

Technology for Developing Communities
Fall 2007

Participatory Research & Development Homework

Assigned: September 7, 2007

Due: September 20, 2007

Submit homework to the “Participatory Homework” assignment in [Blackboard](#)
(please do **not** submit to the general drop-box)

This assignment has three parts.

Assignment Part One

Assume you are going to be part of a development project in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. What cultural, demographic, development-related, and economic information would you want to know about Sri Lanka generally, and Trincomalee in particular, ahead of time? Where would you find it?

Some hints: you should start by looking at the CIA World Fact Book and recent Human Development Reports. Because of the recent tsunami, there is also a lot of information available on the internet (but you need to think about what sources are trustworthy). You don't need to report your findings, but you need to tell us what information you would collect and where you would look for it. Your answer should be one page maximum.

Assignment Part Two

For the following 3 scenarios:

- 1) Geographically focused: You would like to make a positive impact in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- 2) Problem focused: You would like to improve the clearing of land mines (anywhere in the world).
- 3) Technology focused: You would like to test a specific technology (e.g. a robot, or a sensing device) you have developed that you think would improve clearing land mines.

Assume that you have won the ICTD Fellowship that comes with \$100K/year for 3 years to support the application of technology in development.

For each of the 3 scenarios, give a preliminary plan for the first 6 months of using your Fellowship to pursue the goal for the scenario. We are not asking for you to plan out the full 3 years, only how you would begin the first 6 months.

In crafting your plan, consider all relevant participatory steps we have discussed in class. Each plan should be described in prose and/or outline of about a half to two-thirds page.

Be as specific and detailed as you can in that space

Assignment Part Three

Answer: How did your plans differ in the 3 scenarios, and why did they differ?

WHAT YOU WILL TURN IN: You are expected to turn in a 4-5 page Microsoft Word document (12 point font, 1” margins, appropriately spaced). Submit homework to the “Participatory Homework” assignment in [Blackboard](#) (please do not submit to the general drop-box)

HELPFUL HINTS:

Besides relying on the readings for class and the class discussions, it is strongly recommended that you browse the following two documents:

Building Capacities of Local Self Governments, CSOs and the Domestic Business Sector to participate in the national PRS and MDG process in Macedonia Training Manual, Volume 2

<http://www.undp.org.mk/datacenter/publications/documents/Vol 2 NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR VULENRABLE GROUPS.doc>

Field Guide for Participatory Needs Assessment:

<http://www.ifsp-srilanka.org/TP-06-pna-fieldguide.pdf>