

FINAL REPORT OF PRA EXERCISE

Preparation of Development Plan for Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor



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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In contemporary world, peoples' participation is considered as the prerequisite of sustainable urban and rural development planning. The concept of participation has been subject to lengthy debates regarding its historical origin, theoretical grounding and practical applicability (Mikkelsen, 2005). It ranges from just informing people about the plan to making of plan or development projects by the people. In the late 1960s, when interest on peoples' involvement was skyrocketing, Arnstein (1969) developed a model to show that there are many degrees or levels (from informing to peoples' delegation) to which public can be involved in development plan or projects. There are a number of purposes for people's participation in development planning and decision-making (Ahmed and Swapan, 2009). One is simply for decision makers to acquire information about the peoples' preferences, so that they can play a part in the decisions regarding projects, policies or plans. A second and closely related purpose is to improve the decisions made by incorporating the knowledge of the public or members of the public into the calculus of the decision. Thus, people in a local community may know about the traffic or crime problems on a particular street, and the planners and decision makers can learn about these issues through public involvement (ibid.). Considering the importance of public participation in planning and decision making, this study is an attempt to explore potential of empowered participation in the way to achieve participatory development plan for Jessore-Benapole Corridor. This study aims to involve local citizens in identifying their problems, needs, selecting priorities and identifying strategies offers better chances for developing solutions that are sustainable, feasible and which local citizens are willing to implement.

1.2 The Project

The present government of Bangladesh has already decided about signing the Asian Highway (AH) network agreement. It has done by accepting the routes that were earlier proposed by our giant neighbour, India. It is strange that according to the ESCAP-crafted laws Bangladesh cannot even propose any amendment to the AH routes now, without signing the agreement first! And not signing will mean that Bangladesh will be left out and the AH will bypass Bangladesh leaving it isolated and causing it to lose in the process the opportunities for trade, investment and service revenues. It is not clear where the AH can go in its westward advance if it bypasses Bangladesh. In this context, Jessore-benapole corridor will be the most important part of this project. Therefore the urban centres connected with this corridor will face some challenges and

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opportunities in near future. Considering this context Urban Development Directorate is preparing the development plan for the urban centres connected with this corridor. This initiative will ensure planned development in this area by maximising the opportunities of this corridor.

1.3 Objectives

This study will deal with following objectives:

- To explore people's perceptions, hope, aspirations and priorities around proposed Jessore-Benapole corridor plan;
- To identify local development problems and their solutions through participatory exercises;
- Mapping out existing spatial arrangements to implement proposals in the development plan; and
- To find out implementation barriers of the development plan.

CHAPTER TWO: IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN URBAN PLANNING

2.1 Introduction

Community participation is important factor in achieving sustainable resolution of slum and pro-poor interventions or strategies, as maximum level of participation assures that the needs of people being affected are met with the highest standards, there is a need to have a national level framework which not only advocates ‘participation’ as way of consulting with communities but actually creates possibilities for communities to involve to the maximum levels, there is need for a national level common policy to confirm that level of participation empower communities to make decisions for their betterment and find ways to solve their problems, acknowledging community knowledge, their right to livelihoods and right to live in the city.

However it is still perceived and criticised for its ‘top down’ approaches and ‘superficial’ participatory mandates, as it is often encountered with the problem of capacity building to enable communities for self- help and their ability to participate in a comprehensive way done not only by changing the structure and shape but also in doing the less glamorous reforms changing the equations within the local body.

2.2 Empowered Participation

This section is based on the concept of “empowered participation” and importance community empowerment plays in order to achieve overall aim of sustainable process of social transformation. It is always arguable that highest level of participation is achieved when the community is empowered to change their reality to achieve spiritual, political, social or economic strength and developing confidence in his/her capacities to improve their lives.

‘Empowered Participation’ is achieved when the local community is given a ‘Active’ Role in programs or interventions affecting their reality, right from the phase of formulation, construction to implementation and post implementation, where community gains information and resources to power to make decisions about the suitable options to meet their needs, gain skills to improve personal and collective power to build a positive self image, this has to be a sustainable and a continuous process of constant goal setting and meeting objectives eventually leading to a social transformation and social justice.

At the same time, empowerment cannot be a static it is a continuous process, which enables empowered to gain power, authority and influence over society and institutions. It can be summed up as a totality of capabilities; having access to information and resources to choose modes in a democratic way in order to use power of decision making and achieve changes with consensus building to change ones or groups image in positive way in the society. In short, empowerment is the process that allows one to gain the knowledge, skill-sets and a positive attitude needed to cope with the changing world and the circumstances in which one lives.

Therefore the community is empowered by following pointers:

- To have ‘Decision making’ power
- To have ‘Access’ to information and resources
- To have ‘Availability’ of options
- So that communities can,
- Gain ‘Space’ to exercise assertive decision making
- Gain Ability to ‘make changes’
- Gain ‘Skills’ to improve personal and collective power
- Gain/ transform Positive self image
- Gain Ability to sort right or wrong

2.3 Social Transformation

Social transformation can be seen as a shift in ‘collective consciousnesses’ of a society at various levels –local, state, national or global in order to redefine the reality by refined consensus. The argument is that, the overall concept of social transformation and positive self image begin among persons by virtue of ‘social processes’ which confirms/justify these identities and order in society, these are social processes which change over time, political institutions act as legalising concepts of social orders and identities and are not the rationale for social frameworks, When the social processes become static and ritualistic with establishment of certain “social forms” it often leads to social injustice and hindrance to transformation, Where certain sections of society are subjected to exclusion. In order to achieve sustainable social transformation is to have a constant reframing of goals and objectives which empower poor communities with chance to participate in shaping and moulding their future. As seen in figure 2.1.

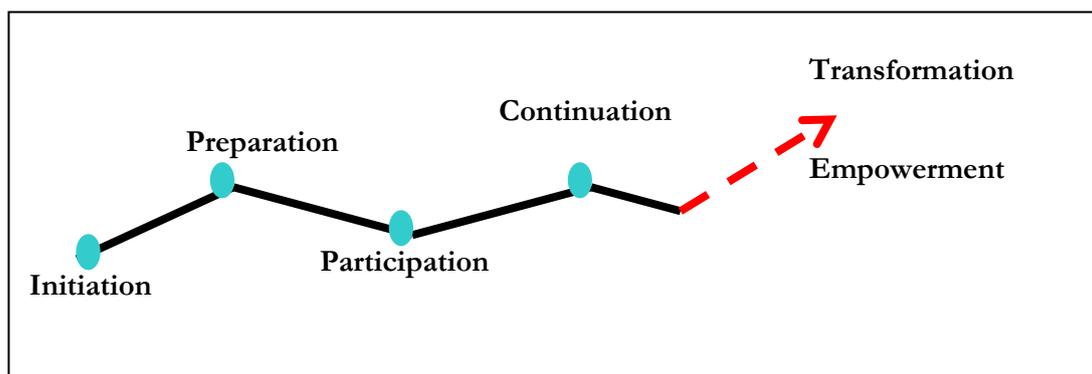


Figure 2.1: Participation leading to Community Empowerment and Social transformation

One way to achieve this sustainable ‘transformation’ (Fig.2.1) is through ‘institutionalised’ way of planning practices and community-empowering participation process. The next section will talk about role of planning in urban context and the levels of participation and what way certain planning practices can promote empowered level of community’s involvement throughout the project or specific intervention process.

2.4 Participation in Planning Process

Planning can be simplified as the method of setting goals, developing tactic, and outlining tasks, responsibilities and agenda to accomplish the goals. It also implies working out the sub-components in some degree of elaborate detail such as urban region to cover the area of government legislation and regulations related to the use of resources. Urban areas have always had some form of place-governance, demanded by the challenge of the intensity and density of the interactions of urban life. The resultant governance activities become variable mix of the regulation of economic activities, provision of defensive considerations, and management of social relations, combined with periodic efforts at re-shaping the physical form of cities for welfare, wealth and cultural processes (Healey, 2007). All of these purposes have been important in the 20th century, the era when large-scale urbanisation swept across the world. It is not surprising that it was in this century that land use planning, territorial management, spatial ordering became an established part of government systems in most countries.

Planning is pilloried as the solution to the ever increasing difficulty of managing co-existence in the shared spaces of dynamic urban areas, some think of planning as a bureaucratic impediment to individual initiative, others see it as a mechanism to manage the complex balancing of economic, social and environmental values in a coordinated and integrated way. An effective

planning system is seen as part of the institutional infrastructure necessary for economically successful, liveable, environmentally considerable and socially just urban areas (Healey, 2007). Urban planning promotes good governance in cities by strategically dealing with time and resource constraints to achieve elaborate objectives and demands of urban regions and cities of ever expanding population, planning operate in changing and sometimes unpredictable environments; need to have a clearly articulated common aim to minimize conflicts and differences. Here the term governance is derived from concept of governance referring to all ‘collective action’ promoting public purposes, wider than the purposes of individual goals; it signals the shift of intellectual attention from the description and evaluation of governmental activity in terms of formal competences and laws to a recognition that the spheres of state, citizen and daily overlap and interaction in complex ways in the construction of policies, and formation of policy agendas and practices (Amin et al., 2000). With this understanding the focus has to be shifted from narrow formal government to wider relations through which collective action is accomplished.

2.5 Achieving Participation through Planning

Abraham Lincoln once said, for the people by the people.... Abstracting its content we can conclude that, success of any development depends upon the extent at which the people affected by it are involved in the process, Community-led development can be considered as holistic approach to achieve sustainable development of a urban region, participation is an important factor in case of community driven- development, which focuses on empowerment and social capital. Most of the empirical evidence shows the effectiveness of community-led housing programmes for sustainable outcomes as it takes in consideration of the capacity of poor people through the institutional capacity, social networking, collectiveness and attitudes. (See for example, Boonyabancha, 2005; Burra, 2005; Hasan, 2006).

“Engagement in social and community participation has inevitably brought citizens in closer contact with the institutions and processes of governance. Conversely, leaders of projects, programs and policy research initiatives have increasingly sought the voices and versions of poor people themselves. Where citizens have been able to take up and use the spaces that participatory processes can open up, they have been able to use their agency to demand accountability, transparency, and responsiveness from government institutions. . . . These moves offer new spaces in which the concept of participation can be expanded to one of ‘citizenship

participation’, linking participation in the political, community and social spheres.”(Cornwall and Gaventa, 2001)

2.6 Advocacy and Collaborative Planning

Planning for social and political change is very different from planning for development projects such as building wells or providing health services. In development projects, the goals are measurable, but political change goals like ‘empowerment’ are difficult to measure as they do not have solid indicators and because real examples are scarce; Maruja Barrig points out that, we are hard pressed to describe what they look like, that’s why it’s important to find creative ways to measure these processes. Barrig says that measuring shorter term results that are steps on the way to larger change may be more practical than trying to measure long-term results. Advocacy planning is a continual process. If some groups have not been involved in the initial stages of planning, they can be included later when plans are being reviewed and modified.

2.7 The Importance of Participation in Advocacy Planning

Being involved in making decisions is a key to empowerment and creates ownership, motivation, trust, and impact. Participation by staff, board, and a constituent in all aspects of planning helps to:

- generate commitment;
- create shared ideals and directions;
- surface and cope with conflicts and differences (consensus building);
- assess political risks;
- improve organizational accountability; and
- increase in self-confidence and critical consciousness.

The argument here is that, how planning is done is just as important as how well a plan is defined, it is important to have advocacy to achieve effective participation and at the same time to have effective advocacy there has to be maximum level of participation.

In order to build sustainable process of empowerment and transformation two things are needed. First, planning is learning and decision-making, as to start off with many initiatives that claim to be participatory actually consult people, but the real decisions about plans and directions are made elsewhere, so the question remains, whose reality counts? And what is the value of community knowledge? Paul Davidoff defined a special kind of planning in which the planner

has “no client other than his own ideology” Paul’s concept was an outcome of a vision of “inclusive society” and influence of civil rights era. The struggle to defend communities from orthodox urban renewal schemes, he based his argument on “urban planners need to engage themselves in the current social movements, and act as catalyst to raise public participation process in order to challenge the ‘top down’ traditions of city development.” Davidoff’s vision of himself and other practitioners was of a ‘knowledge tool’ which can be used by communities to increase awareness of their civil rights can be used as a method of planning to achieve community empowerment and movement of social transformation.

The aforementioned papers argument is based on theory of the ‘Citizen-centred’ advocacy where it is based on the premise that participation in public decision making is itself a basic civil ‘right’, and this participation with advocacy planning begins to give shape and meaning to the right for citizens and right to live in the city. The kind of participation may differ at different stages in the planning process, from the early stages of choosing issues and defining solutions, constituents, and allies can be fully involved, and as you move into the fast-moving policy arena, the pressure for quick responses to opportunities may make full participation more difficult., this can be dealt with collaborative approaches. The local level political and social arena is filled with public and private actors at diverse spatial scale and they are active in all sectors of urban life and policies, In this multi-dimensional game many different coalitions and many conflicts may occur...and shape the local political and social fabrics, the collaboration of these different actors also helps social movements to gain momentums and increase capacity building through exchange of skills and capacities; but the main challenge for local governance is to find ways organising the connectivity between the different spheres of action.

2.8 Participation as a Tool

This part of this report describes different views on participatory interventions as, one way to achieve overall social transformation and community empowerment is through enhanced role of ‘participation’ in planning. Since at least the beginning of this decade planners are asking what kind of participation may promote voice of poor in decision making structures, but there is need to set the theme for discussions from ‘participation of the poor’ to ‘pro-poor participation’ by supporting alliances and coalitions formed by communities (Cook, 2002).

Christopher Alexander explains that participation is “inherently good” and that it brings people together in creating and making decisions about their environment (Alexander, 1975). The

important question here is that, whose reality count? (Chambers, 1997). Mick Moore argues that, the well known fact that poor people often participate in politics on divisions which are based often on language they speak, their ethnic identities and geographic regions in which they live etc., it may be much more common for poor communities and individuals to participate in these ways than around certain issues and programs or projects designed to directly improve their economic and social position in society (Moore, 2004). At the same time, Marxist ideology view this reality on the proposition that once enlightened communities will act upon their class interests of positions defined by level of 'economy', with regard to the concept of 'false consciousness', taking economic basis as coalition building factor. Other ideology takes in consideration of 'social' factors behind communities coming together for cause. Where Weber and Polanyi see participation with a humane angle taking a social lens; they argue that 'social status' and 'social protection' are two goals which mobilize poor communities to participate in a political action (Weber, 2001).

Let whatever reasons leads people to participate, but in all cases these Participatory interventions often require ordinary people to give their time and limited resources which makes this process problematic and hard to sustain, and often results in varied levels of outcomes as seen in the peasant communities initiatives case in Philippines, where Susan Feinstein documented two cases of participatory intervention, first case farmer organisations decided to sell off their farms to real estate speculators and in second case the cooperative farming areas on occupied lands lay idle while those allocated to family plots were well tended and managed productively (Feinstein, 2004).

The paper argues that, the distribution of access to place quality and 'liveability' alongside access to income, education, health and socio- cultural facilities as a key arena of social differentiation, and therefore in need of governance attention if distributive justice is to be promoted (Amin et al, 2000). The concern with place quality is linked with questions of identity and social cohesion as well as material welfare (Bagnasco, 2000) and this attachment to place plays an important dimension of people's well-being, part of their identity and ontology, as the emotive feelings people have for their 'place' lie behind many conflicts between government and poor communities, and urban poor communities are seen often mobilizing around threat to 'place' and to stakes in places. Although each intervention is unique from each other in terms of its causes and goals, the success of these intervention cannot be claimed unless and until the people

who are involved in the process are involved with emotional, economic and personal extent and gain skills and capacities to improve their lives.

2.9 Community Participation

Above section presented aims and objectives behind different participatory interventions. Next part of this section presents theoretical debates on community participation. John F.C Turner defines Participation as a process which not necessarily involves self-help home building by undernourished and over-worked people without credit; with inadequate tools and poor materials . . . but a process central to ‘control’ and ‘power’ to decide, giving attention to ‘power relations’ which play a silent role in these processes (Turner, 1967). Before understanding the meanings of ‘community participation’ it is important to break it in community and what are community and then the term participation. Nick Wates defines the word ‘community’ with regard to geographical context, as a group of people sharing common interests and living within a geographically defined area, this gives community a special recognition and merely denotes them as spatial identities; it does not give any indication about their social, economic positions. On the other hand, Nabeel Hamdi points out that community not only are identified on the basis of space but also are associated with social structures and ideologies, taking Faucaultian ideology of society as an unified process, he further goes on to admit that generally the people within a community come together to achieve a common objective, even if they have certain differences. Charles Abrams in his book, *The Language of Cities: A Glossary of Terms* defines community as having two elements, that is, physical and social interests common among the people, with varied possibilities of dominating elements on the ideological grounds as, “mythical state of social wholeness in which each member has his place and in which life is regulated by cooperation rather than by competition and conflict” (Abrams, 1971:60). He further defines Community participation as, “The theory that the local community should be given an active role in programs and improvements directly affecting it”. It is only rational to give control of affairs and decisions to people most affected by them. Besides, since no government or authority has the means to solve all the public problems adequately, it is necessary to involve people in matters that affect them (Abrams, 1971: 63).

The argument is based on the theories of Nabeel Hamdi where he states an opposite view that, the communities are not necessarily always organized; they at times lack the “sense of community” and “social identity”, for a community participatory project it is not necessary to have an organised community from the beginning but this ‘community organisation’ can be set

as a primary objective in the process. On the basis of this presumption community participation can be defined as a powerful idea which “refers to the process by which professionals, families, community groups, government officials, and others get together to work something out, preferably in a formal or informal partnership” (Hamdi, 1991).

2.10 Level of Participation

In this part of section, this report will examine the process and extent of community participation in different interventions, on the basis of Sherry Arnstein’s ‘Ladder of Participation’ theory, as mentioned earlier participation is always underlined with ‘power’ and ‘control’ (Turner, 1967), with different dynamics of power relations between community, planners and state in each level. Sherry R. Arnstein associates community participation with citizen power and control as, “the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future” (Arnstein, 1969: 216). Since people are actively involved in the process, Alexander argues that participation helps promote sense of ownership and control among the people as seen in Fig.2.2 the more people are involved in the participation the more they gain degree of control, (Oregon, 1975).

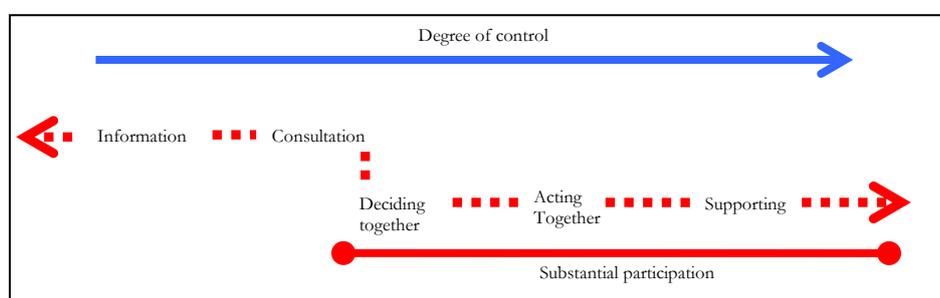


Figure 2.2: Ladder of participation and degree of control

Arnstein explains that there is need for further classification of participation to unveil the manipulation of people in the garb of community participation projects by professionals and policyholders. The ladder has eight rungs each shows different level of participation, that is, manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control as shown in fig. 3. The rungs at the bottom of the ladder are the ones with least citizen participation or “non participation” and include Manipulation and Therapy.

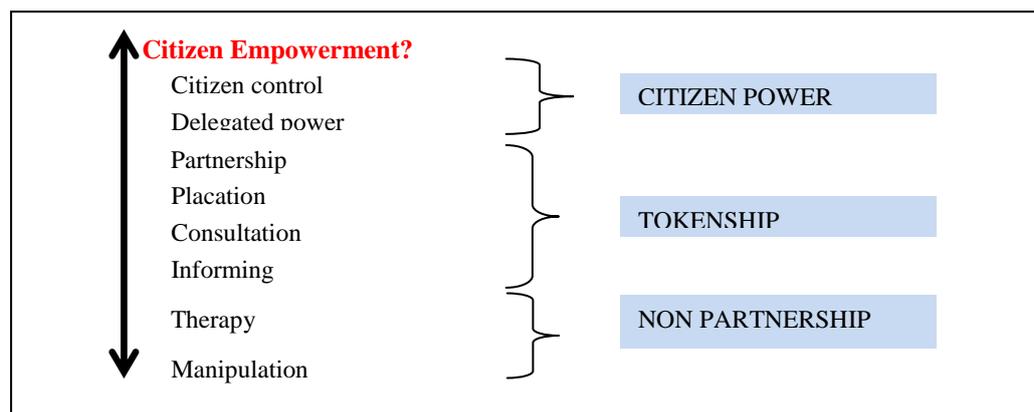


Figure 2.3: Ladder of Participation (Source: Arnstein, 1969)

Informing, consultation and placation occupy the middle rungs of the ladder and border between manipulation at the bottom and citizen control at the top and is termed as “tokenism” where the people are allowed to participate only to the extent of expressing their views but have no real say that matters.

The last three rungs, partnership, delegated power and citizen control at the top of the ladder, are termed equivalent to “citizen power” and this is where true and meaningful participation takes place. This categorization of the various types of people involvement is extremely crucial in clarifying the confusion between “non-participation” and true “citizen power” and to identify the real motives behind participatory projects, which are often used by critics as shortcomings of the concept of community participation. However, Community participationrefers to the process by which professionals, families, community groups, government officials, and others get together to work something out, preferably in a formal or informal partnerships., this definition of community partnership refers to social transformation with regard to a shift in collective consciousness of a society- local, state, national or global so that reality is refined by consensus which can be achieved through citizen empowerment. To achieve ‘empowerment’ with regard to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strengths of individuals and communities, it often involves the ‘empowered’ developing the confidence in his/her own capacities. In addition to identifying the effectiveness of community participation, it is equally important to recognize some of the problems involved in participatory development approaches. Participation employed as an end in development projects is a time-consuming process and since time is directly proportional to money in such situations, it is quite difficult to justify such an approach due to high expenditures. Besides, there is a fear among governments of uncontrolled empowerment of people and lack of trust in their ability to make sensible decisions, which

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prevents the governments to change their paternalistic approach in decision-making. The only way that such issues against participation can be resolved is by looking at participation from a broader perspective and by weighing its benefits versus limitations. It is also true that it takes more time for a fully participatory project with maximum participation to accomplish its goals but it results in the form of community empowerment which is a sustainable outcome and it helps to go a long way.

In this process it is important to analyse the role of authorities, communities and practitioners, as in orthodox terms authorities play role of a 'provider' and communities are always seen as 'beneficiaries' or at the receiving end. The authorities need to change their attitude towards people, at the same time the people need to be guided for participation and making informed decisions it becomes a two way process involving public and authorities in collaborative practices of sharing and gaining knowledge pools. At the same time professionals such as the planners perform a crucial role in this process, acting as mediators and teachers in participatory projects.

CHAPTER THREE: PRA METHODOLOGY

3.1 Field Research Approach and Methods

For gathering information and data to investigate objectives, a number of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools have been used. It is essential to explain importance of adopting a participatory research approach, particularly the use of Participatory Rural Appraisal methods. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is an approach which incorporates methods to learn about rural or urban life and conditions from with and by rural or urban people. It can enable local people to share, enhance and analyse their knowledge for incorporating in designing, planning and formulating effective implementation strategies of the project and research. In PRA approach, the methods are more shared and owned by local people and it includes the methods like mapping and modeling, transect walks, matrix scoring, seasonal calendars, trend and change analysis, well being and wealth ranking and grouping, and analytical diagramming to apply in natural resources management, agriculture, poverty and social programmes, and health and food security (Chambers, 1994). In addition, PRA methods can promote collective action and community building and continuous empowerment of the participants through involving the participation of people in all phases like analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of research or project. It is more flexible approach and does not create any rigidity in the application. Nevertheless, the approach has some limitations and sometime these delimit the scope of programmes or projects. These may be compared with threats of this approach. For implementing effectively in the field, it requires a lot of commitment from participants and authorities and also needs well skilled and genuine facilitators to manage both participatory process and product. Specific methods utilized for the data collection process include brainstorming and listing problems and solutions, ranking/grouping of problems, dreams realised and mapping, venn (institutional) diagrams and dialogue with focus group/stakeholders. Table 3.1 presents an overview of participatory methods that have been applied in different urban and rural settlements of Jessore-Benapole Highway Corridor Development project.

Table 3.1: PRA Sessions/Meetings in Different Urban/Rural Settlements

Urban/Rural Settlements	PRA Sessions
Jessore Paurashava	09
Benapole Paurashava	03
Jhikargachha Paurashava	03
11 Union Parishads (Arabpur, Diara, Upashahar, Jhikargachha, Chanchra, Godkhali, Panisars, Sharsha, Nabharan, Benapole and Ulashi)	11
Total	26

Source: fixed by PRA expert

3.2 Working Methodology for Conducting PRA in Urban/Rural Settlements

Activity 01: Identification of major problems associated with Jessore-Benapole Highway Project

	Objective	:	Listing the top 10-15 problems and challenges in urban/rural settlements under Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor Development Project
	Time	:	40 minutes
	Material	:	Cards, Poster papers, marker pens (sketch pen), display board (wall, paper), pushpin, both side tape, coloured zip sticks
	Informants	:	Ward commissioner/councillors, local community & political leaders, doctors, engineers, police officers, students, local slum leaders, male & female social workers, businessmen, NGO/development workers and school/college teachers
	PRA Method/Tools	:	Brainstorming and listing problems & Ranking/grouping of general problems
	Preparation	:	Facilitators were prepared with the following: Inform the respondent well in advance (one week before). Collect all the materials needed for the sessions as stated above. Explain and guide the co-facilitator to take notes on the whole process.
	Processes	:	The Facilitator welcomed all the participants (16) in a stakeholder group for the session and asked them to sit together in a “U” shaped large group. The facilitator explained the purpose and process as well as the detailed tasks of this session so that the participants can freely respond in it. The facilitator described the reasons for forming sub-groups and asked the participants to sub-divide into 4 small groups (4 members in a small group). The facilitators supplied necessary materials to the sub-groups. The facilitator requested the sub-groups for brainstorming to identify major problems/challenges associated with Jessore-Benapole Highway project. The facilitator requested the subgroups to list down the problems in a flip-chart with a short description of the problems.

After identification of the problems in small groups, the participants again sat in a “U” shaped large group.

Now one person from a small group displayed their Flip Chart and presented the problems they identified in their small group.

While one group presented their problems, other groups should carefully listen and put ticks (√) on similar problems, which they also identified in their small groups.

Once the presentation of the first small group was over, other groups sequentially presented their identified problems except the common ones, which marked with ticks (√).

The presenter of each group answered the questions from other groups, if any and explained the reasons for selecting the said problems. The Facilitator then prepared a problem statement list compiling all the problems identified by the small groups without duplication.

The facilitator displayed the list of the problems in post-it pads. In each post-it pad one single problem was written down and all the post-it pads were glued in large white board.

The facilitator asked all the group members to vote the problems, every single group member provided maximum 10 votes but not more than one for a single problem.

The facilitator then explained the participants how to use zip stick for voting the problems.

The facilitator asked all the group members to vote the problems; every single group member provided maximum 10 votes. The facilitator provided 10 zip sticks to each participant and asked them to vote the problems according to their own choice. In doing so, each participant can fix all the 10 zip sticks on one problem statement or 1, 2, 3, 4 to 10 zip sticks on problems of their own choice/priority.

The facilitator requested the participants to consider cause and options for each problem statement while voting for management priority.

The facilitator then counted the vote and 10 problems were identified based on the number of votes each problem receives.

The facilitator listed down the top 10 problems based on the number of votes. Problem which got the highest vote

was ranked as number 01 and the lowest was ranked as number 10.

Facilitator sought participant’s opinion if more than one problem got same score to prioritise these problems through consensus among themselves.

At the end of the session the facilitator finalised the list of the problems.



Output

Voting based consensus to identify the problem statement list for Urban/Rural settlements in the Jessore-Benapole Highway Corridor Development Project, which was the management priority of this project.

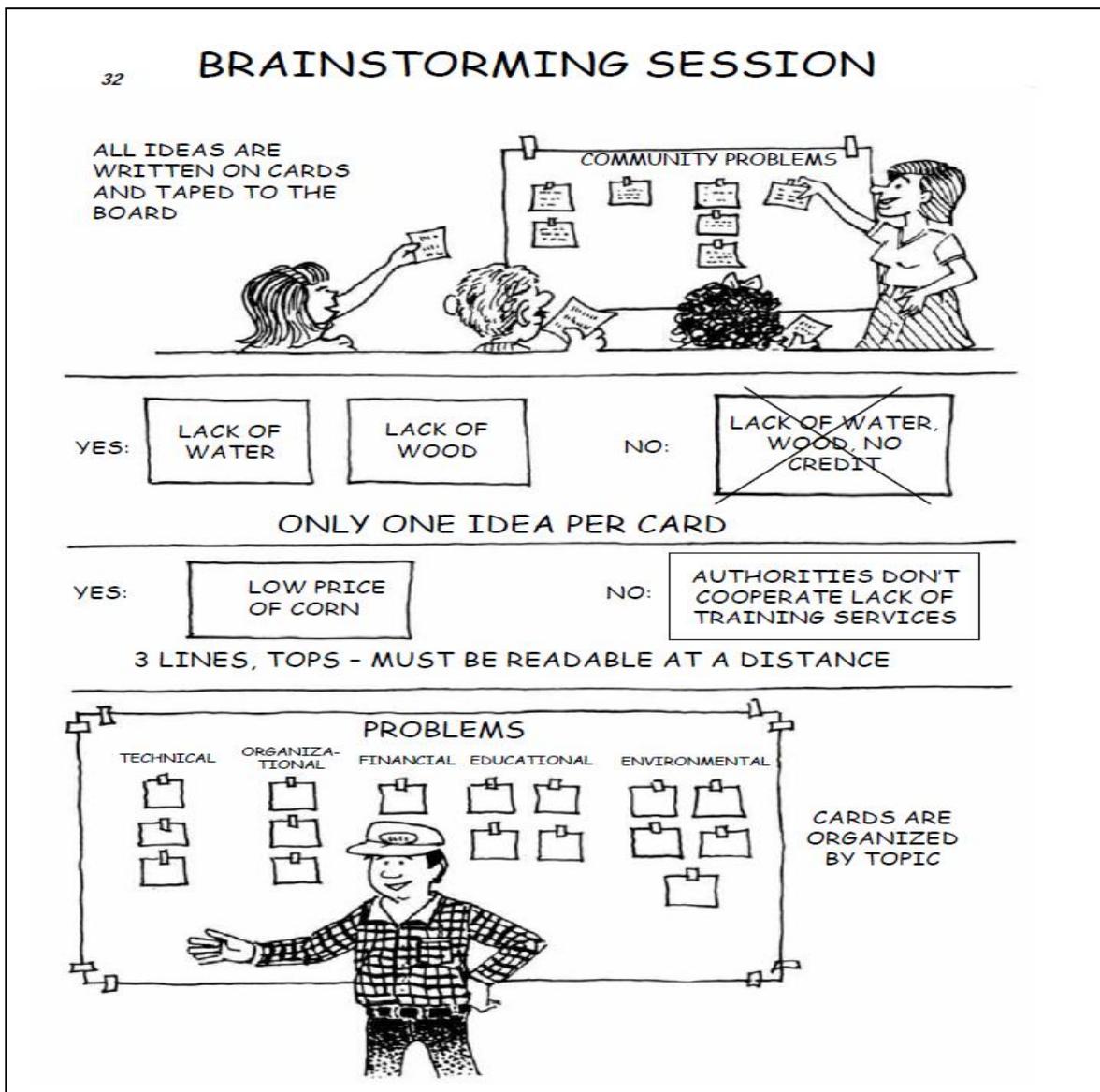


Figure 3.1: Brainstorming Session & Listing Major Problems & Solutions (Source: Geilfus, 2008)

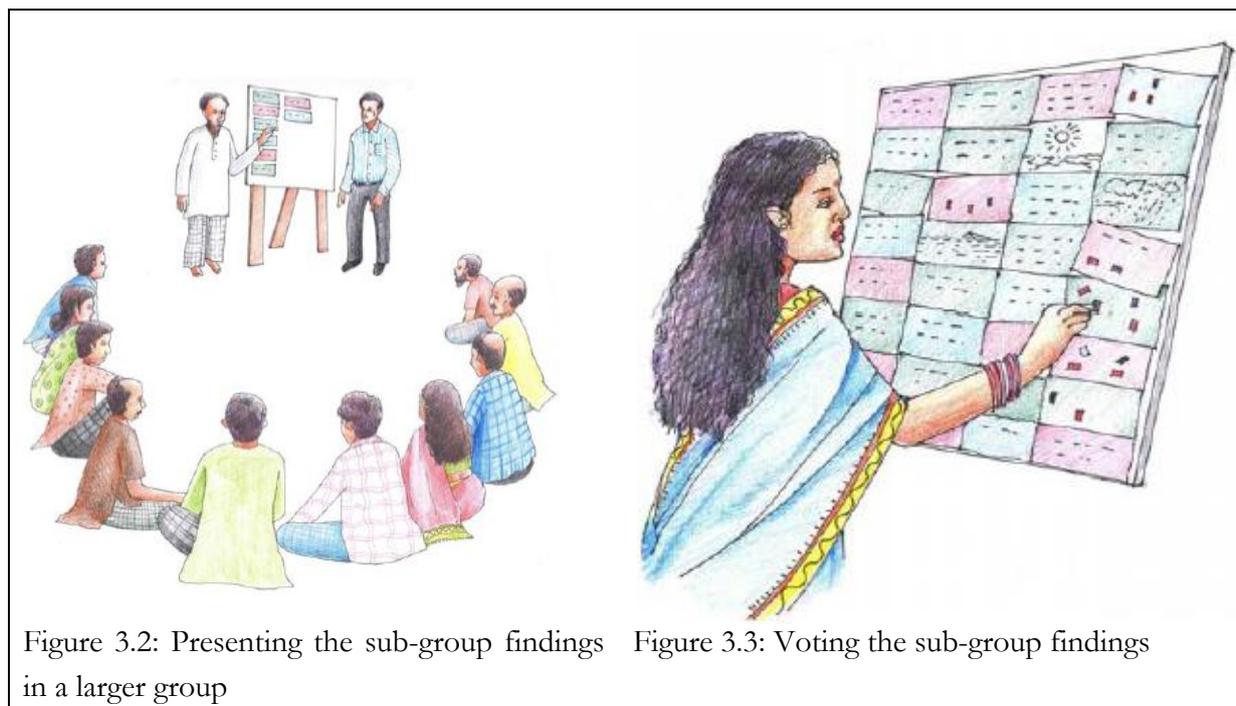


Figure 3.2: Presenting the sub-group findings in a larger group Figure 3.3: Voting the sub-group findings

Activity 02: Identification of solutions of major problems associated with Jessore-Benapole Highway Project

	Objective	:	Listing the solution for top 10-15 problems/challenges associated with Jessore-Benapole highway project.
	Time	:	40 minutes
	Material	:	Cards, Poster papers, marker pens (sketch pen), display board (wall, paper), pushpin, both side tape, coloured zip sticks
	Informants	:	Ward commissioner/councillors, local community & political leaders, doctors, engineers, police officers, students, local slum leaders, male & female social workers, businessmen, NGO/development workers and school/college teachers
	Method	:	Brainstorming and listing solutions for problems and challenges & Ranking/grouping of solutions
	Preparation	:	Facilitators were prepared with the following: Inform the respondent well in advance. Collect all the materials needed for the sessions as stated above. Explain and guide the Co-facilitator to take notes on the whole process.
	Processes	:	The Facilitator thanked all the participants and welcomed for the next session and asked them to sit together in a

“U” shaped large group.

The facilitator explained the purpose and process as well as the detailed tasks of this session so that the participants can freely respond in it.

The facilitator formed new sub-groups and asked the participants to sub-divide into 4 small groups (3/4 members in a small group). The facilitators supplied necessary materials to the sub-groups.

The facilitator requested the sub-groups for brainstorming to identify the solution for 10 major problems/challenges associated already identified by the participants under activity 01.

The facilitator requested the sub-groups to write down the solution under each problem with 2/3 lines justification in a flip chart.

After identification of the solution of each of the problems in small groups, the participants again sat in a “U” shaped large group.

Now one person formed a small group displayed their Flip Chart and presented the solution for each problem they identified in their small group.

While one group presented their solutions, other groups should carefully listen and put ticks (✓) on similar solutions of similar problems, which they also identified in their small groups.

Once the presentation of the first small group was over, other groups sequentially presented their identified solutions of the problems except the common ones, which marked with ticks (✓).

The presenter of each group answered the questions from other groups, if any and explained the reasons for selecting the said problems. The Facilitator now prepared a problem-solution matrix compiling all the problems and their respective solutions identified by the small groups without duplication.

The facilitator displayed the matrix in large white board.

The facilitator asked all the group members to vote the solutions, every single group member provided maximum 10 votes but not more than one for a single solution of each problem category.

The facilitator then explained the participants how to use

zip stick for voting the solutions.

The facilitator asked all the group members to vote the solutions; every single group member provided maximum 10 votes. The facilitator provided 10 zip sticks to each participant and asked them to vote the solution of each problem. Under each problem the participant can vote for only one solution.

The facilitator requested the participants to consider cause and options for each solution while voting for management priority.

The facilitator now counted the vote and developed a problem-solution priority matrix, where under a single problem there was a single solution and an alternative solution.

The facilitator identified the solution for each problem based on the number of votes. Solution which got the highest vote were ranked as number 01 for the respective problem and The alternative solution was identified on the basis of the number of second highest votes a solution received under a specific problem.

Facilitator sought participant’s opinion if more than one solution for a single problem got same score to prioritise these solutions through consensus among themselves.

At the end of the session the facilitator finalised the problem-solution matrix.



Output

A problem-solution matrix for Urban settlements in the Jessore-Benapole Highway Corridor Development Project, which was the management priority of this project.

Activity 03: Dreams Mapping or Vision Mapping



Objective : Spatial distribution of people’s dreams or visions



Time : 40 minutes



Material : Ward level A3 maps with physical features, white papers and colour pencils



Informants : Ward commissioner/councillors, local community & political leaders, doctors, engineers, police officers, students, local slum leaders, male & female social workers, businessmen, NGO/development workers and

		school/college teachers
	Method	: Group work and dreams mapping or vision mapping
	Preparation	: <p>Facilitators were prepared with the following: Inform the respondent well in advance. Collect all the materials needed for the sessions as stated above. Explain and guide the Co-facilitator to take notes on the whole process.</p>
	Processes	: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Facilitator thanked all the participants and welcomed for the next session and will ask them to sit together in a “U” shaped large group. 2. At the beginning of this exercise, the facilitator explained the purpose and process of dreams mapping 3. The facilitator formed new sub-groups and will ask the participants to sub-divided into 4 small groups (3/4 members in a small group). Then, the facilitator and co-facilitator distributed ward/union level A3 sized maps, white papers and colour pencils. 4. The facilitator requested the sub-groups for mapping out how they would like to see services and facilities in next 5-10 years 5. Before mapping, the facilitator requested the sub-groups to write down the services and facilities that participants wanted to see services and facilities in their wards/unions in next 5-10 years 6. After identification of the services and facilities for next 5-10 years in small groups, the participants mapped out identified services and facilities in A3 sized ward maps with different symbols. The facilitators helped participants to recognise streets, major locations and landmarks in the map. 7. At time of mapping exercises, the participants shared their visions with the facilitators 8. At the end of the mapping exercises the participants presented their own dreams maps.
	Output	: Spatial Mapping of people’s dreams/visions or Identification of appropriate locations of people’s dreams/visions

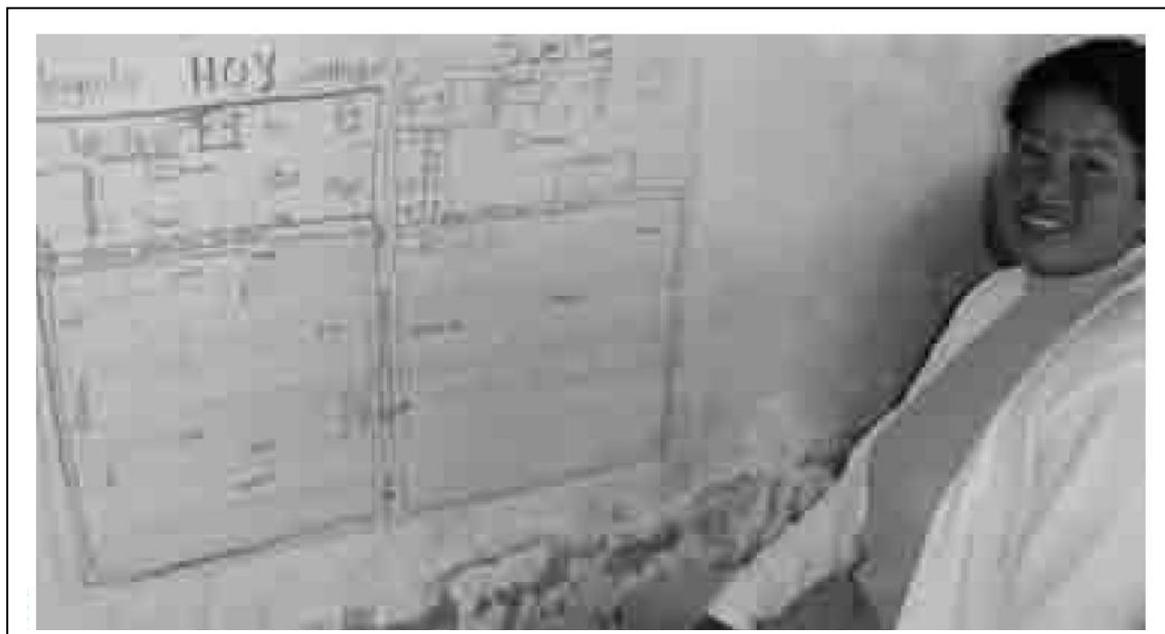


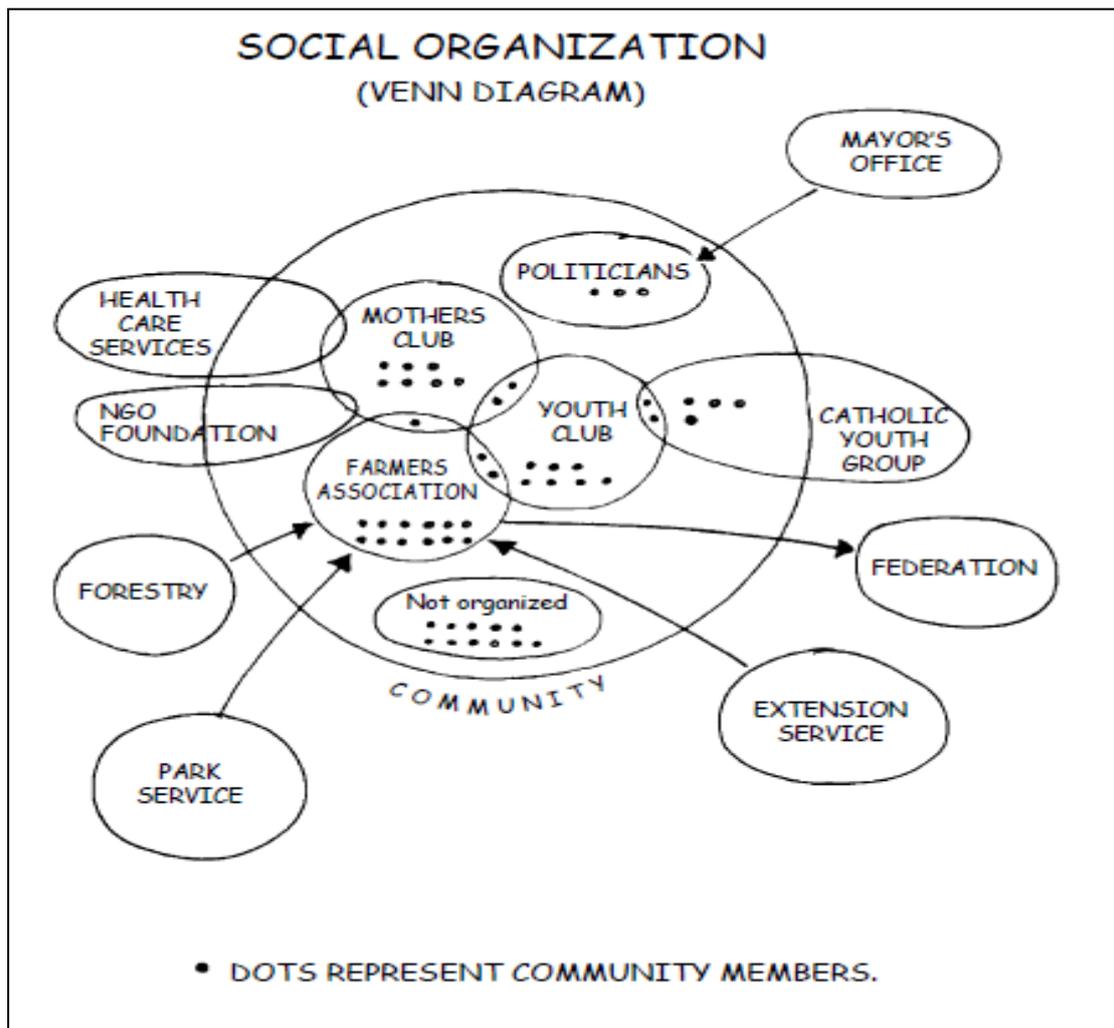
Figure 3.4: Dreams Mapping or Vision Mapping by One Participant in El-Salvador (Source: IIED, 2009)

Activity 04: Understanding Institutional Network of Local people

	Objective	:	To learn about the formal and also informal institutions/organisations and informal groups that are active in the community, determine how they are perceived by their members, and understand how they interact with one another. This may be of use when assigning responsibilities during the planning stage.
	Time	:	30 minutes
	Material	:	Blackboard, flip/poster paper and markers
	Informants	:	Ward commissioner/councillors, local community & political leaders, doctors, engineers, police officers, students, local slum leaders, male & female social workers, businessmen, NGO/development workers and school/college teachers
	Method	:	Actor mapping/Social Organisation (Venn-Diagramming)
	Preparation	:	Facilitators were prepared with the following: Inform the respondent well in advance. Collect all the materials needed for the sessions as stated above. Explain and guide the Co-facilitator to take notes on the

<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Processes :</p>	<p>whole process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Facilitator thanked all the participants and welcomed for the next session and will ask them to sit together in a “U” shaped large group. 2. At the beginning of this exercise, the facilitator explained the purpose and process of actor mapping/venn-diagramming 3. The facilitator encouraged participants to begin discussion on institutional issue and submit the diagram as the visualization tool. 4. The facilitator asked the participants to name all the formal and informal institutions that have an impact on community life. The discussion could begin with a question: Which institution is most important for the development of the community? The facilitators were let the participants decide. 5. Write the names of the “most important” formal and informal institutions inside the largest circles (1 per circle), and put them up on the flip paper/poster paper. The participants did the same with the other institutions; ranked them in order of importance, using smaller and smaller circles. 6. The facilitator asked the participants what relationships exist between these organizations. He told the participants to arrange the circles on the poster paper so that related formal and informal institutions and organizations were touching one another. If this was too complicated, then the participants used arrows to symbolize the relationships. This phase had considerable discussion. 7. The end result of the exercise was a diagram of inter-institutional relationships in the community. As the participants had been working in sub-groups, the facilitator compared the results obtained by each group.
<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Output :</p>	<p>Identifying/Understanding local people’s institutional and organisational networks that are active in the urban/rural settlements</p>

Figure 3.5: Social Organization Diagram/Venn Diagram



CHAPTER FOUR: PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF KEY ISSUES

4.1 Findings of the Urban PRA Sessions

To identify problems and their solutions, PRA sessions were conducted in each ward of Jessore, Jhigorghacha and Benapole Paurashava. Total twenty seven PRA sessions were organised in the urban settlements where different stakeholders such as ward councillors, local political leaders, business people, CDCs' members, NGO workers, lawyers, students, teachers and etc. participated. Participants in each session were divided into three or four groups in a lottery method to discuss the major problems of the wards where they are living. Participants were allowed to brainstorm the problems and they prepared a list of problems which were ranked by them. In the second phase of the PRA session, participants from all four groups were asked to vote the problems they have identified together. Further, participants had identified the solutions of the problems. In the third phase of PRA session, participants had identified the problems and proposed site for the possible solutions on a map through mapping exercises. Rank-order analysis was performed with PRA findings. As explained in method section, the respondents were then asked to rank the indicated factors according to their comparative importance in their perceptions, where higher value carried greater importance. The responses were put into a rank-order model in order to arrive at a quantifiable average rank value (R) and to demonstrate the relative importance of the identified factors in a graphical representation. Rank value was calculated from the individual rank based on a score of importance (10 being the highest and 1 the lowest) given to each factor by all respondents. Rank-order analysis is commonly used to measure preferences.

Figure 4.1: Model applied for rank-order analysis of participant realities towards participation

$$R = \frac{\sum\{(r_1 \times f_1) + \dots + (r_n \times f_n)\}}{N}$$

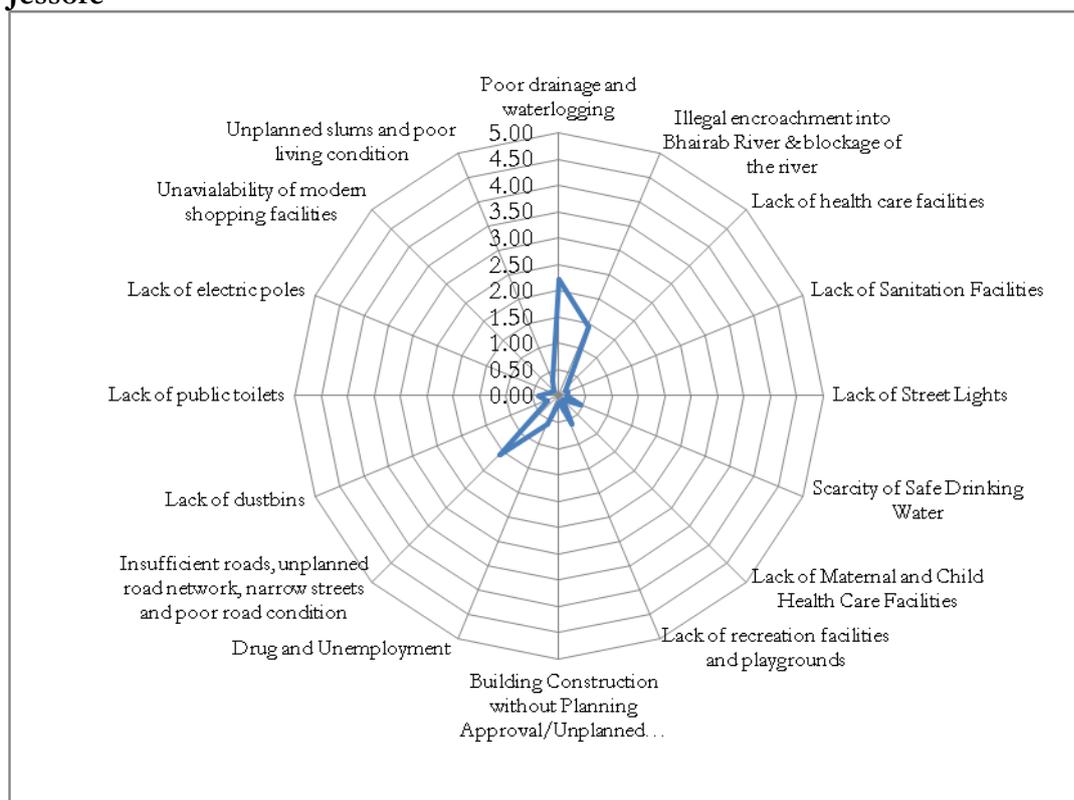
[Here, R = Final rank value; r = Individual rank given by the respondent; f = frequency; n = No. of factors identified; and N = Number of total respondents]

Source: Adapted from Malhotra, 2008; Swapan, 2014

4.1.1 PRA Findings in Jessore Paurashava

In Jessore Paurashava, total 142 participants participated in nine PRA sessions and these participants were allowed to brainstorm the problems and they prepared a list of problems. In brainstorming process, they prepared a list of 53 problems (Annex I). But, they selected 17 major problems of Jessore Paurashava through voting process (as shown in Figure 4). Participants identified poor drainage and waterlogging as the major problem through the voting method. Interestingly this was also ranked as the major problem by the participants in all of the nine wards. The most common problems among all these participants are problems related to road infrastructure such as insufficient roads; unplanned road network narrow streets; and poor road condition that were mentioned by all of the participants of nine PRA sessions in Jessore Paurashava. Thus, these two problems such as waterlogging and problems related to road infrastructure are existed in all the nine wards of Jessore Paurashava. The third most common problem includes blockage of Bhairab River which also causes waterlogging in different parts of the Jessore city. Other major infrastructural problems in Jessore Paurashava are scarcity of drinking water; lack of sanitation; unplanned building construction; lack of street lights; lack of electric poles; lack of dustbins; lack of health care centres; and unplanned slums and squatter settlements. The socio-economic problems include drug addition, unemployment among young people and recreational facilities.

Figure 4.2: Comparative importance of problems identified by the local citizens in Jessore



Source: PRA Sessions in Jessore Paurashava, 2015

Urban Development Planning Proposals from Local Citizens in Jessore Paurashava

Participants also identified the solutions of the problems including physical infrastructure development and socio-economic development through promoting social services. As for example, to tackle the problems associated with the blockage of Bhairab River participants had opted for re-excavation of Bhairab River, linking the canals with Bhairab River and constructing walkways along the Bhairab River. Participants felt that installing new deep tube wells by the municipality can solve the scarcity of drinking water. To solve the problems associated with narrow streets, participants recommended for constructing footpaths and enforcement of building construction acts. They also felt that community policing and awareness building activities can solve the problems associated with drug and volatile law and order situation. Further, the participants recommended to construct permanent and temporary dustbins, increase waste transport facilities and develop recycling facilities can solve the solid waste problems of the wards in the Jessore Paurashava. In terms of stakeholder identification, participants of the PRA session had identified Jessore Municipality as the major actor for solving the identified problems. Drawing on their access to different actors most of the participants have mentioned that Ward

Councillor and Mayor of the municipality is the key person to get access to any government services and facilities.

Table 4.1: Proposals for road construction and drainage network

Ward no.	Local Road Construction	Drainage
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants proposed for widening roads at Purba-basantipara Road and also identified both Molia Para and Shaha Para roads for widening Participants selected the areas of Khulna-Jessore Highway for removing illegal establishments and repair and widening existing roads. Provisioning streetlights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage Master plan development Constructing new and wide drains and participants provide proposals constructing drains at Purba-basantipara Road. The participants also recommended constructing drains at Molia Para Road; they also identified both Molia Para and Shaha Para Roads for widening. Constructing drain covers
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants identified some roads for immediate repairing such as HM roads (from Doratana to Kather Pool), Dhaka-Jessore Highway Road (especially in front of Hafizia Madrasha), Khal Dhar Road, Bypass, Ambika Basu lane, Nikanpara Road and Kodomtola Road. Provisioning streetlights and pedestrian ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing new drains Removing illegal encroachments from natural drains to drain out rain water The drains of these roads (mentioned in Road proposals) are identified for repairing and widening.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants had opted for immediate repairs of existing roads, constructing new roads widening and raising heights of the roads Walkways need to be developed along the roads Provisioning streetlights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing a Drainage Master for Jessore Paurashava Integrated planning for building drainage network with walkways Cleaning the drains regularly Constructing new drains, but participants identified only a few roads such as Nowapara Road and Ghop-Nowapara Road to construct drains
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Master Plan needs to be developed for constructing new roads; widening old roads; and converting existing kutcha roads into asphalt roads Graveyard road and road adjacent to Anjuman Ara School road are prioritized for re-construction project. Provisioning streetlights and electric poles on the roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new drains at Rowshan Ali Road and regular cleaning of the existing and future drains
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants had opted for immediate repairs of existing roads, constructing new roads widening and raising heights of the roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing new drains Removing illegal encroachments from natural drains to drain out rain water
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing roads need to be repaired, asphalted and widened Provisioning streetlights and electric poles on the roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing new drains Removing illegal encroachments from natural drains to drain out rain water
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing roads need to be repaired, asphalted and widened Road heights should be maintained while constructing roads Provisioning streetlights and electric poles on the roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing new drains Removing illegal encroachments from natural drains to drain out rain water Removing illegal constructions from both sides of Bhairab river Restrictions need to be imposed on land filling of ponds, canals and other waterbodies

8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing roads need to be repaired, asphalted and widened Provisioning streetlights and electric poles on the roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing new drains and regular cleaning of the existing and future drains Removing illegal encroachments from natural drains to drain out rain water
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for road network development are: constructing new roads; widening old roads; and converting existing kutchha roads into asphalt roads Road which starts from Terminal and goes through Shankarpur needs to be repaired, asphalted and widened. In addition, graveyard road needs to be repaired and this roads need to be connected with Benapole-Mongla road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing new drains and regular cleaning of the existing and future drains Removing illegal encroachments from natural drains to drain out rain water

Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2015

Table 4.2: Proposals for Housing, Utility Services, Health Care Services, Educational Infrastructure and Recreational Facilities Development

Services	Proposals
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan development for ensuring planned development Building construction should not be permitted without planning permission Slum upgrading and ensuring basic services for the urban poor
Utility services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household waste collection system needs to be installed in all nine wards Number of transports should be increased for household waste collection Develop waste recycling services for Jessore Paurashava The participants of ward no. 3 identified several options including household waste collection system, moving dustbins and regular collection of wastes from secondary points in order to improve solid waste management system of the this ward. They also felt that ward based <i>Kutchha bazaar</i> and slaughter house construction can solve existing problems of slaughtering animals and <i>Kutchha bazaar</i> which improves existing waste management system. Roadside dustbin needs to be constructed. Participants of Ward 4 proposed for two dustbins in Kathal Tola Mor and adjacent to Rowshan Ali Road. All the residential areas and units need to be brought under supply water network of Paurashava. In addition, deep tubewells in different locations of the wards should also be installed. Participants of Ward no. 1 identified deep tubewell locations which are located in Boubazar Sarak, near Purbo Baridara Sarak, and near Pultola Alia Madrasa. Participants of ward no. 8 emphasised on conserving ponds, canals and rivers for supplying water in the dry season. Some participants also emphasised on finding alternative drinking water source and Jessore Municipality together with DPHE can develop a project to develop alternative water source for the dwellers of this ward. Iron and arsenic free water should be provided. Public toilets should be developed at market places, major intersections, and stoppages.
Recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside park development project needs to be initiated. Parks should be constructed adjacent school premises. Walkway and urban greeneries development along the Bhairab River. Participants of ward no. 3 identified riverside space and also found spaces near Hamidur Rahman High School and Power Development Board quarters for park development. They also identified some places for building playgrounds including areas near TT College quarters and BL College quarters. Participants of ward no. 1 identified the location of a park near the Metopukur area and also beside Bhairab River. Open space needs to be developed for playground. A park needs to be developed for women Government and private/NGO partnership can be developed for park development

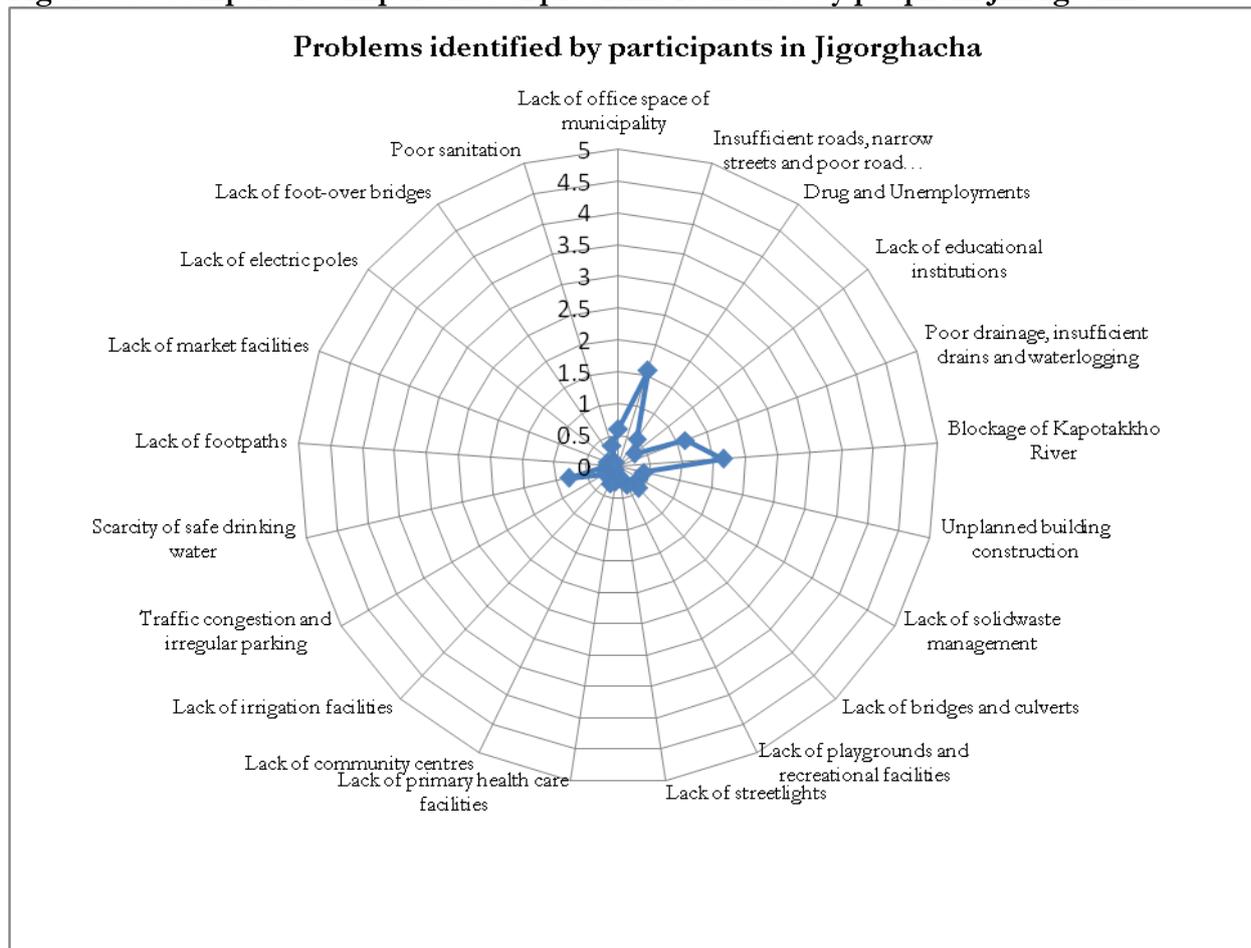
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community centre should be constructed in each neighbourhood.
Health care infrastructures and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary health care infrastructures need to be developed in all nine wards. Participants of ward 02 identified space for health care centre near Bali Villa at Barandipara Road. • Urban poor’s access to health services should be ensured and doctors should be recruited at the primary centres. • In ward no. 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 health clinics need to be established.
Educational infrastructures and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and secondary schools need to be constructed in ward 08 and 09 • Ensuring primary and secondary education for urban poor

Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2015

4.1.2 PRA Findings in Jikargachha Paurashava

In Jikargachha Paurashava, total 125 participants participated in nine PRA sessions and these participants were allowed to brainstorm the problems and they prepared a list of problems. In brainstorming process, they prepared a list of 21 problems. Then they ranked these problems of Paurashava through voting process (as shown in Figure 5). Participants identified blockage of Kapotakkho River as the major problem and ranked it as number 01 problem through the voting method. Interestingly this was also ranked as the number 01 or 02 by the participants in all of the nine wards. Participants identified insufficient roads, narrow streets and poor road infrastructure as the major problems that are associated with the growing urban population in Jhikargachha Municipality. However participants of all nine PRA sessions identified water logging, lack of street light, scarcity of drinking water, unplanned building construction, lack of household waste collection facilities, and lack of bridges and culverts as the common problem in Jhikargachha Municipality.

Figure 4.3: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Jikargachha



Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Urban Development Planning Proposals from Local Citizens Jikargachha Paurashava

In the third phase of the PRA session, participants are asked to explore solutions of the problems. To tackle the problems associated with water logging participants had opted for re-excavation of Kapotakkho River, linking the canals with Kapotakkho River and constructing guide wall. Participants felt that widening the roads and constructing the connecting roads will ensure better connectivity. Construction of parks along the river will solve the problems associated with recreational facilities. Some participants gave importance on construction of foot over bridge and widening the roads which will also tackle the problems associated traffic congestion. Construction of dock will help to foster the economic growth of Jhikargachha Municipality. Establishing a planned market with better connectivity will help the people for efficient marketing of the agricultural product. Drawing on their access to different actors most of the participants have mentioned that Ward Councillor and Representative of Market Committee is the key person to get access to any government services and facilities.

Table 4.3: Proposals for Urban Development Planning in Jikargachha Paurashava

Problems	Proposals
Blockage of Kapotakkho River/Waterlogging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants provided proposals for re-excavation of Kapotakkho River; linking the canals with Kapotakkho River and constructing walkways and parks along the Kapotakkho River. • Constructing new drains and repairing and widening existing drains • Participants of Ward 04 proposed for new drain construction in Old College area • Participants of Ward 04 proposed for new drain construction in the Banoful residential area. • Participants of Ward 04 emphasised on constructing guide walls and they identified possible location of guide wall along the WAPDA canal. • Participants of Ward 06 identified several locations for drain construction, including from Tipu's Chatal to Jikargachha Degree College; from Rajaul's House in Khuthipara to Kapotakkho River; from Erdis's House of Mobarrakpur and to Kapotakkho River; from Pre-Cadet School to House of Abul Kamal; from Shishu Sadan to Main Road and Pairavangha to Jikagachha Rail Bridge. • Participants of Ward 07 emphasised on developing Drainage Master Plan which guides future development drainage network. • Participants of Ward 08 recommended constructing new drains in Teachers para, Pyonkos para, and Ghorur Hat para and these drains should be connected with old drains and Kapotakkho River. They also recommended that residential drains need to be connected with local drains of the ward. The condition of local drains needs to be improved. • Participants of Ward 09 recommended constructing new drains to improve waterlogging areas, including Purandropur Bihari para, Kauria, Purandropur Mathpara, Hajirealli, Shaikhpara, Hajirealli West para, connecting road of Jessore-Benapole Highway, and Munchipara.
Accessibility problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New asphalt roads need to be constructed that need to connect remote areas with the major roads of Municipality. Existing roads need to be repaired and widened. • Provision of footpaths in major roads of the Paurashava needs to be implemented. • Participants of Ward 01 felt that connecting roads and bridges will ensure better accessibility. They have also proposed for a new bridge between Ward 01 and Ward 04. • Participants of Ward 02 felt that connecting the roads between ward 2 and ward 06 will solve the problems of connectivity and road traffic congestion. Construction of foot over bridge and widening the roads will also tackle the problems associated traffic congestion. They also identified the location of foot over bridge over the rail line. Establishing a planned market with better connectivity will help the people for efficient marketing of the agricultural product. • Participants of Ward 03 felt that widening the roads and designated stoppage for motorised vehicle will ensure better traffic management. They proposed a bus stoppage for Chawgacha route. • Participants of Ward 04 identified the location of new bridge on WAPDA canal to link ward 01 and ward 04. They have identified the site for new dock facilities close to the house of Rabiul Member. They have also proposed for a bridge near Uttar Para. They have identified Upazila Moar and Hospital Moar as the proposed site for foot over bridge construction. They have identified the connecting road between the house of Mosaddek Saheb and Hospital for better accessibility. • Participants of Ward 05 advised converting all the <i>kutcha</i> roads into asphalt roads and also widening all the asphalt roads. • Participants of Ward 06 proposed to develop a new road from Rajgonj Sharak to Jikargachha Hospital. In addition, several new roads were also identified by the participants for the Ward 06 including from Tipu's Chatal to Jikargachha Degree College; a road adjacent to Monirampur underpass; from Erdis's House of Mobarrakpur and to Kapotakkho River; from Somsher Sarder to Shisu Sadan; from Shisu Sadan to Jikargachha-Benapole Highway; from Pre-Cadet School to House of

	<p>Abul Kamal. They also proposed to construct a new road from Rajaul's House in Khuthipara to Kapotakkho River; and an old road needs to be repaired from Khuthipara Mosque to Kapotakkho River. Another road, which is from Pairavangha to Jikagachha Rail Bridge, needs to be repaired and widened. Streetlights need to be provided in all the streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants of Ward 07 proposed to develop new roads from Rail Bridge to Purandarpur Primary School. The roads from House of Alam Sarder to Garden of Kamal Shaheb; from Alam Moar to Karim Shaikh Moar and from Purandarpur to Rajapur need to be asphalted. A new connecting road, which is from Sardar's House to Saddam para. • Participants of Ward 08 proposed to construct asphalt roads from Teacher para to Shemanto para. Streetlights should be provided. • Participants of Ward 09 proposed to construct an asphalt road which connects Ward 08 to Ward 09. All the <i>kutchha</i> roads in the Ward 09, which are mainly situated in Purandropur Bihari para, Kauria, Purandropur Mathpara, Hajirealli, Shaikhpara, Hajirealli West para, need to be converted into asphalt roads as these roads become obsolete for vehicular movement in the rainy season.
Housing and Utility services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned house construction should be implemented to save agriculture land • Urban poor settlements need to be upgraded • Hygienic sanitation for all households in the Paurashava should be ensured. • Electrification needs to be implemented in the areas where electricity has not been reached yet. Participants identified some areas, including Purandropur Bihari para, Kauria, Purandropur Mathpara, Hajirealli, Shaikhpara, Hajirealli West para, where electrification is required. • Supply water network needs to be expanded in the blight areas of wards 6, 7, 8 and 9. In ward 08, the blight areas such as Teacher para, Pandeypara, Ghorurhat area and Bohila para needs to be brought into Paurashava water supply network.
Recreation and social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern hospitals and education infrastructures should be established. • At least one dustbin should be constructed at ever neighbourhood. • Participants identified the location of a park near Katakhal to offer more recreational facilities in Ward 01 of Jhikargachha Municipality. • Community centres need to be constructed at the neighbourhoods • Participants of Ward 03 prioritised constructing parks along the river and a new community centre that will be feasible to solve the problems associated with recreational facilities of this ward. • Participants of Ward 04 proposed the site for a park near the WAPDA canal. They have identified the place near the house of Rahim Boksh as a proposed site for constructing a new mosque. • Urban greeneries or forest should be promoted. • Existing playgrounds and parks need to be conserved and improved.

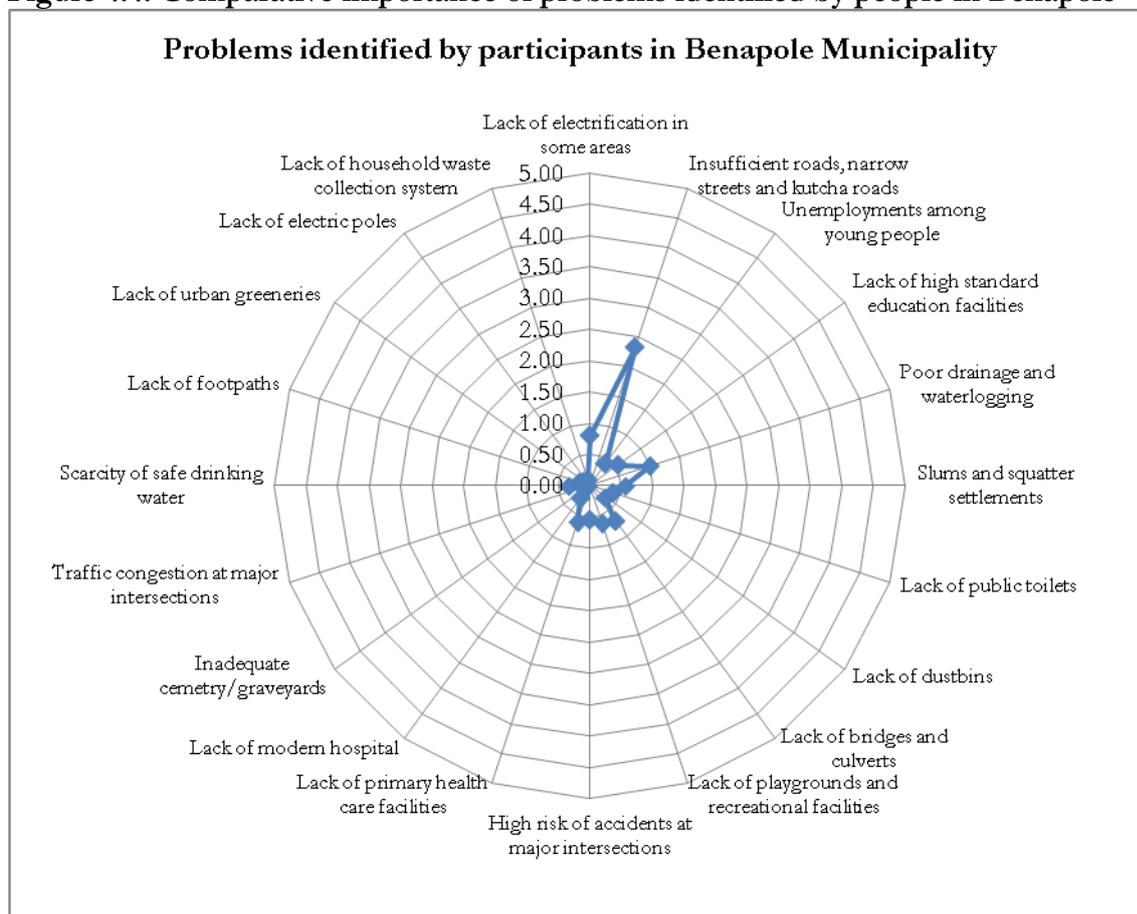
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

4.1.3 PRA Findings in Benapole Paurashava

In Benapole Paurashava, total 134 participants participated in nine PRA sessions and these participants were allowed to brainstorm the problems and they prepared a list of problems. In brainstorming process, they prepared a list of 20 problems. Then they ranked these problems of Paurashava through voting process (as shown in Figure 6). Participants identified road infrastructure problems including insufficient roads, narrow streets and poor road condition as the major problem and ranked it as number 01 problem through the voting method. Interestingly this was also ranked as the number 01 by the participants in all of the nine wards.

Participants identified poor drainage and waterlogging as the major problems Benapole Municipality. Participants of all nine PRA sessions identified lack of playgrounds and recreational facilities, lack of street light, scarcity of drinking water, lack of electricity, lack of household waste collection facilities, slum and squatter settlement development and lack of bridges and culverts as the common problem in Benapole Municipality.

Figure 4.4: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Benapole



Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Urban Development Planning Proposals from Local Citizens Benapole Paurashava

At PRA session, participants are asked to explore solutions of the problems. To tackle the problems associated with road infrastructure, participants of different wards recommended some solutions including widening the roads and constructing the connecting roads. Proposals to remove waterlogging and drainage network development are: constructing new drains; widening narrow drains; and improving condition of the drains. Construction of parks and conserving playgrounds solve the problems associated with recreational facilities. Drawing on their access to different actors most of the participants have mentioned that Ward Councillor and Mayor are the

key person to get access to any government services and facilities. Table 4 identifies local citizens' urban development planning proposals.

Table 4.4: Proposals for Urban Development Planning in Benapole Paurashava

Problems	Proposals
Waterlogging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC drains need to be constructed in both sides of the roads. • Participants of Ward 08 recommended constructing new RCC drains and also widening old drains including drains from Ahad's house to Din Islam's house or East para mosque; from Kolom's house to Moshiar's house; from Moborak's house to Deep machine; from Shaheb's house to Taleb's house; from Habib's house to Sumon's house; from Moborak's house to Gonokobor; from Monsoor's house to Bodor's house; Moshiyur's house to main highway; from Haider's house to Sher Ali's house; from Morol's house to Quddus's house; from Dhaka-Kolkata highway to Paurashava Office; from Hashim's house to Moshiyur's house; from Tobibor's house to Mojumdar's house; from Habiba's house to Karim's house; from Mokhlesh master's to Tukunheron's house. They also recommended constructing some new drains in West para and Choto Ashra Moar. A new RCC drain needs to be constructed from Haji Golam Sordar's house to Dilip Biswas's house • Participants of Ward 09 recommended widening drains especially beside Jabbar commissioner's house to avoid waterlogging. They also recommended constructing a new drain in the West para; and another drain needs to be constructed from Eshahak's house to Molla Bari and from Molla Bari to India math.
Accessibility problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New asphalt roads need to be constructed that need to connect remote areas with the major roads of Municipality. Existing roads need to be repaired and widened. • Participants of Ward 01 recommended constructing new roads in Sadipur and existing roads of Sadipur need to be repaired. They also recommended constructing culverts to promote accessibility. • Participants of Ward 02 recommended constructing foot-over bridges to come Paurashava Office. They also gave proposals for building speed breakers in important roads. • Participants of Ward 03 recommended converting existing Benapole-Jessore highway into four lanes to reduce traffic congestion from this highway. • Participants of Ward 04 recommended constructing a new road from Kaghospukur to Kaghmari. Existing roads of this Ward 04 need to be repaired and widened. They also recommended constructing a foot-over bridge. • Participants of Ward 08 recommended several new roads including from Ahad's house to Din Islam's house or East para mosque; from Kolom's house to Moshiar's house; from Moborak's house to Deep machine; from Shaheb's house to Taleb's house; from Habib's house to Sumon's house; from Moborak's house to Gonokobor; from Monsoor's house to Bodor's house; Moshiyur's house to main highway; from Haider's house to Sher Ali's house; from Morol's house to Quddus's house; from Dhaka-Kolkata highway to Paurashava boundary; from Hashim's house to Moshiyur's house; from Tobibor's house to Mojumdar's house; from Habiba's house to Karim's house; from Mokhlesh master's to Tukunheron's house. They also recommended constructing asphalt roads in West para Jame Masjid, Choto Achra west para and Eidgah mosque. A new road needs to be constructed from existing bypass road to Moklesh Master's house. Further, they gave proposals for footpath construction and plantation in the south side of the Mondir. • Participants of Ward 09 recommended for repairs of existing roads, especially Birmuqtijosdhha road and Ali Kodor Sharak. According to these participants, a new road needs to be constructed from Eshahak's house to Molla Bari and from Molla Bari to India math. They also recommended widening roads in the Milan para of Boro Achra • Provision of footpaths and streetlights in major roads of the Paurashava needs to be implemented.

Housing and Utility services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household waste collection system needs to be developed and dustbins need to be developed at the neighbourhoods. • Urban poor settlements need to be upgraded and housing should be provided for landless and displaced people. • Hygienic sanitation for all households in the Paurashava should be ensured. • Public toilets need to be constructed in all nine wards. • Electrification needs to be implemented in the areas where electricity has not been reached yet. It needs to be implemented by using electric poles. • Participants of Ward 01 identified Baghdapara area of the Sadipur for electrification. In addition, participants of other wards also asked for electrification for their electricity deprived areas
Recreation and social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern hospitals and education infrastructures should be established. • Paurashava can develop its own hospital to support poor people medical services. • Existing graveyard areas need to be expanded. • Public library needs to be constructed. • Paurashava should develop recreational facilities for children • At least one dustbin should be constructed at every neighbourhood. • A primary school will be required in several wards such as Ward 05, Ward 06, Ward 07 and Ward 09. • Participants of Ward 02, Ward 04, Ward 05, Ward 07 and Ward 09 recommended primary health care centres for their wards. • Urban greeneries or forest should be promoted. Paurashava can promote urban greeneries through doing plantation in both sides of the roads. • Existing playgrounds and parks need to be conserved and improved.

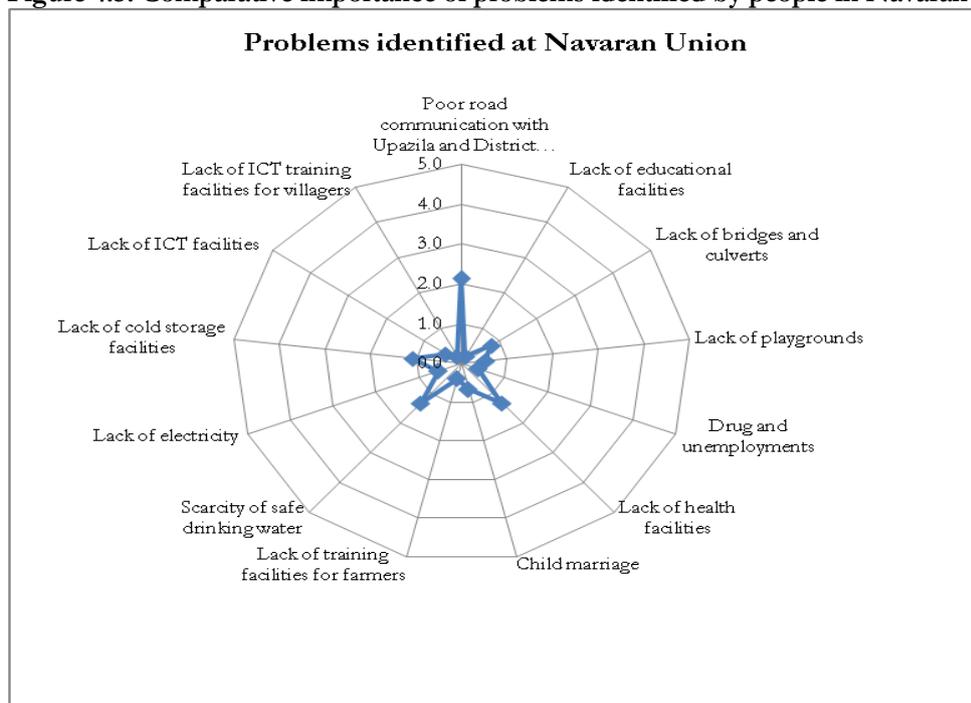
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

4.2 Findings of the Rural PRA Sessions

In rural context, eleven PRA sessions were organised in eleven unions such as Arabpur, Deara, Upashahar, Jhikargachha, Chachra, Godkhali, Panisars, Sharsha, Nabharan, Benapole and Ulashi where Union Parishads' Chairman, Ward Members (both male and female) and standing committees' members. Participants of all eleven unions identified road infrastructure problems as one of the major hindrances of rural development. They identified poor connectivity of Union with District Town and other Municipality, poor road condition, and insufficient roads, bridges and culverts as road infrastructure problems. In addition, most of the rural roads become unusable in the rainy season which is evident in all eleven unions. Local government representatives state that connecting smaller villages with asphalt roads would require significantly more funding, as these roads currently are mainly dirt roads and pathways. While local representatives express satisfaction that some road infrastructures had been done in last 5 years with the funding of LGSP project, they believe the problem is not completely solved because the recently paved sections of roads are already becoming unusable and require repairs. Second most cited problem is waterlogging in all eleven Unions. Participants cited other problems related to physical infrastructure including: lack of electricity; loss of agriculture land

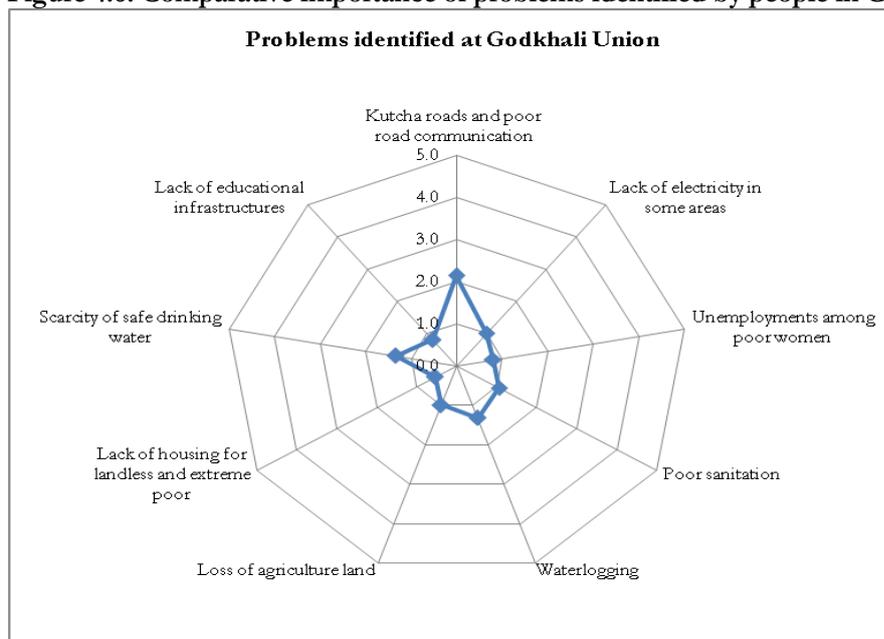
due to unplanned housing; inadequate health facilities; scarcity of pure drinking water; poor sanitation; and unplanned gher activity causing environmental degradation and roadside erosion.

Figure 4.5: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Navaran Union



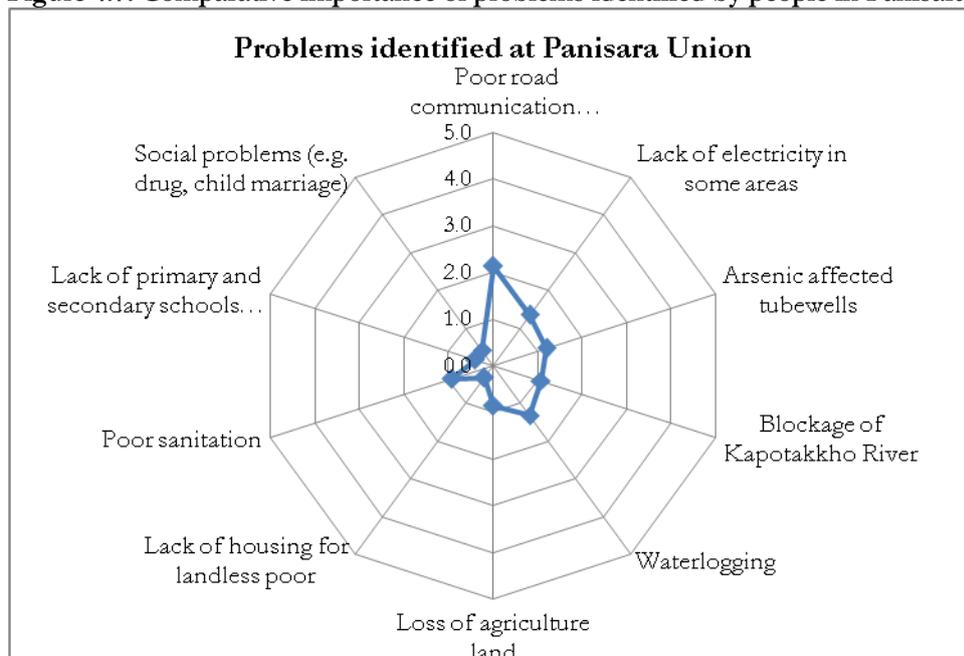
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.6: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Godkhali Union



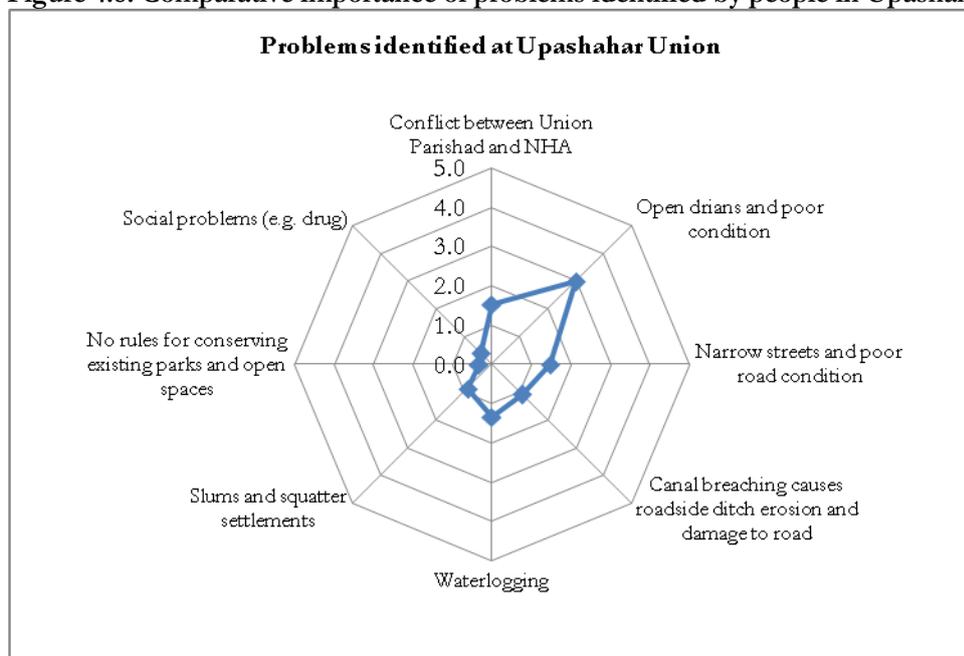
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.7: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Panisara Union



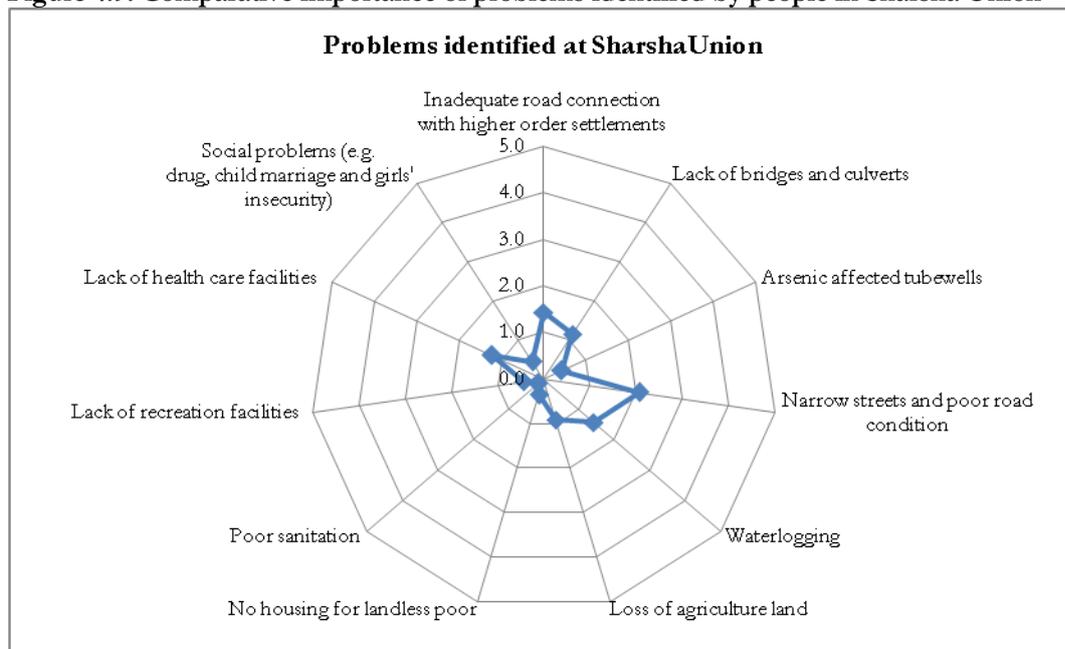
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.8: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Upashahar Union



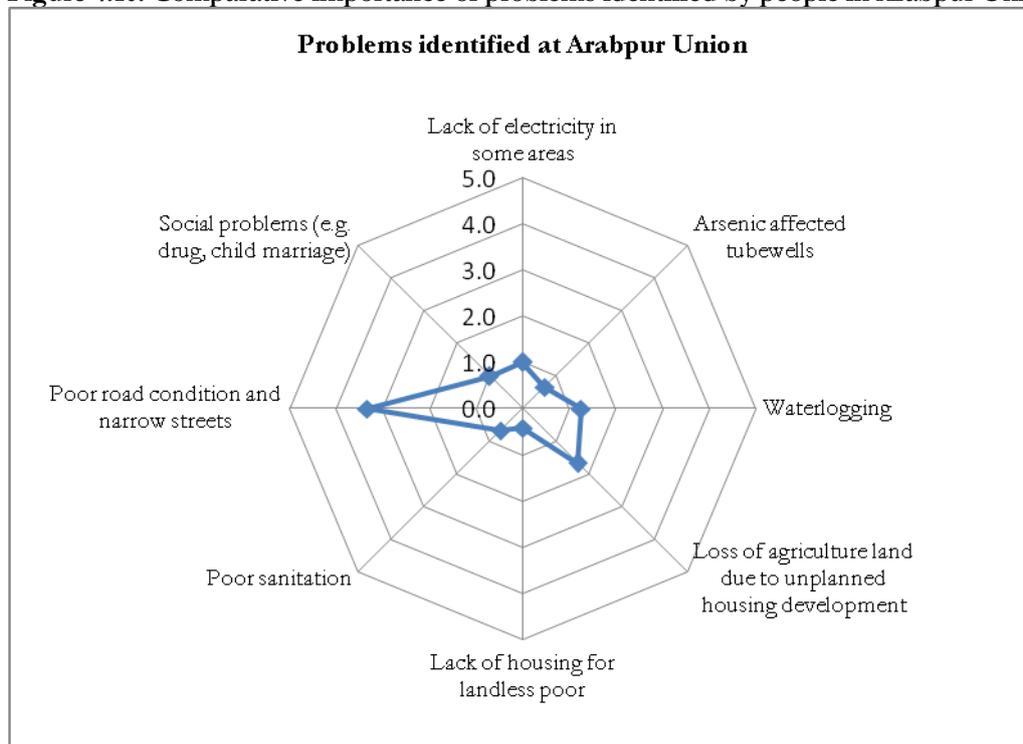
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.9: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Sharsha Union



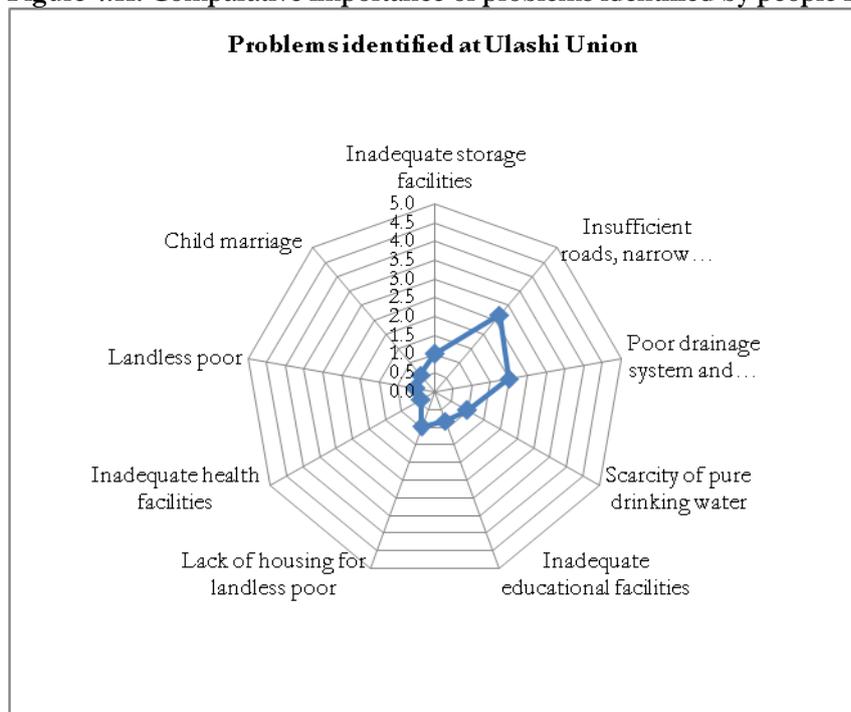
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.10: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Arabpur Union



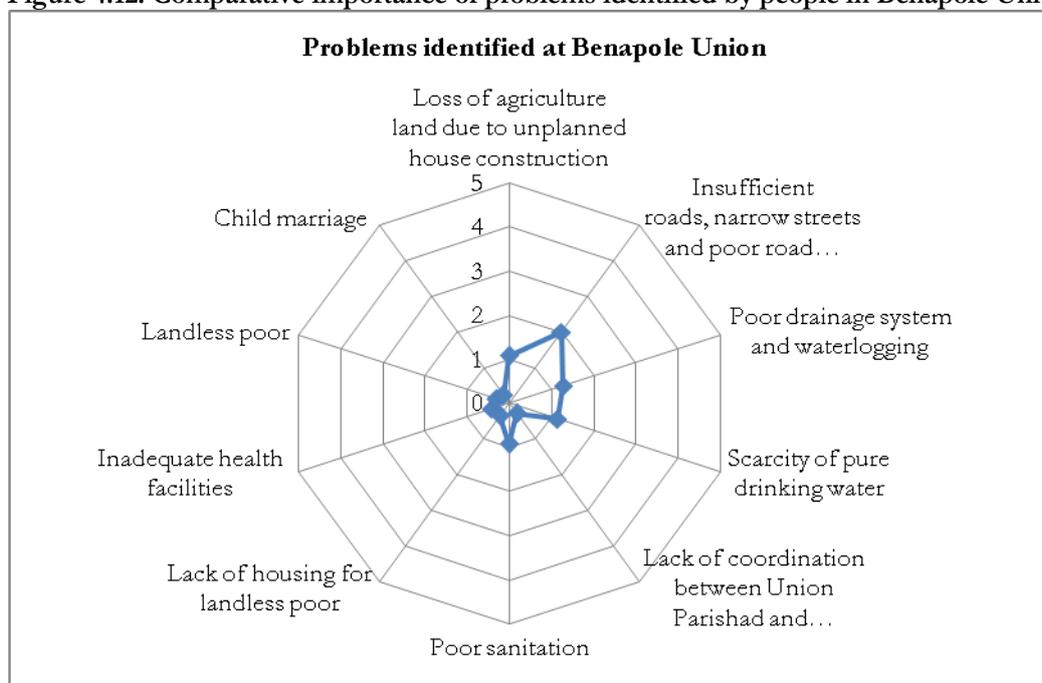
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.11: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Ulashi Union



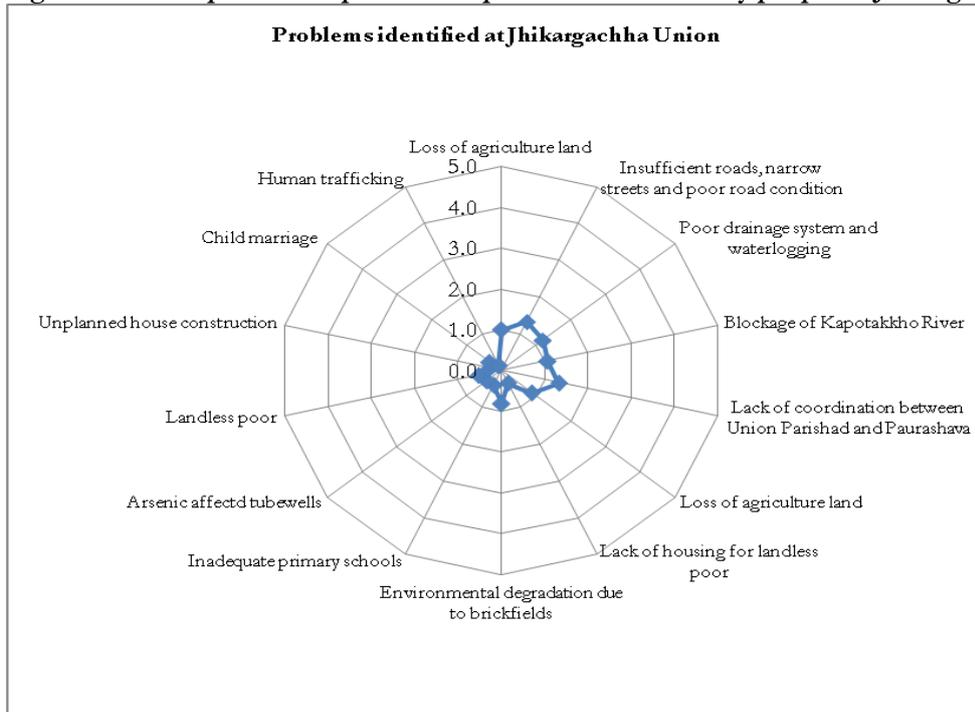
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.12: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Benapole Union



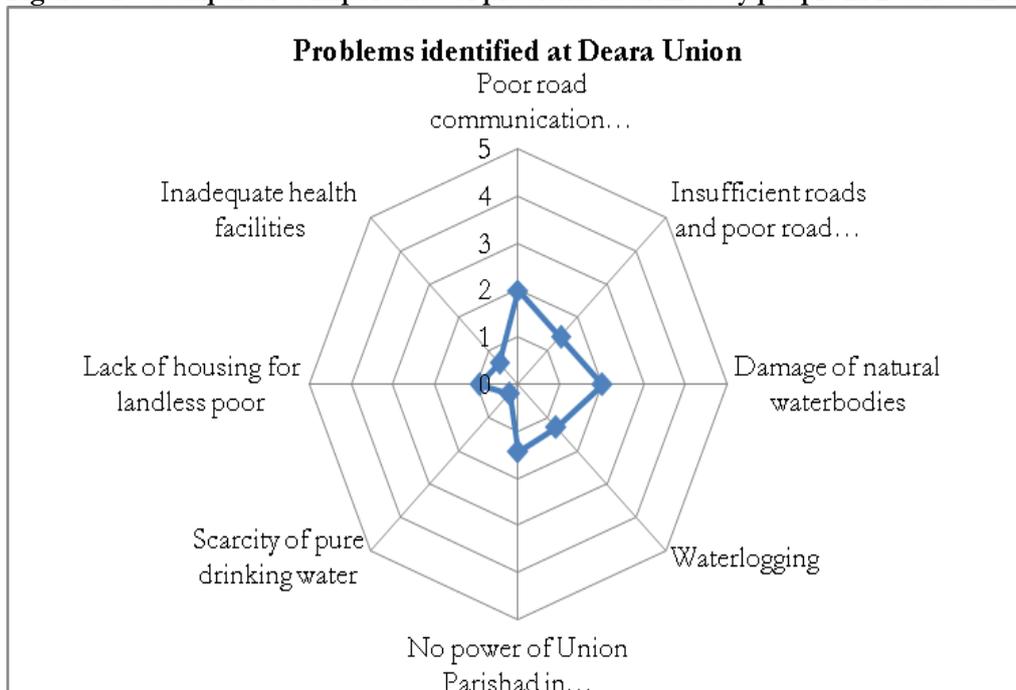
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.13: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Jhikargachha Union



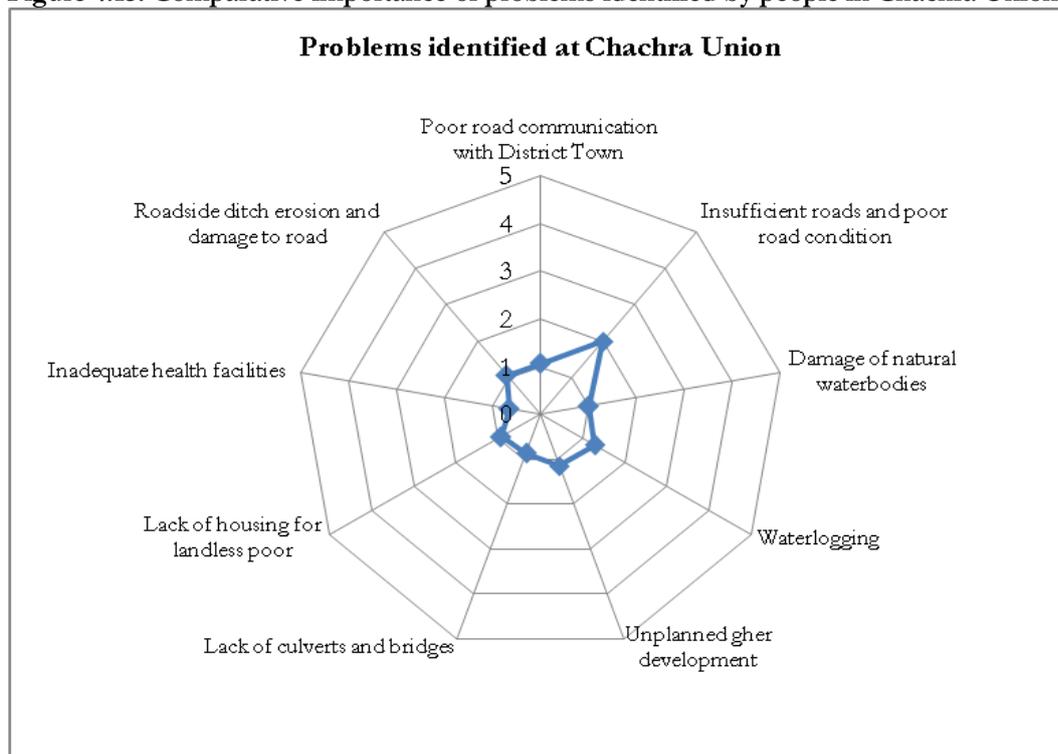
Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.14: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Deara Union



Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

Figure 4.15: Comparative importance of problems identified by people in Chachra Union



Source: Compiled from PRA Sessions, 2016

4.3 Action Plan Matrix through PRA Process

Table 4.5 reveals action plan matrix for development planning in the surrounding urban and rural areas of Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor. The action plan matrix are developed through PRA sessions where local government representatives, members from TLCC and WLCC of Paurashava and members of standing committees in Union Parishad participated and worked together. The action plan matrix includes key issues, specific actions and implementing organisations/actors.

Table 4.5: Action Matrix for Development Planning in Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor Areas

Key Issues	What must be done?	Where needs to implement?	By whom?
Promoting planned urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use master plan development Awareness raising of the residents through developing IEC materials (e.g. billboards, leaflets, circular in newspapers) and using electronic media Involving TLCC and WLCC members for awareness raising of local residents Recruitment of urban planners and engineers Implementing Land use clearance and building plan permission by following Land Use Master Plan and Building Construction Rules Community-based housing development for conservation of agricultural lands and natural waterbodies 	Jessore, Jhikargachha and Benapole	Paurashavas, UDD and LGED

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Preparation of Development Plan for Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial and commercial uses development by following Land Use Master Plan Slum and squatter settlement upgrading 		
Road infrastructure development to reduce accessibility problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Master Plan needs to be developed that must show local and regional connectivity. Following Master Plan, asphalt roads need to be constructed that must connect remote areas with Municipalities and District Towns. Existing roads need to be repaired and widened. Bridges and culverts need to be constructed for enhancing connectivity. The condition of most roads connecting the outskirts with the city center needs to be improved For Jessore city, a city bypass needs to be developed so that Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor would not create traffic problems Internal resource mobilization is required for supporting road infrastructure development. Construction of terminals for trucks, buses and easy-bikes Construction of footpaths and removing illegal establishments from roads and footpaths Provisioning of traffic signages and streetlights 	Jessore, Jhikargachha, Benapole and 11 Union Parishads	Union Parishads, Paurashavas and LGED
Waterlogging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage Master Plan Development Excavation of rivers and canals Identification of outfalls and connecting drains with outfalls by using proper design and planning Constructing new drains, widening and repairing existing drains Conservation of natural waterbodies Regular maintenance of drains Involving local citizens into drain maintenance Waste management system development for growth centres and <i>kutchha bazars</i> Stopping unplanned gher activities 	Jessore, Jhikargachha, Benapole Paurashavas and 11 Union Parishads	Union Parishads, Paurashavas and LGED
Development of EPZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan for EPZ Identifying land for EPZ EPZ project from government Creating 60,000 employments from the EPZ Housing and infrastructure development for EPZ employees 	Benapole Paurashava	Ministry of Finance, Paurashava and LGED
Decision Making Power for Union Parishad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring natural resources management (<i>Jal Mahal</i>) authority from District Commissioner to Union Parishad It will increase financial resources of Union Parishad that can be used for infrastructure development 	Deara Union Parishad	Ministry of LGRDC, Land Ministry, District Commissioner Office and
Recreational facilities development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside park development Urban greeneries development both sides of road and along the river Walkway development along the river 	Jhikargachha, Benapole Paurashavas	Paurashava, LGED, Private companies and NGOs

FINAL REPORT OF PRA EXERCISE

Preparation of Development Plan for Benapole-Jessore Highway Corridor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation of open spaces and existing open spaces need to be converted into playgrounds, stadium and parks• Parks need to be developed adjacent to schools• Involvement of private sectors and NGOs in park development		
Utility services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Household waste collection system development• Planning and designing for waste transfer stations and sanitary landfills• Constructions of dustbins and increased vehicles/ transports for waste collection• Improvement of urban poor's water supply and sanitation services• Installation of deep tubewells to ensure water for Paurashava residents in the dry season• Expanding pipe water supply networks in all the Paurashavas• Electrification using electric poles• Construction of public toilets	Jhikargachha, Benapole Paurashavas	Paurashava, LGED and NGOs

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