

EXTENSION PROGRAMME AND PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

Subject: EXTENSION EDUCATION –II

B.Sc. Home Science 6th Semester

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DEFINITIONS

- **Extension programme**-According to Kelsey and Hearne(1949)-An extension programme is a statement of situation, objectives, problems and solutions.
- **Planning**-is a progressive step by step process which involves studying the past and present in order to forecast the future and preparing a blue print of action.
- **Extension Programme planning**-may be defined as a decision making, social-action process of bringing about planned change and involves both change agent and client systems , to determine their needs , problems, resources and priorities, design extension programme consisting of situational analysis, problems, objectives and solutions which form the basis of extension activities for a given period.

PRINCIPLES OF EXTENSION PROGRAMME PLANNING

Extension programme planning-

1. Is a continuous process
2. Is a teaching and learning process
3. Is based on analysis of the facts in a situation
4. Must focus on the needs of people
5. Should have definite objectives and solutions which offer satisfaction
6. Includes a plan of work
7. Is a coordinating and democratic process
8. Must have performance with flexibility
9. Must have balance with emphasis
10. Should provide for evaluation to show results in terms of changes in the action of the people

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD PROGRAMME

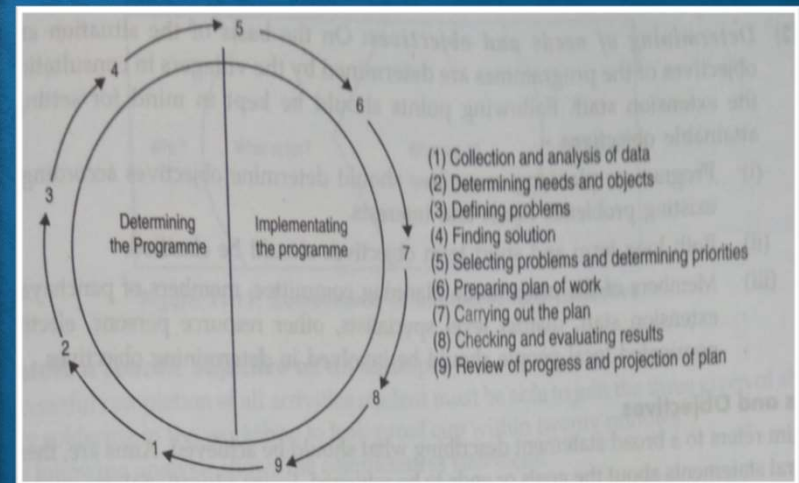
1. The written programme should be suitable for use by the staff, planning groups, and other individuals or groups concerned with the programme.
2. It should state the primary facts clearly for use by the staff, planning groups, and other individuals or groups concerned with the programme.
3. It should clearly state the important problems or needs identified by the staff and the people in the programming process.
4. It should state both long-term and short term objectives for each major subject or problem that is to be focussed on in programme execution over a period of time.
5. It should state the objectives of the programme clearly and meaningfully.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD PROGRAMME (contd.)

6. It should specify the subject matter related to each objective that is highly significant to people, socially and economically.
7. It should include the summary of the long term programme prepared in a form suitable for public distribution.
8. It should be made available in a summary form to all members of the planning groups and the professional staff.
9. It should be circulated by appropriate means so that the general public can understand its nature and objectives.
10. It should be used as a basis for developing an annual plan for work.

STEPS FOR EXTENSION PROGRAMME PLANNING

1. Collection and analysis of data-by primary and secondary data
2. Determining needs and objectives
3. Defining problems
4. Finding solutions
5. Selecting problems and determining priorities
6. Preparing a plan of work
7. Carrying out the plan
8. Checking and evaluating of results
9. Review of progress and projection of plan



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

- It may be defined as the process of giving priority to people's perspective in identifying and analyzing their problems and opportunities, improving the situation through their self mobilization.
- The focus is on 'insiders' i.e. local people's perspective rather than 'outsiders' i.e. change agent's, development administrators' perspective.
- It is contradictory to 'I know what they require' type of bureaucratic approach.

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

According to Pretty(1994) and Biggs(1989), the levels of participation in ascending order are as follows:

1. **Receiving information**-participants are informed /told what a project will do after it has been decided by others.
2. **Passive information giving**-participants can respond to questions and issues that interventionists deem relevant for making decisions about projects
3. **Consultation**-participants are asked about their views and opinions openly and without restrictions , but the interventionists unilaterally decide what they will do with the information.
4. **Collaboration**-participants are partners in a project and jointly decide about issues with project staff.
5. **Self-mobilization**-participants initiate, work on and decide on project independently, with interventionists in a supportive role only.

NON-PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE

There are several reasons behind non- participation of people. Some of them are:

- People's indifference to participation-people may not consider participation as important and develop an indifferent attitude towards it.
- Deliberate non-participation of the people-people may deliberately choose not to participate in the event of past non-favorable experience or present incompatible situation.
- Professional's indifference to participation- extension agents and rural development managers may lack the orientation and training to facilitate people's participation.
- Preventing people to participate-power-holders in the community may perceive free participation of the people as a threat to their power position. So, they may adopt various means to prevent people to participate.

ADVANTAGES OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

1. Participation makes it possible to make use of knowledge, experience and resources of the local people.
2. Participation is a learning process through which people can develop their capabilities.
3. It helps in individual and collective decision making and problem solving.
4. Programmes involving participation of the people are more likely to be sustained after outside funding and support are reduced or withdrawn.
5. Participation by the poorer elements prevent the 'hijacking' of programme benefits by wealthier sections of the community.
6. It helps a society to remain integrated, as lack of participation may develop in the people a feeling of isolation and neglect, and ultimately generate frustration and dissidence amongst them.

LIMITATIONS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Participatory process has several limitations. Some of them are:

1. Participation may lead to a delayed start and slow progress in the initial stages of the fieldwork , hereby delaying the achievement of physical as well as financial targets.
2. An increased requirement of material and human resources to support participation, may be a more costly method of implementing development programmes.
3. Since participation is a process, once it is initiated the process has to be allowed to take its own course and hence may not move along the expected lines.
4. Since participation is an empowering process where the people or communities are empowered to make decisions; donors ,Governments, and other players have to relinquish power and control.
5. In participatory process a lot of expectations of the people are generated. Increased expectations due to involvement of the local people, however, may not always be realized.

REFERENCES

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