because we are in the thin of thicks; so many things are happening. I only hope that you would go back and educate the common people all over the country about the realities of all these policies. So when people are educated, they are knowledgeable they can influence the policies through their legislatures and so on. Hence I don't consider this kind of economics an academic economics that should remain in the academic institutes. I think that this economics should percolate

to the common man. That is why I am taking a bit more time to go into the basics --- the '73 and '79 experiences of the two oil-shocks made people realise that, perhaps you know that in '79 with the second oil-shock in '82, South American countries when they faced these problems of say Mexico declaring bankruptcy, what IMF did was, they agreed to reschedule the loans. That means

they took the old loans and they said, "Look we will give you another loan, with that loan you would be able to make your payment obligations. Also we would spread out the loan over a longer period so that you won't feel the pinch of repayment". This is the issue of rescheduling the loan. This is what the palm-shot perspective of IMF in our Indian context. So the same taxing, the principle is the same. So they give another loan to do

that. Soon what the lending agencies as well as the receiving agencies felt that the capacity to repay is so low in some of these countries because their growth is low, their productivity is low, unless they improve their economy by improving their productivity and growth rate of their economies they will not be able to repay it. So it was felt that these stabilisation policies must be supplemented by certain long term structural adjustments in the economy. Hence the long term structural adjustments in the economy are supposed to be create improved productivity and rapid growth in the economy. In other words, the major goal of stabilisation policies is to reduce the short term in stabilities in the BoP deficit and that of inflation. The goal of structural adjustments is to create a long term situation which improves the productivity and growth of an economy. This is the distinction between the two.

Let me give examples for the two. When in '91 we started our economic policies with reducing budget deficits and on July 4th 1991 we devalued the rupee by about 19.7%. When we did these two those two instruments were supposed to be the the stabilisation instruments. In other words, the devaluation was supposed to reduce our BoP deficits and the reduction of budgetary deficit was supposed to reduce the level of inflation in the economy. So those were stabilisation instruments.

Now what are the structural adjustment mechanisms? For example the Chaliah Committee Report, Fiscal reforms, financial sector reforms and then liberalisation of imports and exports. All these are supposed to be structural adjustments which are aimed at improving the productivity and growth rate of the economy. Now I come to the basic issue of the two sides of these policies.

Some of you here perhaps might tell me because I lost track of this. Manmohan Singh held a very important post in Rajiv Gandhi's government as ..deputy commissioner of the Planning Commission ?? It is very ironic, very surprising that the crisis we encountered in 1990 and 1991 is due to the policies followed during the government of Rajiv Gandhi with his liberalisation policy from 1980. Rajiv Gandhi pushed liberalisation. If you look at our BoP statistics - they are published by what is called the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, it ia a publication that comes every month - if you look at the BoP statistics particularly the trade, export & imports and trade balance, you can immediately discover,

say for example before 1980 the BoP deficit was about 80,90, 100,200 crores something of that magnitude. During '80s cumulatively the BoP deficits had gone upto 2000, 3000,4000 crores. Less-than-two-digit-figures had gone to four-digit-figures by the '80s. All because liberalised imports without giving any incentives, but the business to export. So we were importing much more

than what we were exporting. Secondly in the world market our products were not at all competitive. This was established, there were two articles written in EPW by Indira Rajaram on our export performance where she very clearly demonstrated that small, small

countries which export garments, like our neighbours where the level of education technology is much worse, have better comparative advantage than us in exporting that could be due to two

reasons; either because a preferential treatment given by the USA for their textile import or because of our govt: putting unnecessary restrictions on our exports and imports. So in other

words the major BoP crisis that we face in 1990 was mostly because of the liberalisation policies of Rajiv Gandhi for which Manmohan Singh should share responsibility, because he held a key position at that time. Of course, it is also true that we had the Iraq War and devaluation and several such things added to it. But if you look at the dimensions of it the major part of the crisis was because of our liberalisation without having an over-all comprehensive policy as to how are we going to meet that particular BoP problem. There was no attention paid to it at all.

It is unfortunate that I was doing some mathematical & statical economics and I was in an ivory tower; I was not really concerned

with the real life economic problem because that was my specialisation. But the crisis really provoked me to come down and look at these real life problems and it is quite unfortunate that several of my colleagues who deal with such mundane problems on a day-to-day basis have ignored this. I blame all my economics

colleagues who did not warn in 1980s that if we were to follow such policies as were being followed that we would very soon end up in very huge BoP problems. They should have warned the govt: The economic advisors and people who are well known economist to advise the planning commission; all these people, I make them accountable, I blame myself for not having paid attention to these problems although I had been in the country. There are several people, perhaps like me who are qualified, competent economists, who are not concerned with the problems. So the whole profession has to be blamed for not warning the government, because of that we ran into the crisis. Not because planning as a mechanism has failed.

We keep hearing today that market socialism is lost, communism is

lost that planning is lost, they are all useless. They have gone by the way side because they did not deliver the goods and they are useless and the only panacea for all problems is freemarket mechanism. This is what we are told. In my view all this is nonsense, there are political reasons, the economic foundations are very sound with our planning system, economic foundations are very sound with Marxism, economic foundations are very sound with Market Socialism. If some of these institutes have failed, they failed not because of the economics but they failed because of the politics. This is what made me realise that the interface between economics and politics is so strong that people like me who were confining themselves to economics and not looking at the

political side have done a great injustice to both economics and to the real life problems for centuries and they continue to do so. That's why I am coming out in the open.

Please remember that our problem crisis was because of the economic liberalisation policies and not because of a failure of our planning. Nothing perhaps will reassure you about what I said than our own experience in the past before 1990. Didn't we have a war with China? Didn't we have war with Pakistan? Didn't we

survive all those things, major crises ? When we survived all those crises, didn't we have a planning mechanism in our country? That means our planning mechanism was sound enough and intact whenever they felt the planning mechanism was coming in the way, we gave a small planning holiday also, you may remember. When we had a major crisis of having two droughts consecutively following the war with Pakistan in '66- '67 we gave a plan holiday. Not that we gave up planning altogether, we gave a holiday because it required some kind of an emergency planning to recover from the crisis. So what we need is perhaps a plan holiday or a complete turn around of the planning process rather than giving up planning altogether. Now what people were saying was ,throw the baby with the bath water, forget about planning altogether. That is not sufficient. Lot of people give the wrong impression to the contribution made by Prof. PC Mahalonobis to the planning process. If one look at his major contribution, it ia a managerial contribution, it is a problem solving contribution. What he did was, to see what are our Strengths, what are our Weaknesses, what are our Opportunities, what are our Threats. In management, in corporate management when they talk about strategies, when they come up with strategies they look for what is called SWOT anaylisis. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats. What Mahalonobis did was precisely that; what are our strengths, our weaknesses, opportunities and threats. He said let us build up on ovr strengths, let us play down our weaknesses, let,s use our opportunities, let us beaware of our threats. That was his strategy and in today's world if we were given a task the same strategy would apply but what were strength at that time were different. Those strengths are perhaps our weaknesses now, like our public sector. So if planning process as a mechanism is very much essential, this a point I would like to make.

Now let me come to the policies that are pressed on us. What is the merit of those policies, let me examine one by one. Let me look at the devaluation, devaluation programme was meant to increase our exports and to reduce our imports. Now if you examine actually what has actually happened after devluation is that our essential imports were curtailed because of devaluation. But our exports have not picked up after devaluation. As a result the industrial production has gone down terribly after devaluation the growth rate has plummeted from 4 % points to 1.5% points as a result of devaluation. Look at the fiscal deficit problem, fiscal deficit was reduced. Now it is well-known for people like me that if you focus on one target and try to work only on that target with one instrument you can play games and acheive the target. But we have to see what are the general implications of that. We reduce the fiscal deficits, we reduce the price level from 13.7% to 7%. But what happens to the rest of the economy ? When fiscal deficit was reduced, it was reduced - you can examine the budget documents- you will notice that govt: expenditure is reduced because the govt: stopped investing. Govt: stopped putting investment in agriculture, govt: reduced sub sidies. Price level was kept alright but there were other ramifications. Investment is reduced, growth is reduced; subsidies are reduced so the poor people lost in the bargain.

These are the things to be kept in mind. This is about stabilisation policies, I have given a brief introduction. What has happened

to the structural adjustment policies? Regarding structural adjustment let us look at the so called liberalisation; I can give you a few examples to illustrate what is currently happening through liberalisation policies. We know that our production structures are such that.. in India it is labour intensive, in America it is capital intensive. Now for every 1000 Dove soaps that are sold in India perhaps one worker is supported in America. But if those 1000 Dove Soaps are replaced by 1000 Hamam soaps it may support 3 labourers in India. So when you are talking about importing goods from a capital intensive country into a labour intensive country you are replacing goods, you are replacing more labour. In order to support a few labourers in America, we are replacing many more labourers in our country by this kind of a liberalisation. By liberalisation you are removing the so-called protection that we have given to our industry for a long long time. Under the protective environment our industry has

become very inefficient. But no economist who is worth anything has examined whether there is really any inefficiency in our economy. If at all there are any inefficiency what are the reasons for it. I don't consider the inefficiency in our business

and industry is not because of the protection. It is because of administrative prices, it is because of labour union problems possibly, it may be because of lack of reliable power source, it may be because of poor transportation and communication infrastructure etc. In other words we can improve our business and industry not necessarily by liberalising imports and removing

protection but instead by improving the infrastructure. Power, transport, communications; let the govt: get out of the whole business of raising revenues through administered prices. Lot of our budgetary resources are generated through administered prices without a proper legislative procedure. They find it very convenient to adjust the budget, not

facing the parliament but outside the budgetary session, by tinkering with the administered prices. Nobody has raised a voice against this totally unparliamentary approach of our govt: in raising resources - administered prices. Nobody has raised sufficient voice to tell the govt: that our business and industry

are not being protected. What our business and industry needs is better support from the govt: through infrastructure - roads, communications etc. So it is my view that it is a non-sensical argument that they are putting through our throat, namely that we have to remove the protection to industry and liberalise imports. Why are they saying it, they are saying it because, you know what is happening in a country like our economy. They have reached a kind of saturation level in their level of consumption. Their population level has stabilised, so the number of people are not growing and per capita consumption of an individual has reached a saturation. In other words the domestic demand in a country like America has reached a saturation level. How can such an economy grow? It can grow only if they can export. How will they export, they will export only if countries

like ours will allow those exports to come here as exports. So they are pushing through IMF as conditionalities liberalisation of imports and they call them structural adjustment policies to improve our growth performance. But the ulterior motive is - they are facing unemployment problems, they are facing recessionary problems and they want markets abroad to sell their goods. That is why they are asking their representatives on IMF & WB to push as conditionalities some of these policies under the label of structural adjustment. And we are all told these are for our own benefit.

Another thing is that we are not alone ; there are several countries that have been given this dose by IMF & WB as stabilisation and structural adjustment. A lot of Latin American countries have gone through it, a lot of American countries have gone through it. And some of the East-Asian countries have gone through it. But is that IMF and WB keep telling us, you must

have heard that nobody now a days talk about what happened in South America; nobody talks about what happened in Africa but everyone talks about East-Asian miracle. There is a latest book put out by WB, " The East-Asian Miracle". This is all a propaganda. Why is it that they are not talking about why has it failed in South America, why these policies failed in Africa. What is the guarantee that these policies are followed in India that we do not go to the route of either South American countries

or African countries ? What is the guarantee that we would do like the East-Asian countries ? Now it has been already more than

2 1/2 to 3 years since we have initiated the liberalisation policies. To my mind there is no single guarantee so far that our liberalisation experince will land us in a fortunate situation like that of the East-Asian countries. And most of my fellow

economists have failed to analyse and sift the experiences of these countries to give us a wisdom as to what is it that we should not be doing so that we can avoid the South American experience; what is it that we should do to emulate the East-Asian wisdom, that kind of a wisdom is not coming either from the

WB or from the so-called economic advisors you hear a lot about. You ask them these basic questions, they have no answers. I

asked them myself whenever I faced; you know there are some of our people like Prof. Sreenivasan, professor of Economics at Yale University, Prof. Jagdish Bhagawati, professor of Economics at Columbia University in USA. They were commissioned by Manmohan Singh to write about our structural reforms. They wrote a paper. I

will give you a simple illustration, in that paper they say that our country can borrow very heavily from IMF and WB at the rate of 8% interest. Their argument is they use some kind of statistical calculation and they show in our country rate of return to investment is more than 12%. So they say in our economy we can borrow at 8% because rate of return to investment in our country

is 12% and that advise they are giving to Manmohan Singh to borrow from IMF and WB. See the trick here - when the govt: of India borrows from IMF and WB it is a sovereign debt, it is the

govt: that has to repay not the country. See the catch here, it is the govt: that has to repay when they are taking a loan at 8%.

It is private industries that make 12% or more returns, but how is govt going to get 12% to pay IMF & WB at 8% interest ? A govt: that is continuously incurring a deficit over several years, how can it raise resources to pay back at 8% ? That entire paper doesn't talk about it. There is a very rich experience of Korea and Japan. A lot of these international agencies tell us " privatise, state must withdraw and market forces must take over". If you examine the record of South Korea and Japan they have succeeded because of state intervention, not because of market forces. There is a ministry in Japan called MITI, ministry of industry, trade and something. That ministry gives guidance to the industry as to which direction it should go for the next ten years. For the first ten years they work on electronics, for the next ten years they work on auto mobiles. If Japan had a competitive advantage over electronics and automobiles in the world market that is because of the state intervention, the state giving a clear-cut direction to the economy of the industry. Has our country anything like that ? After structural adjustment when we talk about export growth and so on did our country during the last 2 1/2 - 3 years give any directions as to how we should go, which industries we should promote so that we can increase our export ? Nothing has come; you ask Manmohan Singh, you ask any of these people. There is no action plan, there is no blue print of what it all means. Not only that I say you go and read Challiah Committee report, you go

read Narasimham Committee report, tax reforms and financial sector reforms. I can show you page by page sentence by sentence what is reported there is copies of internal documents of IMF. These were all actually dictated, these people were chosen to write things which are convenient. What have we done as people interested in our country ? Very little.

Fortunately for us I would say inspite of all the govt influence professionals try to keep some kind of an indictment. As a result I am very happy to see that both people working in the WB, IMF and

at the UN organisations such as ILO, UNDP etc have written very objective reports which are very very illuminating. Because you are all interested in documentation, I would like to just place before you that there are several country experiences that are brought out by ILO, UNDP and this journal put out by WB, " WB Economic Review", " WB Research Observer". These professionals are not shackled; they would not like to be shackled by anybody. They are writing quite objectively. For WB publications

has put down that the views expressed are those of the authors and not those of the organisations where they work for. That it self is a clear indication that they are speaking the truth. My own suggestion to all of you is when you document please look at the experience and tell our people what has been the experience in other countries.

Economic growth of a country depends on prudent investment. Investment will get good returns when it is combined with ours and

what is provided by the Government, for example Power. If I am asked whether these 3 years has created any real assets, then my answer is no. A monetary investment and the number of stock must be related to real Investment for equity capital. If a company has no plan for growth then it has no equity. The number of people who want to buy equity have increased. Foreign people want it to happen that way. More money chasing less prices, then share prices rise up. They have to come down. In an economy where there is no growth there is speculation. Here foreigners come, asking for liberalisation. They can have and but stock from stock market and make profits, converts them to dollars and take it back. This is what happened in Africa and Latin America. Scam happened in Chile, Turkey, Philipinnes and much before and still we kept quite about. Lessons had to be learnt and been cautious. Foreign banks are the ones which provoke the brokers and fuel these activities with speculation. This real investment is made when the macro economic environment is good and not when they have a doubt.

Who will invest if there is no dependable power, communication, political and economic instability policies. Now why some countries succeeded and why some failed then it shows that it is those countries which have paid attention to power and other things, which have had properly spelt out policies and structure.

People form an optimistic expectation in such an environment. So in last 3 years no real investment have taken place and no foreign investment schemes have materialised till now as they are not happy with the things in India. Still they have imposed policies. Even if tomorrow something happens they know that they can take power of stock. Given all this the kind of strategy good for us from our perspective. In 1990 we had an alternative to declare bankruptcy and should have asked what is that by which the economy could bounce back on its own. It is never too late, we can still correct our policies.

Discussions:

Samuel : Throughout your analysis you have criticised the Structural Adjustment Programmes and the government, but your ending was like that of World Bank and International Monetary Fund. They say that health is yours and profit is Mallya's.

Prof: What is the role of state in the economy? Look, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will create a new stance on pricing, for example education. But in 1994 America has itself changed its policies of education. Clinton administration is more for state instrumentation. If you want to promote private investment first Public sector should do the investment. Their are something only Public sector should do and can do. There are something that only public sectors can do, for example, Roads, Railways. Entry of private sector into these fields makes equity lose. World

Bank says that only primary health should be by the government and curative medicine should be by the private sector. In America today a meritorious student need not worry about his educational expenses. The state takes full care of it. But they are forcing India today to reduce the investment in the public utilities and welfare sector. This is double standards.

CP Jayalakshmi: Their is fellowships in India also. Americans give loan to the students and tell they give free education. It is a policy where they are not charged directly but are caught from the back.

Samuel: Intervention of market and foreign capital is good and so is foreign capital?

Prof: Economic theory and economic paradigm is that there is a market mechanism and a state. The state is there for the poor and market for others. It might be wrong also. State as an institution work discriminately also, many a times and it is always not necessary that free market forces are always bad for the economy. But the chances are more that there are private individuals who would wield control and not help the poor. It is surprising that Keynes underplays the role of the state. If the state favour the rich it is demoralisation. Thus it is also a moral force than to say that the state is useless.

Lakshmi Menon: Why is International Monetary Fund money called as an aid and not as a loan?

Prof: International money that comes through these institutions are always called aid. Aid and Loans are two different things. But their is a link between aid and loan. Aid is a bait for the people telling them that trade will improve. There is also a tendency to call them as aid because they are charged a lower rate of interest.

MohanDoss: What is the political impact when the country declares itself as bankrupt?

Prof: If people were all motivated, well informed and made it impossible to go for an IMF loan then there will be a coup if intellectuals put pressure. In a global scenario when there are small countries which are weak in such a situation where there is no alternative and we are stuck with a super power and not that of an alternative. People should form a coalition of countries and say that we are a group and we should not be ignored.

Munira Sen: Have you realised the nexus between change in government and a country economy?

Prof: With continuous change in the political set-up there is no political stability. When there is no political stability people and the foreign investors are scared of investing.