



Self Help Group Promotion, PRADAN. Photo source: Helzi Noponen

THE INTERNAL LEARNING SYSTEM

ASSESSING IMPACT WHILE EMPOWERING
INTERNAL LEARNING

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Katrina Mitchell

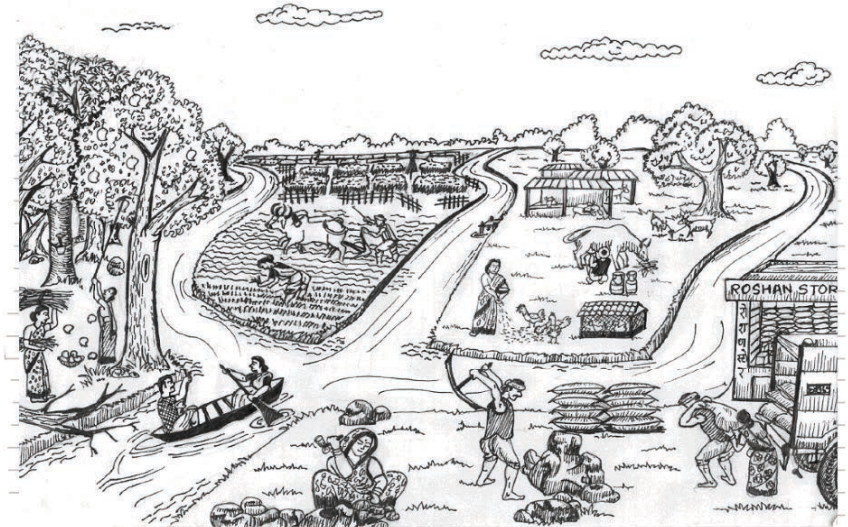
American Evaluators Association National Conference, Minneapolis
October 26, 2012

WHAT IS ILS?

- SIMPLE
- Quantitative
- Evaluation +
- Non-extractive
- Highly participatory
- Pictorial/accessible
- Customized
- Embedded in the program
- Multi-year



Boat of Life--The Family's Oar Seven Rivers to Cross to Reach a Sustainable Livelihood



Part 2-- Finances and Livelihoods

PRADAN Internal Learning System Participant Life and Livelihood Workbook

**The Internal Learning System (ILS)--A Participatory
Impact Assessment and Planning System**



HOW DID ILS DEVELOP?



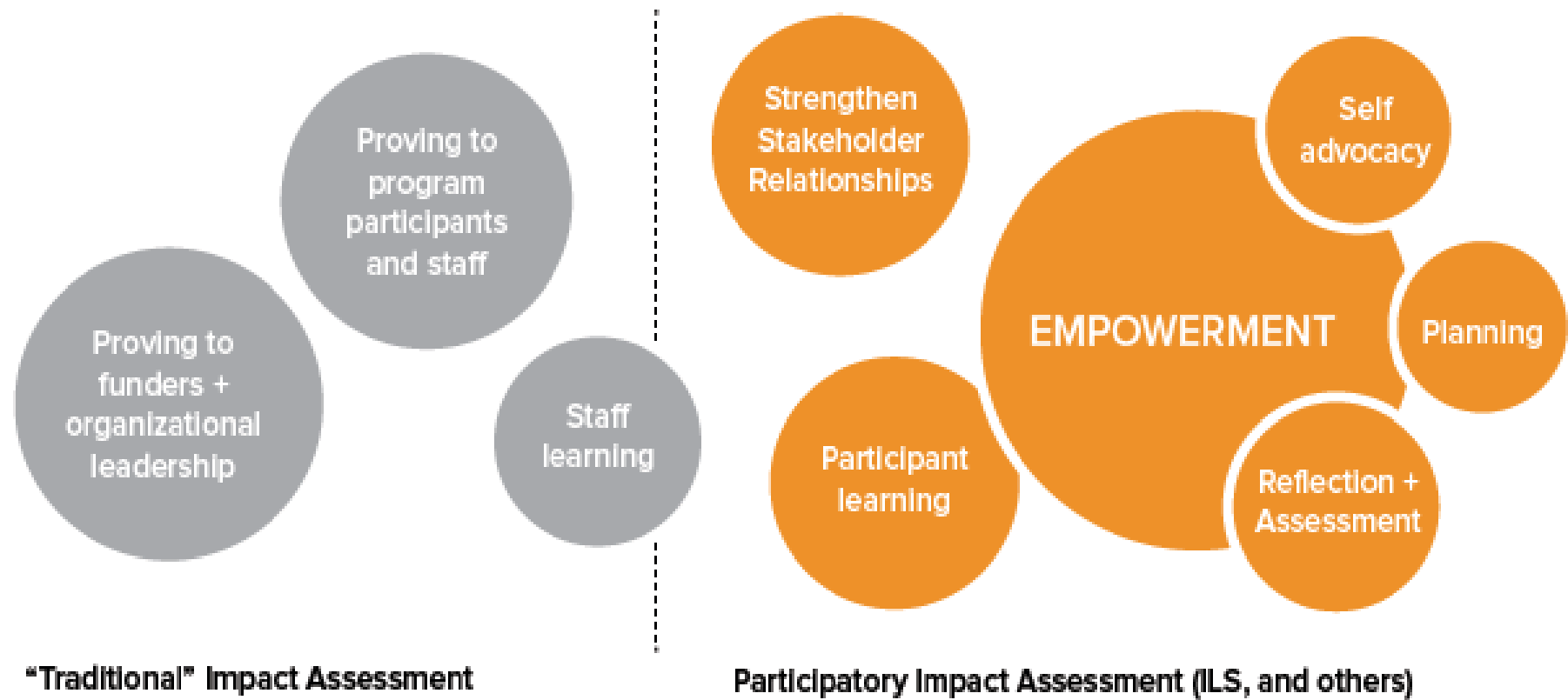
Helzi Noponen in Bihar, 2006. Photo credit: Valerie Arendt

WHY USE ILS?

Program Impact Assessment Objectives

PROVING

IMPROVING / LEARNING



Adapted from Simonowitz, 2001

EXERCISE:

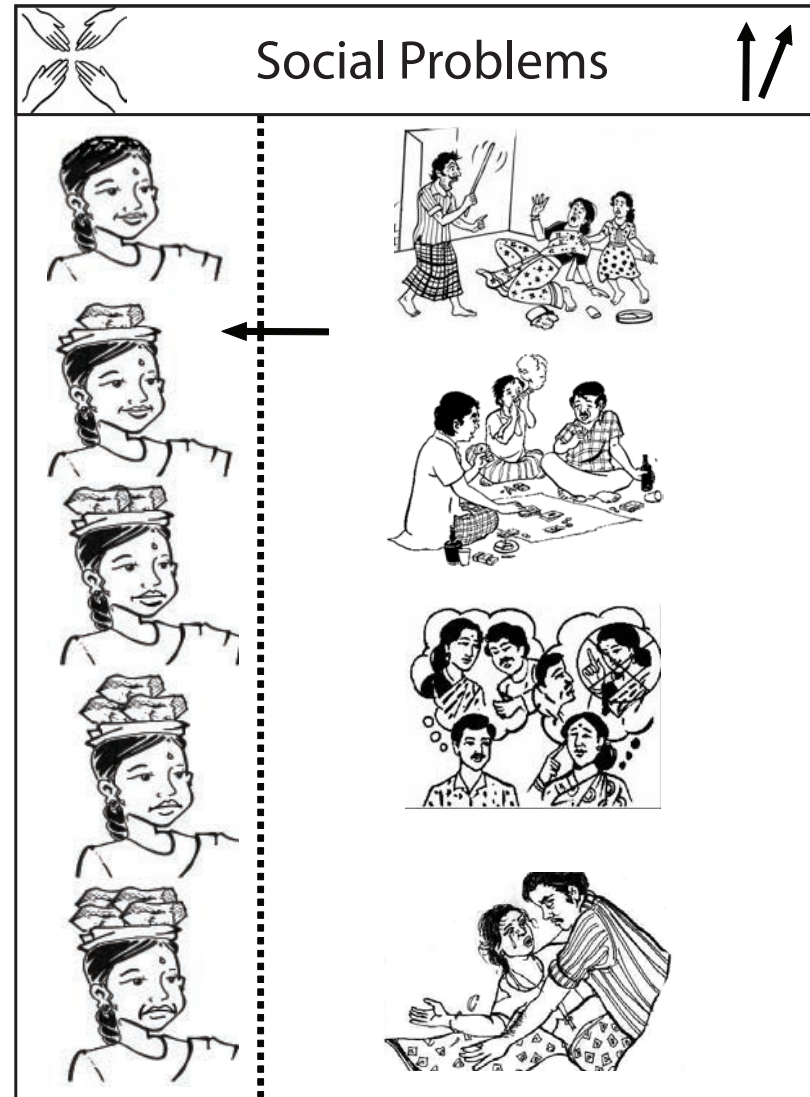
HOW DOES THIS WORK?

You have been given a sample page.

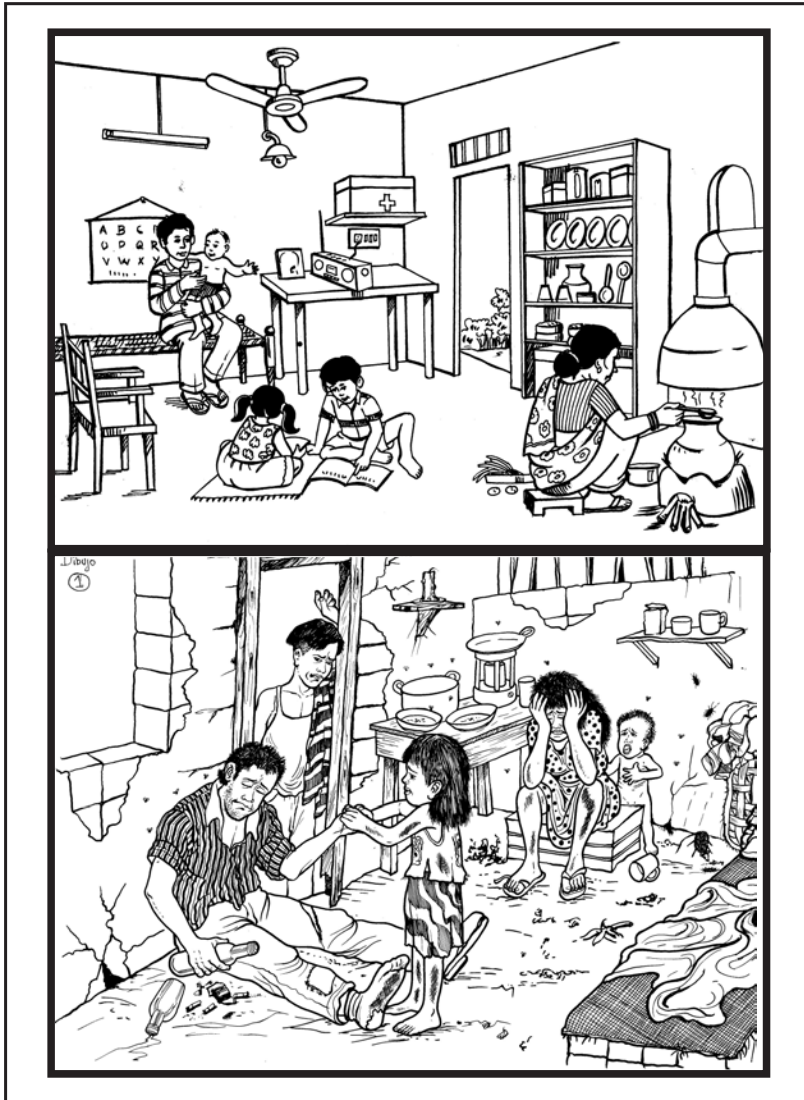
Identify what the purpose of the page is and how you would interact with it as a participant.

How would you use it to assess impact or empower learning?


EVALUATION






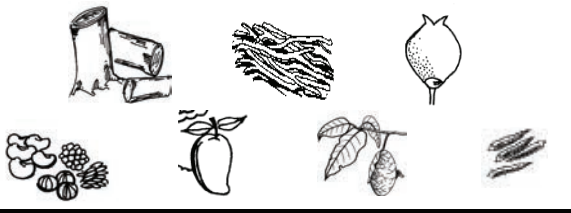

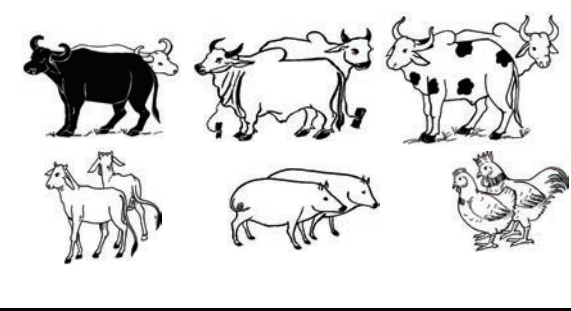
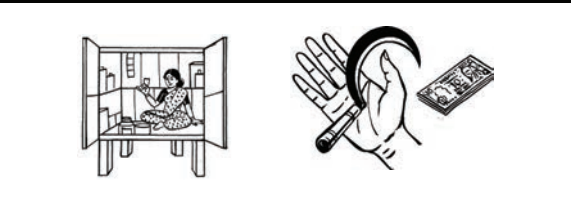


LEARNING







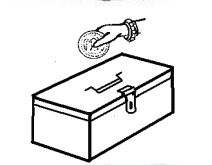




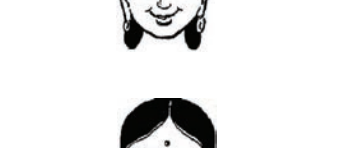
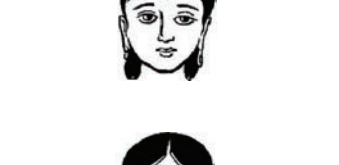


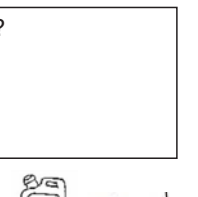





PLANNING

 Livelihood Production Plan ○ ↗

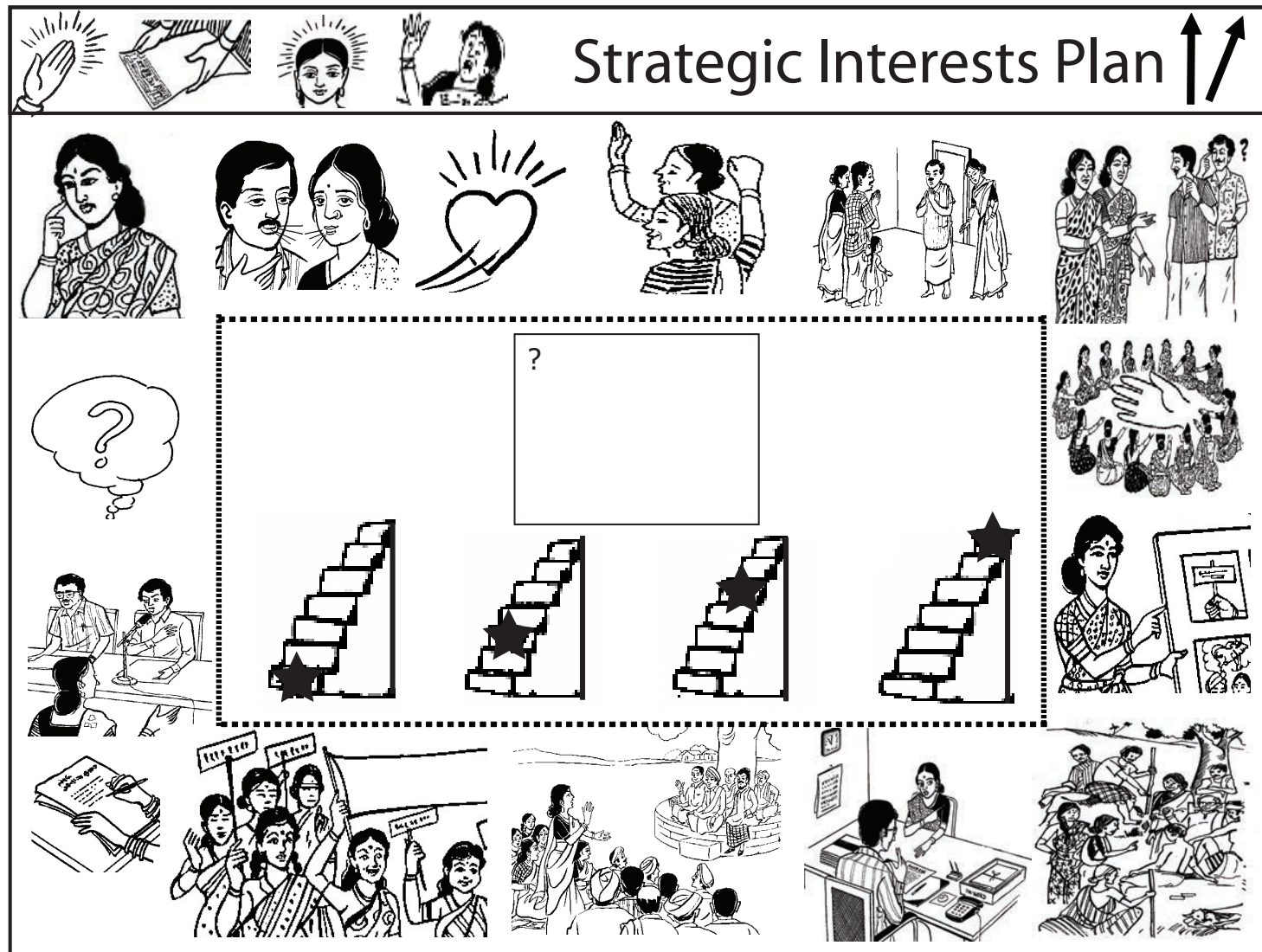
      	   
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HPWDS

 Problem Sorting ○ ○ ↗

     	     	     
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PLANNING



WHAT'S IN THE ILS TOOLBOX?

“Women own the ILS book. It is their record. Though illiterate, they can “read” it. No one has ever before suggested they can do such work. They take the responsibility seriously.

It is like a green light for them to dare to think about achieving a better life.

Each indicator picture has an implied program value attached to it.

Women absorb this.

It gives permission or space to discuss sensitive empowerment and wider social issues and the courage to attempt change”

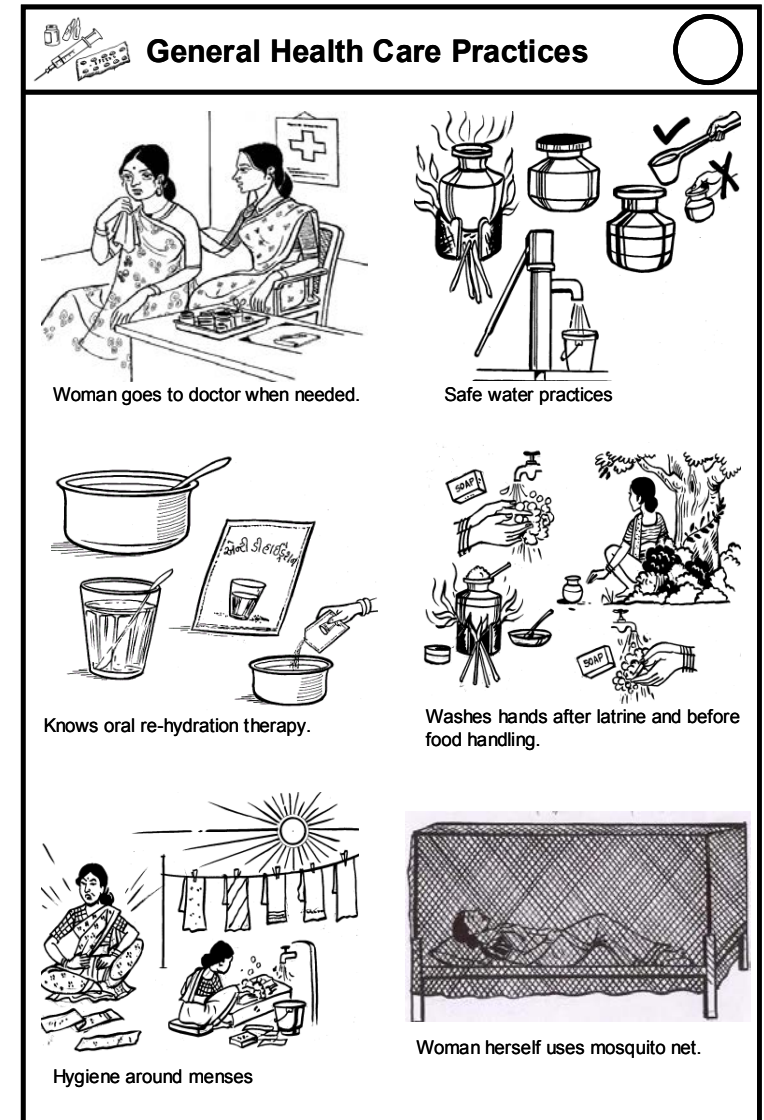
Helzi Noponen



HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR CURRENT SITUATION?

Evaluation formats:

- Yes/no questions
- Quantity questions
- Multiple choice questions
- Ranking and/or scaling questions



HOW DO YOU IMAGINE A BETTER FUTURE?

Learning formats:









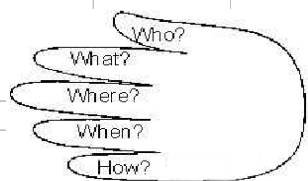




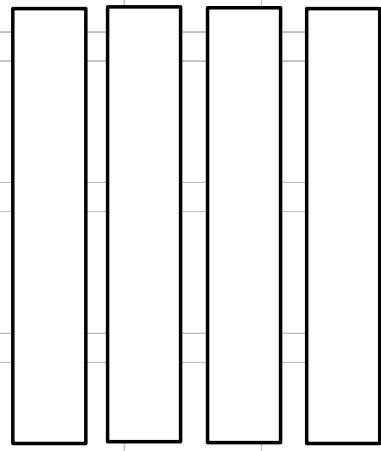





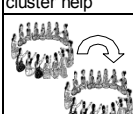




- Bad Scene / Good Scenes
- Cautionary Cartoons / Illustrated Folk Tales
- Dream Scenes
- Panorama Scenes
- 6 panel Stories (*photo novella, picture parade, comic strip*)



HOW WILL YOU CREATE A BETTER FUTURE?

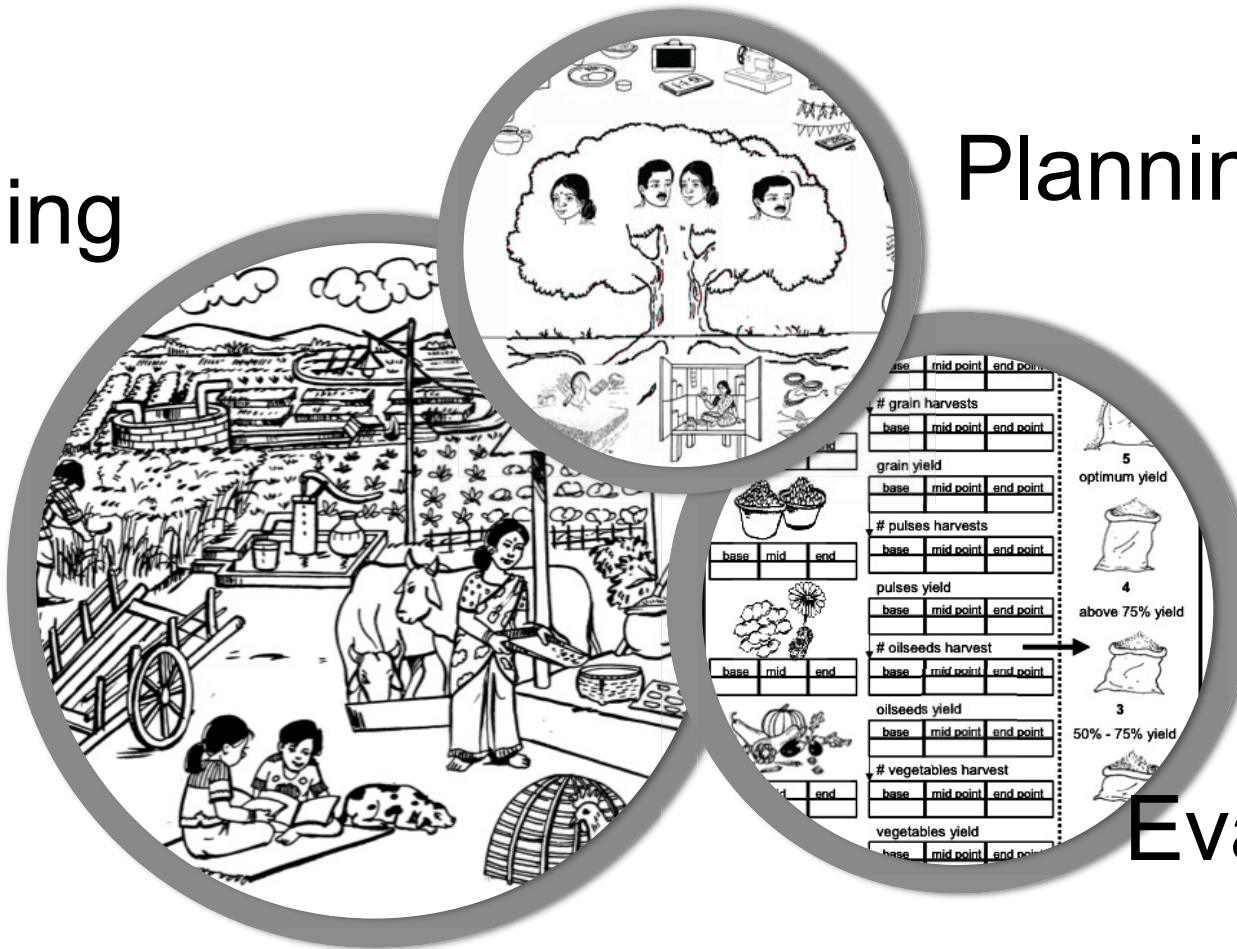
Planning formats:

- Problem Sorting Exercises
- Goal Setting Exercises
- Priority Choosing Exercises
- Planning Formats – budgeting trees, loan repayment plans

Plan for Meeting Strategic Interests					
					
think	discuss husband	family help	friend help	get comfort	
					
other action				get service	
					
meet officials				work with men	
					
write officials				research	
					
elite help				campaign	
					
cluster help				SHG help	
					
other SHG help	protest action	exposure visit	speak out	training	

HOW DO YOU WEAVE IT TOGETHER?

Learning



Planning

Evaluation

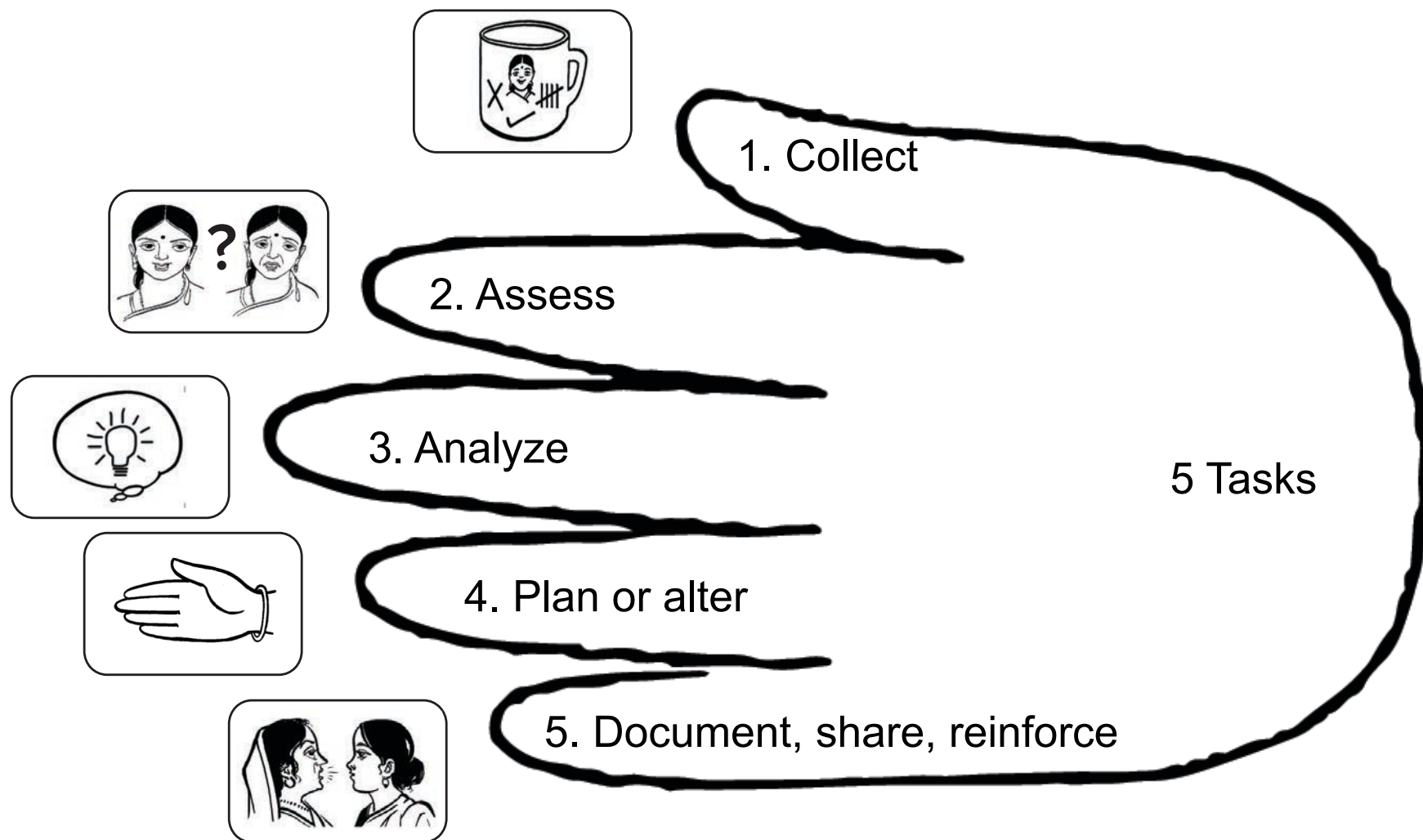
EXERCISE: HOW DO YOU...

You are going to a pot-luck and have to bring a dish.

What mental steps do you go through from the invitation to arriving at the right place, at the right time, with the right food to share?



PARTICIPANT: HOW DOES ILS CHANGE BEHAVIOR?



PARTICIPANT: HOW DO I USE THIS TO IMPROVE MY SITUATION?



Protest in India. Photo source: AP (used with permission)

HOW DOES A PARTICIPANT INTERACT WITH ILS?

- 5 tasks of ILS
- Ownership of diary/ data – participatory
- Census – they *all* have one
- Community-building, decreases isolation, empowers (story telling)



WHO INTERACTS WITH ILS?



PARTICIPANT



PROGRAM STAFF



EVALUATOR



AGENCY/ORGANIZATION

Program participants with diaries/workbooks PRADAN, Photo source: Helzi Noponen
Helzi Noponen in Bihar, 2006. Photo credit: Valerie Arendt

Field promoter with PRADAN, Photo source: PRADAN
Image source: PRADAN website

HOW DOES A PROGRAM MANAGER INTERACT WITH ILS?

- Facilitation in a group setting
- Reveals conditions/ behaviors which aren't readily visible
- Highlights patterns
- Demands radical accountability
- Encourages reflective practice and innovation

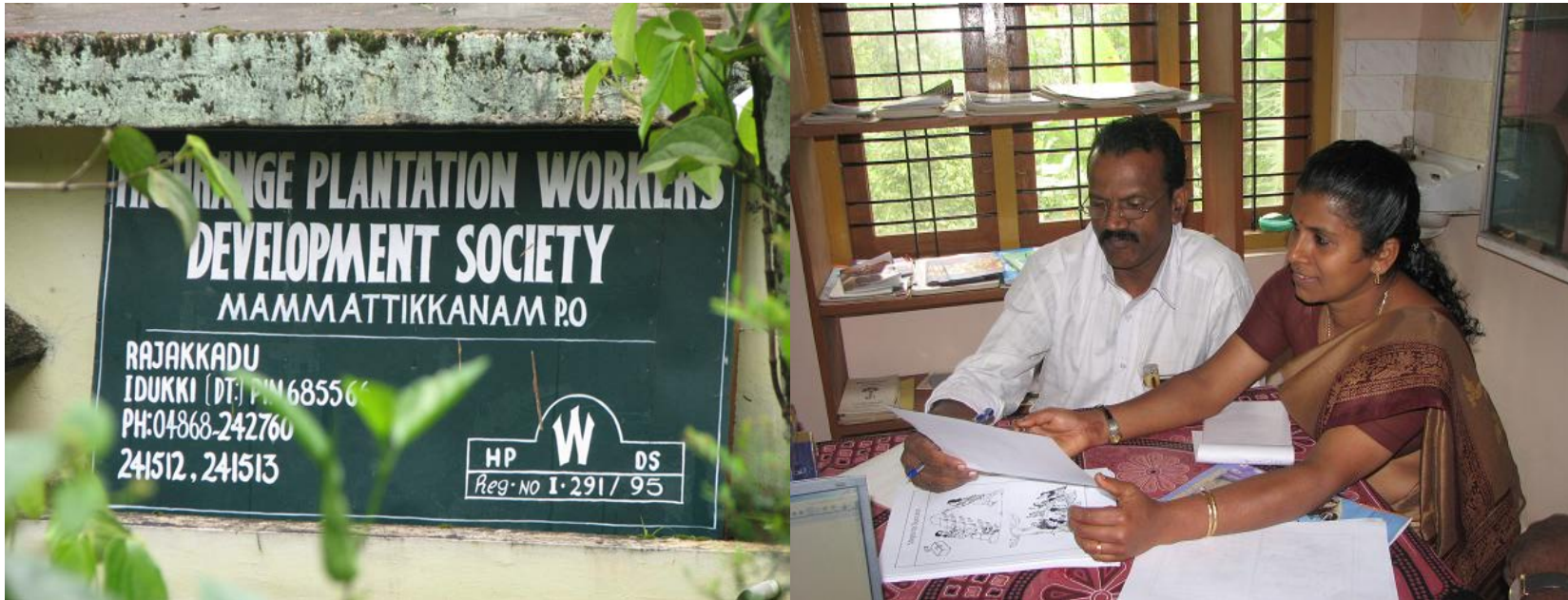


HOW DOES AN EVALUATOR INTERACT WITH ILS?

- How to (steps to ILS):
 - Design
 - Implementation
 - Measurement
- Commitment to participatory techniques
- Effective creation and implementation mirrors the tool; lots of learning and adapting



HOW DOES THE AGENCY INTERACT WITH ILS?

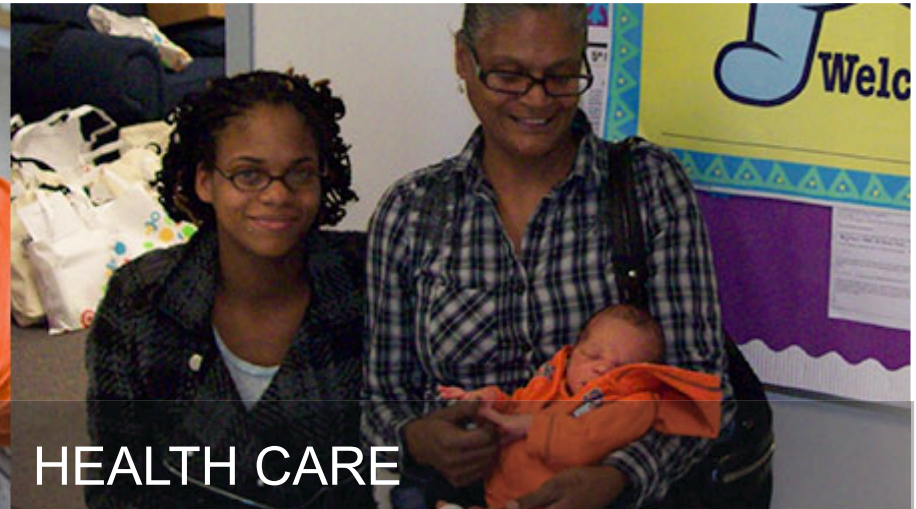


- Impact assessment
- Can quantify hard-to-measure social change outcomes
- Use with outside stakeholders for funding and advocacy
- Commitment to participatory techniques, accountability and innovation/learning

HOW WOULD YOU USE IT?



EARLY CHILDHOOD



HEALTH CARE



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



HOMELESS / YOUTH

Stock photo
Recent immigrants. Photo courtesy of Neighborhood House

Maternal / neo natal health care. Photo courtesy of Neighborhood House
Stock photo

IS ILS RIGHT FOR MY PROJECT / ORGANIZATION?

YES

I want QUANTITATIVE data
Learning is important
Participant input is important
Formative and summative
Process and outcome data
Longitudinal, long-term
Highly customized

NO

I need QUALITATIVE data
I just need to assess
Summative only
Outcome only
Short term or one-off evaluation

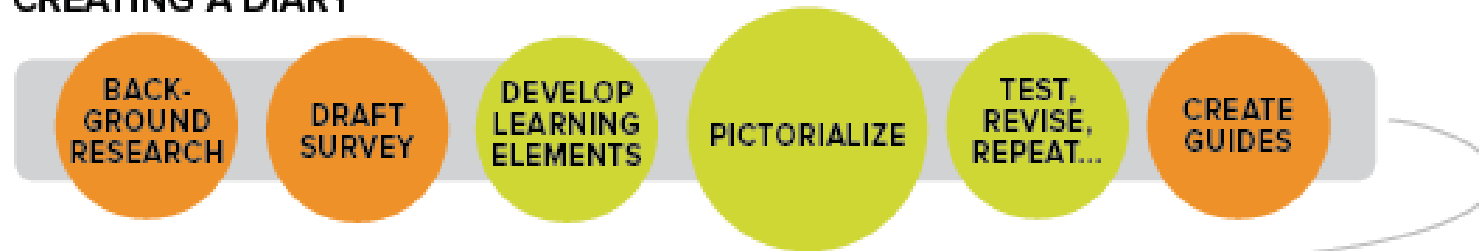


USE “TRADITIONAL” M&E or
EXTRACTIVE PIA

HOW WOULD YOU CONSTRUCT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

....as it was originally meant to be used?

CREATING A DIARY



PUTTING IT TO USE



ANALYZING AND SHARING



WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN DESIGNING AN ILS DIARY?

Research design

- Identify your needs and analysis plan before you start

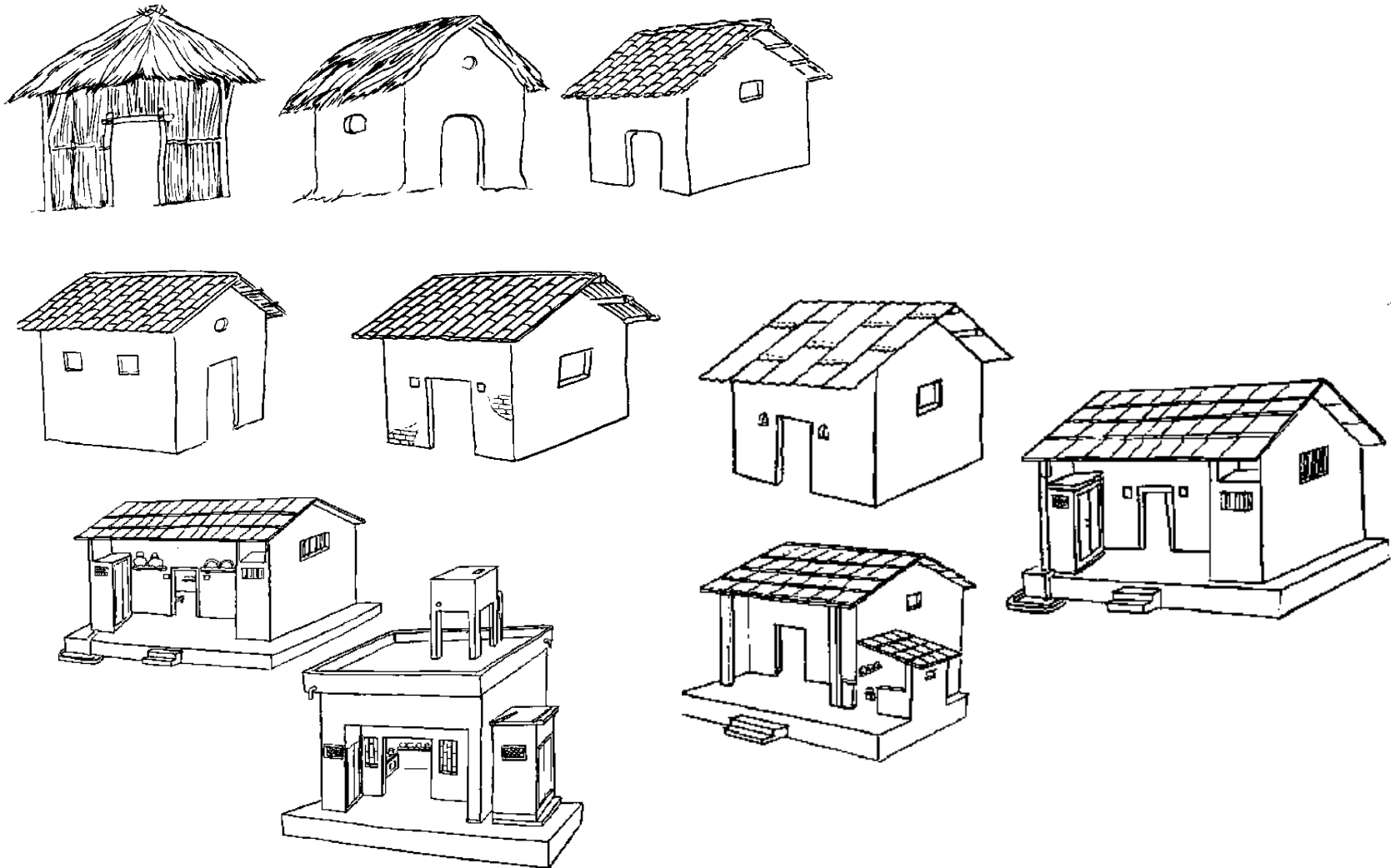
Survey design

- Both formative and summative
- Types of questions
- Level of detail
- Relevant to all participants

Diary design

- Pictorialize – lots of considerations!
- Create modules
- Start simple. Build up to complexity and risk.

HOW MUCH DETAIL? DEPENDS...




HOW DO YOU TURN PICTURES AND PENCIL LINES INTO DATA?


The semi-extractive interview event:

- Side-by-side
- Sharing
- Transparency
- Verification
- Human Subjects Protocol


PARTICIPANT DIARY







Land Utilization

☐ ☒ ☐




number of harvests





→




optimum yield



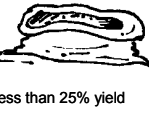
above 75% yield



50% - 75% yield




25% - 50% yield



Less than 25% yield

INTERVIEWER DIARY


Land Utilization

☐ ☒ ☐

99=not farmer (skip page)


Grows crop?
0=No; 1=Yes →

number of yearly harvests? →


average yield? →

base			mid point			end point		
# grain harvests								
base			mid point			end point		
grain yield								
base			mid point			end point		
# pulses harvests								
base			mid point			end point		
pulses yield								
base			mid point			end point		
# oilseeds harvest								
base			mid point			end point		
oilseeds yield								
base			mid point			end point		
# vegetables harvest								
base			mid point			end point		
vegetables yield								
base			mid point			end point		
# fruits harvest								
base			mid point			end point		
fruits yield								

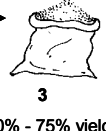
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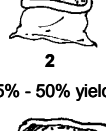
5
optimum yield



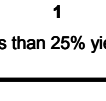
4
above 75% yield



3
50% - 75% yield



2
25% - 50% yield



1
less than 25% yield

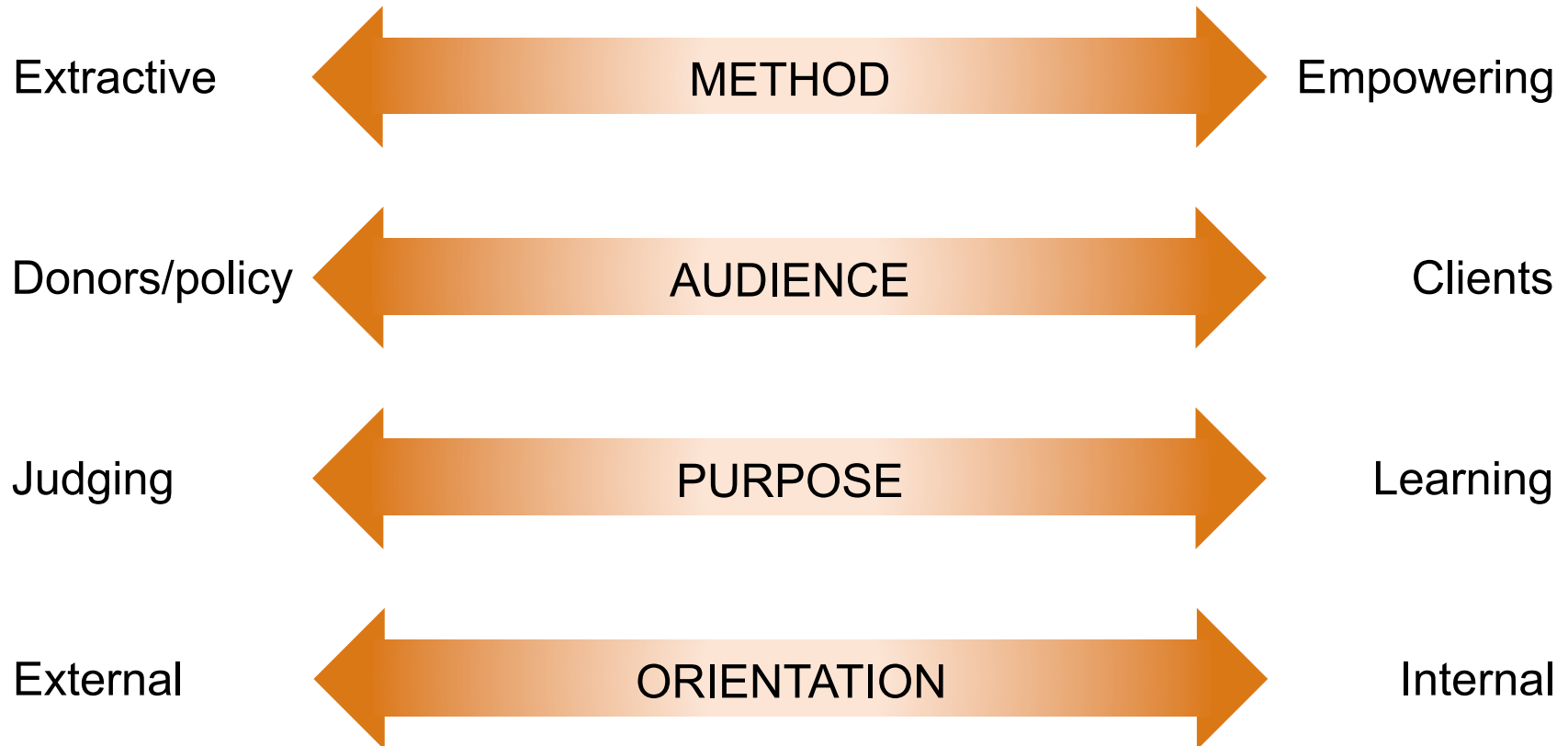
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WHAT ARE ITS STRENGTHS?

Traditional M&E

Participatory Impact Assessment



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A note on copyright, attribution, and appropriate usage.

The Internal Learning System was developed by Dr. Helzi Noponen in partnership with Ford Foundation India and Imp-Act, and implemented with a number of organizations including PRADAN, the Handloom Weavers Development Society (HLWDS), ASA, the High-range Plantation Workers Development Society (HPWDS), PLAN Honduras, and others.

Many of the illustrations contained in this presentation come from diaries/workbooks created by Dr. Noponen for these organizations.

Parts of this presentation were adapted from presentations and materials created by Dr. Noponen.

Anna and Katrina are currently working with Dr. Noponen's family and colleagues to preserve and extend the legacy of ILS. Please consult with us for attribution and usage information prior to distributing or re-using these materials.



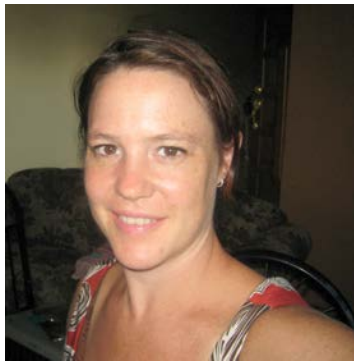
Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Prize Winner, with Helzi Noponen, 2008. Photo source: Gary Smaby

HELZI NOPONEN, 1953-2012

Innovative mind, open heart.

helzinoponen.wordpress.com

THANK YOU!



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