

FDP Forum in March 2006Content

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Dear Partners,

Please find hereafter the minutes of our FDP Forum held on Thursday, 16th March 2006 at St. Paul High School, Dadar (E) in Mumbai.

At this occasion we thank all of you for your dynamic participation in order to make this forum a very interesting one.

1 Context and Attendants

This Forum was organised for the entire FDP teams of the partner NGOs in Mumbai and Thane. Accordingly the Coordinators and the SW of 6 different NGOs working in partnership with Inter Aide attended the Forum:

ORGANISATIONS	ACTUAL ATTENDANTS
<i>Alert India</i>	Jayshree, Chhaya, Kavita, Neeta, Prajakta
<i>Dharavi Project</i>	Sanjay, Shobha P., Ujwala, Rekha, Vrunda, Varsha
<i>Keshav Gore Smarak Trust (KGST)</i>	Vinod, Bhagyachandra, Kavita, Manisha
<i>Maharashtra Janvikas Kendra (MJK)</i>	Eugene, Devi, Asha, Khurshid, Noori, Urmila
<i>Navnirman Samaj Vikas Kendra (NSVK)</i>	Poonam N., Anjubala, Arifa, Kanchan, Nasim, Rukaiya, Sandhya, Sindhu, Sitara, Sushama
<i>People's Association for Training and Health (PATH)</i>	Vasanthi, Alka, Amruta, Fehmida, Shakila
<i>Inter Aide</i>	Lydia, Patricia, Sandesh

2 Objective of the Forum

The objective of the forum was to understand the concept of “Short Term and Long Term Sustainability” in the context of FDP. Hence the whole day of the Forum was divided into:

- a) Understanding Short Term sustainability, Long Term sustainability and sustainability in general.
- b) Understanding Short Term, Long Term and Sustainability in the context of FDP.
- c) Case study & Discussion
- d) Role-plays & Discussion

3 Understanding “Short Term & Long Term” and “Sustainability” in general

The first session of Forum started with understanding of the concepts of “Short Term” & “Long Term”. This session was conducted by Lydia.

3.1 Illustrations

First of all, the perception of these words by the participants was considered. It was cleared from this that everybody has got one's own perception / estimation on these periods. Nevertheless, within a same field, there are always standards. To get a diverse and a large understanding of the meaning of these terms, several practical examples from different fields were discussed as follows:

✘ Economics (i.e. business and money related domains)

Short Term means from 3 months to 1 year and
Long Term means 5 to 10 years.

✘ Effect of Environment on Health

Short Term means from immediate up to 1 year while
Long Term means from 5 up to the end of life sometimes.

e.g. Effect of Pollution:

- *Short Term effect:* it increases the no. of deaths for the ones who are already suffering from respiratory diseases. The death is generally anticipated of at least several weeks.

- *Long Term effect:* it has an impact on life expectancy for the population exposed to the pollution since it increases the risk of respiratory problems. The reduction of life is estimated of 10 years.

✘ Memory

Short Term memory can be for 10 seconds. E.g. remembering a new face or a new phone number.

The information stored in short term memory may be transferred into long term through some process of memorization such as repetition of the new information.

Long Term memory can last for months, years or for life sometimes.

✘ Daily Life (use of plastic bag)

Short Term is a period we use a plastic bag for (10 minutes to 1 hour, 1 week...)

Long Term is a period it takes for it to get biodegraded. (20 to 30 years).

3.2 Conclusions on "Short Term" & "Long Term"

- ✓ These are quite complex concepts.
- ✓ When we look into a general definition, no precise duration is mentioned.
- ✓ They are relative according to the situation.
- ✓ The measurement of "Short Term" and "Long Term" depends on the subject / field.
- ✓ Within a same field, there are always standards regarding these concepts.
- ✓ In the fields where things change quickly or where the diversity of changes is important, these durations are even split into Immediate Term, Middle Term, Very Short Term, Very Long Term...
- ✓ However, in FDP we need to look only at short term and long term as it includes a slow process of change.

3.3 Meaning of “Sustainability”

This term can be divided into two: (a) Sustain and (b) Ability.

To sustain means:

- ⇒ To keep up
- ⇒ To prolong
- ⇒ To maintain
- ⇒ To preserve
- ⇒ To uphold
- ⇒ To support
- ⇒ To carry on, continue, bear on
- ⇒ To support the life of; To supply with necessities and support “*She alone sustained her family*”;
- ⇒ be the physical support of; carry the weight of;
- ⇒ provide with nourishment; “*We sustained ourselves on bread and water*”;

(b) Ability means capacity

Thus, *Sustainability* is the capacity of being sustained, of being continued. In other words, it means the capacity

- to keep from falling, from breaking,
- to stand on reliable feet
- to be strong
- to go ahead
- to keep on living

3.4 Definition of Development Sustainability (Sustainability in the context of development)

A definition of development sustainability is “the continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed”.¹

3.5 Definition of “Sustainable Development”

The **Brundtland Commission**² defined sustainable development as development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

In other words, it is an act that gives an answer to a request / need / problem of today, while thinking of / preparing for the future.

¹ This definition is taken from the **Development Assistance Committee (DAC)** Department in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

An extensive definition of Development sustainability can be found on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability#Development_sustainability

² The **Brundtland Commission** was formally called the *World Commission on Environment and Development* (WCED).

4 Understanding “Short Term & Long Term” and “Sustainability” in the context of FDP

4.1 Standards for Short Term and Long Term

After relating the short term and long term to different fields and situations an attempt was made by Patricia to link these concepts with FDP.

She proposed these points of view:

- **Short Term** could be the time we work with the family (6 months of Follow Up + visit of evaluation between 6 months and 1 year).
- **Long Term** could be at least 5 years which is relatively long taking into account the very many things that happen in and affect the family.

All the participants approved this view.

4.2 Sustainability in the FDP Context

It can be approached for **individuals** such as father, mother, child or for **the family** as a whole.

It depicts more self-reliance, autonomy, capacity to respond with flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances, ability to identify their own problems and find solutions, resilience³, ability to plan for the future, to have vision for themselves...

4.3 Paradox in FDP

It was tried to convey to the participants the paradox in FDP.

“Under FDP the SW works with the family on its current practical issues for a **Short Term** in order to improve its present situation but hopes that family has built up enough self-confidence / capacity / positive thinking during the time of accompaniment so that the family could reach **Long Term Sustainability**.”

In short ***FDP expects Long Term Sustainability of the family out of the Short Term work that SW does with the family.***

However this paradox was also justified. Two things go in that direction.

- 1) ***The objectives treated in the short term have consequences in the long term.***
e.g. consequence of the objective of Education: Child will have a better education => he may find a better job and bring back more money to the family => it will affect the overall well-being of the family in the long term.
- 2) ***The work done (between the SW & the family) during the time of accompaniment itself has consequences in the long term.***

³ “**resilience**” in psychology is a term used to describe the capacity of people to cope with stress and catastrophe. It is also used to indicate a characteristic of resistance to future negative events. (Wikipedia)

Through bringing a more positive thinking towards life, a vision for the family and also through the resolution/achievement of objectives, the family may gain more confidence and capacity-building. Through a period of accompaniment, the family can start the process of autonomy in the long-term.

5 Case Studies and Role-Plays

Having perceived the concepts of Short Term, Long Term and respective Sustain abilities, Case studies & Role-plays were held to go more deeply into the subject in the context of FDP.

5.1 Nature of Case Studies

Five groups were formed with each group containing participants from different NGOs. Every group was given a case in writing (different from the other) to study and a coordinator to facilitate their study. After studying the case, each group had to answer 4 questions which were as follows:

1. What is the major objective of the family?
2. What would you, as a SW, do to help the family to achieve its objective?
3. Will it help the family achieve long term sustainability? Kindly justify.
4. Which tools would you use to contribute to family's long term sustainability?

These sessions consisted in Group-wise discussion, presentation, observers' views and question-answer that enabled to receive the answers for the first 3 questions. However, the last question could receive only few answers.

5.2 Cases for study

Every case contained the information about the family, its different objectives with a major one hidden inside but different from the other case. For the Case studies please refer [Appendix](#).

5.3 Conclusions of Case Studies

These case studies had the major objectives of the families hidden inside such as Health, Documents, Family Relation, Child Development and Job-income. After discussing all the cases, consensus was received to the fact that though these objectives are apparently the short-term ones, they may lead to long-term sustainability of the family:

Objective	How does it lead to Long Term Sustainability
• Health	Family may realise the importance of good health. It gets to know about the health services available in and around the area of living. It may come out of the depression due to bad health.
• Documentation	It gives opportunity to interact with the official staff. The family comes to know about their rights and can fight for them in unity. The family may do the documentation work next time on their own without depending on SW.
• Job – Income	It may help the family come out of the economic crisis. It may give/develop self-esteem and confidence to/for the family. Family may take initiatives for the well-being of the members such as looking after the health, education, housing and to cultivate the habit of savings which may prove useful in the coming future.
• Education	It widens the vision, changes our attitude and also helps in economic improvement.
• Family Relations	The family may make the experience of attitudes, knowledge and practices that will be useful for them in future to deal with further difficulties & to strengthen family relationships.

General important conclusion:

Each short-term objective leads to long-term sustainability.

5.4 Tools to achieve Long Term Sustainability

This question had been asked during case studies. Though this question could not receive much response from the participants, it was tried to convey to them that ***each and every step in the FDP Procedure, each and every form, report, activity complementary to the Home Visits, internal meeting, training, etc. is one type of the tools used in different ways to study families and to work with them on their short term objectives for their long term sustainability.***

6 Appraisal of Forum by participants

How was the Venue?	Total	%
Very Good	17	48.57%
Good	16	45.71%
OK	2	5.71%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

How was the Morning Session by Lydia Patricia on Short Term and Long Term Sustainability?	Total	%
Very Interesting	18	52.94%
Interesting	15	44.12%
A Bit Boring	1	2.94%
Grand Total	34	100.00%

How did you find the subject "Long Term Sustainability"?	Total	%
Priority subject & Interesting	29	82.86%
Relevant to FDP work but not priority subject	4	11.43%
Neither interesting nor priority subject	2	5.71%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

How did you find the way of handling 'Case Study & Presentation'?	Total	%
Very Interesting & Appropriate	19	54.29%
Interesting & Appropriate	16	45.71%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

How did you find the way of handling 'Role Play and Discussion'?	Total	%
Very Interesting & Appropriate	23	65.71%
Interesting & Appropriate	9	25.71%
A Bit Boring	2	5.71%
Inappropriate	1	2.86%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

How was the Time - Management?	Total	%
Good	18	52.94%
Satisfactory	14	41.18%
Unsatisfactory	2	5.88%
Grand Total	34	100.00%

One thing that you liked least in the Forum?	Total	%
<u>Refreshment:</u>	14	53.85%
Lunch	10	38.46%
Lunch away from venue (wastage of time)	3	11.54%
Tea	1	3.85%
<u>Time:</u>	5	19.24%
Short Allocation of time	3	11.54%
No respect of time	1	3.85%
Time Management	1	3.85%
<u>Others:</u>	7	26.93%
No Due Participation	5	19.23%
Long Discussion	1	3.85%
Role-Play	1	3.85%
Grand Total	26	100.00%

One thing that you liked most in the Forum?	Total	%
<u>Role-Play:</u>	15	51.73%
Role-Play	8	27.59%
Role-Play and Discussion	3	10.34%
Role-Play + Case Study	2	6.90%
Role-Play with other NGO SWs	2	6.90%
<u>Case Study:</u>	2	6.90%
Case Study	1	3.45%
Case Study and Presentation	1	3.45%
<u>Subject & discussion:</u>	10	34.50%
Subject	2	6.90%
Morning Lecture	2	6.90%
Participants coming together	2	6.90%
Less lecture and more participation	1	3.45%
Discussion	1	3.45%
One Subject	1	3.45%
Proper planning	1	3.45%
<u>Venue:</u>	2	6.90%
Good Atmosphere	1	3.45%
Peaceful atmosphere at the venue	1	3.45%
Grand Total	29	100.00%

Have you learned something new about "Long Term Sustainability"?	Total	%
Yes	34	97.14%
No	1	2.86%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

Do you think you will implement something new in your work after this Forum?	Total	%
Yes	34	97.14%
No	1	2.86%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

Would you like to have further discussion and / or inputs on "Short Term & Long Term Sustainability"?	Total	%
Yes	30	85.71%
No	5	14.29%
Grand Total	35	100.00%

Other Comments	Total	%	
<u>Meal (total = 6):</u>	7	20.58%	
(+) Nice Break-fast.	1	2.94%	2.94%
(-) Meal was not good.	3	8.82%	
(-) Good quality meal should have been served.	2	5.88%	(-) 17.64%
(-) Lunch arrangement was not good.	1	2.94%	
<u>Time (total = 5):</u>	5	14.70%	
(-) Short time to discuss.	2	5.88%	
(-) No respect of time, specially for lunch.	1	2.94%	(-) 14.70%
(-) No respect of time.	1	2.94%	
(-) Wastage of time.	1	2.94%	
<u>Forum & Subject (total = 8):</u>	8	23.52%	
(+) Forum proved useful for FDP work.	1	2.94%	
(+) It was good to have a single subject on one day.	1	2.94%	
(+) Informative Forum.	1	2.94%	17.64%
(+) Many SWs new, hence fruitful for them.	1	2.94%	
(+) Nice Forum.	1	2.94%	
(+) Role-Plays were more informative.	1	2.94%	
(-) Questioning was out of track during the discussion.	1	2.94%	
(-) This subject should have been covered in 2 days Forum.	1	2.94%	(-) 5.88%
<u>Suggestions (total = 14):</u>	14	41.16%	
<u>Organization (9):</u>			
Time Respect should be there.	2	5.88%	
Forum should be participatory & alive and entertaining.	2	5.88%	
Another better venue could be think of.	1	2.94%	
More discussion on Case Study rather than Role-Play could be better.	1	2.94%	26.46%
Less No. of role-plays should be organized => it will give us time to concentrate on subject in detail.	1	2.94%	
Role-Play should be organized properly.	1	2.94%	
Subject should be explained / conveyed in more easy way.	1	2.94%	
<u>Subjects for next Forum (4):</u>			
Sex & Sexuality.	1	2.94%	
Information on Services useful in daily work.	1	2.94%	
Subjects giving more information & knowledge may be dealt with.	1	2.94%	11.76%
Training programmes on: Document, Child Dev., Family Planning and Family Relation.	1	2.94%	
<u>Other suggestion (1):</u>			
We should not come to the conclusion in haste.	1	2.94%	2.94%
Grand Total	34	100.00%	

7 Gratitude Letters

Mr. John Almaida (Aapli Mumbai) and Pariest Priest (St. Paul Church) were offered gratitude on behalf of all the participants through the letter, the specimen of which are as follows:

Tuesday, 28 March 2006

TO:

*Mr. John Almaida & Others,
Convenors of Aapli Mumbai.*

Subject: Gratitude

Dear Sirs,

We, on behalf of all our participants, herewith take an opportunity to thank you from the depth of our heart for favouring us with your valuable cooperation and for putting your personal efforts in making the hall of St. Paul High School available for our training programme on Thursday 16th March, 2006.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. Lydia ADELIN

Programme Manager, Inter Aide - India

Tuesday, 28 March 2006

TO:

Fr. _____,

Parist Priest,

St. Paul Church,

Dadar East, Mumbai-14

Subject: Gratitude

Dear Sir,

We, on behalf of all our participants, herewith take an opportunity to thank you from the depth of our heart for favouring us with your valuable cooperation and for making the hall of your High School available for our training programme on Thursday 16th March, 2006.

We shall be happy to bequeath our cooperation in any programme of yours.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. Lydia ADELIN

Programme Manager, Inter Aide - India

8 Appendix

8.1 CASE 1: CASE STUDY ON HEALTH

This family consists in 5 members:

Wife: Sunita (27),

Husband Laxman (30),

Jayesh (son) : 6 yrs

Nilu (daughter) : 3.5 yrs and

Mahesh (son) : 1yr

They reside in a small and dark room. They own this house. They have been residing in the area since last 5 years. Sunita remains at home and is weak. She goes in the market sometimes to purchase household things. Jayesh and Nilu do not go to school/Balwadi. Younger son Mahesh is weak – he has fever. She doesn't go to the doctor as she says she doesn't have money. Laxman is a daily-wager and earns around Rs.100/- a day. He drinks daily and comes home late at night. Sometimes beats his wife. He does not give enough money at home. The surrounding area of the house is always dirty and the house is also unclean. Children are not immunized.

8.2 CASE 2: CASE STUDY ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This is about a 6-member family: husband, wife and 4 children:

Muneer (boy) 11 yrs

Aamir (boy) 5 yrs

Farida (girl) 2 yrs

Aazeen (girl) 2 months

They are from Gulbargha at the border of Karnataka. They stay in their own house in Mumbai. The husband works as a tailor and earns around Rs. 1,500/- per month. Muneer and Aamir don't go to school.

Muneer is a physically & mentally-challenged child since birth. He is blind from one eye and cannot see properly from the other. Besides, his behaviour is unstable and sometimes turns wild: he would eat from dustbin, and remove his clothes, for example. He generally does not speak much and communicates only with his mother. He does not know how to come back home alone. That's the reason why the parents don't let him go out alone.

The parents went to a doctor some years ago. The doctor recommended them to place the child in a specialised institution. They did not do it because they did not want to be separated from the child and because of money problems. No treatment has been given either.

Now, the parents show a wish to place their child, which is more difficult considering Muneer's age.

The new-born baby, Aazeen also does not look in good health. Her eyes are not proper, they don't move properly. Moreover, she keeps on crying. And in the back of the head, she has some soft skin that apparently pains when she is lied down on the floor. This particularity is also there on Muneer's head.

The parents don't want to take Aazeen to the doctor. They say that her state is not at all as bad as it was for Muneer when he was born.

The parents love their children and behave the same way with all of them, except that they take more precaution for Muneer since they are a lot worried for him.

8.3 CASE 3: CASE STUDY ON FAMILY RELATIONS

This is about a couple, Jaya and Amit with 2 daughters, one of 2 yrs and a new-born baby of 2 months. Amit does temporary work and earns around Rs.2,000/- per month. They have got their own house and used to live with Amit's parents. Today's situation is different: Jaya has actually shifted to her own parents' house with her children since 4 months. Amit has never come to see their second baby. The elder daughter does not walk. Jaya wanted to take her to the doctor but could not. Besides, she has not made birth certificate for her new-born daughter because she does not have money.

In her parents' house there are father, mother, and two daughters. Her father has a small business. He is sick and an X-ray is taken. There is also threat of demolition of the slum in which they live.

Jaya looks worried and under tension. She has become weak.

8.4 CASE 4: CASE STUDY ON JOB / INCOME

This story is about a Muslim family from UP. There are 4 members in the family, a 35 yrs old woman Salma, her 2 daughters (16 & 12 yrs old) and her son (14). Her husband died 7 months back in an accident. He was a rickshaw driver.

The elder daughter is illiterate while the younger stopped going to school after her father's death. The son is studying in 6th std.

This family lives in a rented house.

Salma avoids giving the information about her parents. Salma has 3 sisters (2 are there in UP and one in Mumbai residing in another quarter of the area.

Salma had never worked at all when her husband was alive. She was a housewife. Now, she has started working as a housemaid and earns around Rs.1800 – 2000 p.m. Her younger sister, married and having 1 son, sometimes helps her to run her house (financial help). Salma's 2nd daughter stays with her aunt for few days of the month and few days with her.

8.5 CASE 5: CASE STUDY ON DOCUMENTS

This is about a migrated family from UP. They have been staying in Mumbai since last 8 years. The family consists in Neha (29 years old), her husband Harish, and

their 2 sons (10 yrs & 8 yrs) and 2 daughters (7 yrs & 6 yrs). They reside in their own house.

Harish works in a garment company as a supervisor and earns around Rs.5,000/- per month. This family has got an RC that does not contain the names of Neha and her last 3 children. The parents want to send the last 3 children to English-medium school. Nevertheless, they do not have the required documents. Harish is a very active man & has a good knowledge about government agencies. On the contrary, Neha doesn't know anything about that and about administrative procedures. She says that her husband knows everything but doesn't have time to do the necessary actions.