

CDD – Capacity Building: some thoughts

ANNIE NAMALA

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL EQUITY & INCLUSION

Why do we need Community driven data

01

marginalized groups in all countries struggle to make their voices heard

02

Decision-makers, on the other hand, lack adequate information to design effective interventions

03

feeding the data into dialogues with local and national governments and the international community is a necessary step to make the implementation of the SDG more effective and inclusive.

Core actors in CDD

01

Marginalised community/
community led/ based
organisations to anchor
and gather the evidence

02

Coordinating organisation to
coordinate and handhold the
community and interface
with knowledge partners

03

Knowledge partners in
survey and statistical tools,
technology, data processes

Criteria used for selection of CLO/CBO

1. Has a formal, functional organisational system with legal compliance, program and field staff
2. Have direct experience and rapport of working with marginalized community.
3. Have experience of advocacy work at subnational/national level
4. Be part of networks and forums.
5. Has some basic understanding/experience in research studies
6. Has some core funding
7. Has women team members

The profile of a community volunteer

1. Young person 20 -35 years of age and highly reliable and dependable.
2. Has strong community presence, knowledge of local issues, and institutions and networks.
3. Has completed schooling
4. Preferably a woman candidate from the vulnerable community.
5. Possess basic knowledge of handling android phones and attending online training session etc.

Coordinating Organisation

Capacity building and continuous handholding is very important. There are a number of clarifications that

need to be made at different points in the process and someone from the coordinating body has to be hands-on with the process. There are also challenges that will be thrown up in the process, that needs to be constructively addressed to enhance the objective and outputs and not consider them as problems and troubles. Hence flexibility and the ability to make changes in the design or operation is necessary and the person who can do that has to be clearly identified in the project.

Building a set of capacity-building modules and tools: While each partnership has its own specificities, a basic set of materials, methodology and tools can become useful in execution. In our experience, engaging CLOs in data gathering is very feasible across issues, geographies and communities today. They can be the last mile link for various processes. A constructive relationship can be nurtured.

Norms

CSOs are fairly autonomous and independent in their views and opinions. Hence, the relationship building is sensitive. Maintaining mutual respect, dignity, equality attitude etc are important. To ensure quality and accountability – will be important to lay them out up-front and keep reiterating throughout.

Clarity and collaboration with knowledge partners

Knowledge partners have limited understanding of the community context or challenges. Orientation to the community challenges and context and conversations with the community needs to be facilitated to develop the suitable tools and methodology

A deep knowledge of their domains along with openness to explore alternatives and a problem solving approach is essential.

A 'sense-making' exercise with the community is necessary to verify the implications of findings

Ethical questions to considered- how participants need to be treated

Questions that need to be answered!

Can community members find meaning in the findings and outcomes of research?

How to get max information without putting someone at risk?

**Are all social identities within a community duly recognized?
(Identifying privilege)**

Whose voice is amplified – researcher , community or a privileged section?

Bias – is it amplified or reinforced?

Does the research, its process or its outcomes put the community or a sub-group or individuals in a position to be harmed in any way?

How do you respectfully engage, encourage and motivate those involved in community?

How can you safely ensure data ownership?

Are your data collectors safe in gathering sensitive information?

There is no one solution to turn to if we face these challenges- but preparing in advance allows the team to prioritize and reach resolutions quickly

Some experiences

- I. The leadership representing the marginalized communities is more aspirational and possesses a greater

- II. appetite for rights-based approach and framework. They understand it innately in many ways and are willing to struggle for them. Hence, there is a better alignment for the rights-based approach with CLOs.
- III. **The challenges**
- IV. Limited skill sets
- V. **Normalisation of violations** At times, they take as normal the community challenges and do not feel the need to highlight it. These rights violations and challenges become normalised for them. As an example, I would say – discrimination in schools was normalised for a long time.
- VI. **Coordinating organisation and Network:** CLOs are often limited geographically, if the scope of the operation is wide and spread out networks can be engaged