

### Some Sources on Wealth and Wellbeing Ranking

There are many brief accounts in reports of RRA and PRA exercises. The following listing is far from complete, but all the papers are accessible (either published, or if not published, available from Helen McLaren, IDS, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK on request). I have not included other related ranking exercises, for example of different occupations. I have surely missed a lot, especially from the experiences of ActionAid, AKRSP and MYRADA in India. Please send details of additional sources, or better, copies of them, to Helen or me, and to Sustainable Agriculture Programme, IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD.

\* Chandra Mouli, K. 1991 "'Pass on the pen" Approach as an Effective Tool in Identifying the poorest of the Poor Families in the Gramasabhas under I.R.D.P.", typescript, District Rural Development Agency, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, India, August

An ingenious method recently devised and implemented by a Government officer in India for enabling the poorest in a village to identify the other poorest, with public village consensus about the selection.

\* Grandin, Barbara 1988 Wealth Ranking in Smallholder Communities: a field manual, Intermediate Technology Publications, 103 Southampton Row, London

The original statement of the method in its classic form of card sorting into piles and then calculations to make a composite ranking. Describes wealth ranking in Maasailand and also Meru District, both in Kenya. Found high correlations between the rankings of different informants, and close correspondence among the Maasai between the wealth ranking and an in depth social anthropological survey.

\* Grosvenor-Alsop, Ruth 1989 "Wealth Ranking in a Caste Area in India", RRA Notes 4, February

A test which found wealth ranking by individual informants to be feasible in an Indian village. Also showed that people use multiple criteria in making assessments.

\* Groverman, Verona 1990 "Wealth Ranking in Swaziland: a method to identify the poorest", RRA Notes, 9, August

Describes training field staff in wealth ranking, and then implementation by them in four communities of scattered households, using the Grandin method.

\* Hill, Polly 1972 Rural Hausa: a village and a setting, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, esp. pp 58 - 70

Describes how she found three individual informants enthusiastic in classifying 171 farming units. The three then thrashed out their differences. "Each informant had already been seen to have a very good idea of what he thought he was measuring or assessing; now it began to seem possible that they were all striving towards similar classifications" (p 59). The informants'

classifications into four groups were found to fit closely with various economic criteria.

\* Maxwell, Simon 1989 "Rapid Food Security Assessment: a pilot exercise in Sudan", RRA Notes 5, May

Not strictly wealth and wellbeing ranking, but shows that for some insights and orders of magnitude of some wealth and wellbeing related information, even quicker methods can be effective.

\* Mukherjee, Neela 1991 Villagers' Perception of Rural Poverty through the Mapping Technique of RRA, typescript, LBS National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, UP 248 179, India, 6p

Describes participatory mapping in two villages in Midnapore District, West Bengal, with wealth/wellbeing classification indicated direct onto the maps using colours. Started with "the poorest of the poor". The characteristics of the different groups were elicited, and differed from those of the official poverty line.

\* Pretty, Jules 1989 "Wealth ranking in Sudan" RRA Notes 7a, pp 24-28

A wealth ranking with three informants which showed the importance in a village of non-farm income sources

\* Sarch, Marie-Therese 1991 Participatory Rural Appraisal and Evaluation of the Farmers Innovation and Technology Testing programme in the Villages of Boiram and Yonna, Report to ActionAid, the Gambia (M-T Sarch) 39 Harewood Avenue, London NW1 6LE), August.

Began by asking villagers to sort into two piles as a way of getting started. Then the piles were resorted. Women sorted them into 8 piles and men into 4. The wealth ranking showed a predominance of better-off farmers as participants in an agricultural extension programme.

\* Sarkar, Anup 1991 "Wealth ranking in Mahilong, Bihar" RRA Notes 13 pp 123-5

Found that "handing over the pen and paper changed the whole atmosphere...intense consultation going on...young lads were participating vigorously...". Found that villagers used at least 12 criteria or indicators in their rankings.

\* Scoones, Ian 1988 "Learning about Wealth: an example from Zimbabwe" RRA Notes, 2

Discussions of the meanings of "wealth" by groups of about 10, and wealth ranking separately by men and women in groups of 4 or 5, revealing gender contrasts

\* Shah, Parmesh 1990 "Economic Classification of a Community Using Locally Generated Criteria", RRA Notes, 8

Found that villagers used 9 criteria in assessing economic wellbeing - health, education, asset ownership, credit worthiness, bank balance, land ownership, part time job, number of dependents, and house size.

\* Swift, Jeremy and Abdi Noor Umar 1991 Participatory Pastoral Development in Isiolo District: socio-economic research in the Isiolo Livestock Development project, Isiolo Livestock Development Project, EMI ASAL Programme, Isiolo, Kenya

Used wealth ranking of almost 800 households to separate out rich, middle and poor. A problem and solution game used with groups selected from from each category showed that each category had sharply differing problems and priorities.

\* Young, Helen 1990 "The use of wealth ranking in nutrition surveys in Sudan", RRA Notes 8, January

In North Darfur, wealth ranking was undertaken in 3 villages, by a committee in the first two, and by individuals separately in the third. Comparing the results of wealth ranking and of anthropometric nutritional assessments found malnourished children in both rich and poor families.

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