

1. Introduction

The Panchayati Raj system is not new to the Indian context. The local self government bodies existed way back before the coming of the British in India. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act further strengthened the system and envisaged a larger role for the people to participate in the affairs of their villages.

The importance of peoples participation in development however still remains a distant reality. In order to strengthen people's participation and enable Village Panchayats to prepare village development plan, the XIVth Finance Commission has issued guidelines and based upon the same each state Government has been directed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to formulate state specific guidelines as well as facilitate the Panchayats in the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

A detailed programme for awareness and capacity building is prepared to help the Elected Representatives, functionaries and the citizens to prepare the village development plans. Capacity building of all the various stakeholders will help in enabling people to be involved in the planning process thereby contributing to the meaningful and need based development in their villages.

In this massive exercise, the Goa Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (GIPARD) has a significant role of capacity building, the Directorate of Panchayat has a crucial role of helping the PRI to actualize the 'Peoples Planning Process' and thereby facilitate the preparation of the Village Development Plans.

Given the constraints of time and the enormous activity of assisting the village Panchayats to prepare VPD plans, this training manual is prepared in such a manner to give hands on experience to the trainees so that they are able to build their capacities as well as are capable of developing the resource persons to actually facilitate the village level planning process.

This programme for the Master Trainers will help in creating a pool of experts who will train the batches of resource teams who will actually help the villages to prepare the Gram

PanchayatDevelopment Plans. Apart from training the resource teams, the Master Trainers will also train the various stakeholders such as the Elected Representatives, officials and VDC Convenors. Their assistance will also be required in monitoring of the planning processes across the blocks.

References for the preparation of this manual are taken from the training manual on Micro Planning of YASHADA, Pune. Similarly references are taken from books related to participatory development and Participatory Appraisal tools, as well as from the material circulated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. Ideas are also picked up from the discussions during the workshops of MoPR, GoI and also from the discussions held during the workshops organized by GIPARD.