

VII.B.1. Participation for Ecological Regeneration

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This paper explains the experience with illustration and substantiates the application of participatory approaches by Development Support Centre (DSC) a non profit organization, in furthering of Government sponsored Watershed Programmes. The objectives of the government programme are - restoration of ecological balance; and improvement in the economic and social condition of the resource poor.

The paper has drawn inferences and/or comparison amongst certain ecological and environment results/indicators of same programme as implemented in two different approaches by organisations one participative and other top down - blue print approach.

Overall impression of the implementation of the watershed programme in participative moods shows that it has facilitated new approaches in participation for replication and scaling of the participatory approaches in other government programmes. It is only when the people are involved in the formulation, planning, implementation and management of the scheme that they develop a sense of ownership and therefore their stake in the success. The principle of participation is therefore increasingly should be made integral to the all the Governmental development scheme whether the objective is to increase productivity and income or improving the welfare conditions.

But there are critical issues/problems for enchantment of participation too! This paper shall highlight the issues hindrance in scaling up participatory approaches needing immediate attention for the decision makers at the various policy levels. The main reason is that there is lack of capacity building exercises for implementors. There are many gaps in their understanding of concepts of watershed and participation. Observed is also lack of appropriate change in skill and attitude and values of key functionaries that need to go with a changed approach of programme implementation.