

The organic process of participation and empowerment in REFLECT

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Experience with REFLECT shows that literacy in itself is not sufficient to empower people unless conscious and planned efforts are made to interweave it with a participatory and empowering development process. This article raises some questions about understanding the process of empowerment, as well as sharing practical observations about the organic process of participation and empowerment in REFLECT.

PRA experiences from around the world show that the use of participatory tools and techniques in appraisal, planning or implementation is only one of the components for promoting a participatory process. Other key aspects include: the attitude and behaviour of practitioners, participatory policies and practices of organisation, and participatory monitoring and evaluation for an organisational learning system to function. An organic process of participation and empowerment promotes all these elements, which cannot be separated from one another.

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