

# Participatory-Poverty-Analysis (PPA)

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## **Objectives**

To offer an introduction to the Participatory Poverty Analysis (PPA) methodology that is based on semi-structured interviews, either on an individual level or at the level of focus group discussions.

## **Materials**

Guidelines or a questionnaire for semi-structured interviews; if possible recording the interviews using audio cassettes or videos.

## **Time**

1–2 hours per interview.

## **Procedure**

To conduct a substantial PPA, you need knowledge, experience, time and resources. This chapter can only provide a brief introduction to PPA methodology. When planning a PPA, the following points need to be considered:

- Which methodology do you want to use and why? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many persons do you want to question and why? \_\_\_\_\_
- How will you select these persons? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can you pre-test your methods? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Element 1: Semi-structured Interviews**

For semi-structured interviews you do not use a questionnaire, but instead follow guidelines. The guidelines remind you of the topic you want to address. A semi-structured interview should resemble a natural conversation.

### **When interviewing, the following points should be remembered:**

- Greet the interviewee politely
- Find a quiet place and ensure confidentiality
- Ensure that your positioning is good and that your body language is positive
- Use clear language
- Ask the right questions and listen carefully
- Show respect
- Say goodbye nicely at the end.

## **Element 2: Focus Groups**

A focus group discussion enables you to gather information from 5–12 persons who are experts on a specific issue. A experienced moderator should guide the discussion. Some guidelines (around 20 questions) must be prepared, as this helps keep the discussion focused on the subject at hand. The discussion guidelines should follow a funnel structure: they should start out broad, and gradually narrow to become more detailed. The group should be quite homogeneous. If the participants have diametrically opposed viewpoints, the atmosphere will become too tense. Participants should feel comfortable and should not confront each other, although they should also be independent and free to express their views. The discussion should be recorded because it will need to be analysed in detail afterwards. Audio cassettes or videos are best suited for this; if this is not possible, then two persons should take notes, not only recording the content of the discussion, but also elements which illustrate emotions, such as gestures or the tone of the conversation.

🔗 Research on chronic poverty and disability:  
<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/CPTtoolbox/Disability.htm>

### **More Methods which could be used in PPA:**

Ranking exercises, Questionnaires, Mapping, Institutional mapping (e.g. *Venn Diagram*)