

participatory learning and action

Number 57
December 2007

Photo: Tom Sharman



Joining in with the traditional dance routines during an ActionAid immersion in Khosolo, Malawi.

CONTENTS

THEME SECTION

1. Overview: Immersions: something is happening
Robert Chambers 9
2. Basrabai, Meeraiben, and the master of Mohadi
Ravi Kanbur 15

SECTION 1: EVOLUTION OF IMMERSIONS

3. A portrait of the Exposure and Dialogue Programme Association
Jörg Hilgers 18
4. Exposure and Dialogue Programmes at SEWA
Reema Nanavaty with contributions from Raziaben, Savitaben, and Seetaben ..26
5. The World Bank Group: investing in poverty immersions
Frederick E. Nunes 30
6. The World Bank's Village Immersion Programme in South Asia
Praful Patel, Qazi Azmat Isa, and Caroline Vagneron 34
7. Immersions in ActionAid
Sonya Ruparel 36

SECTION 2: IMMERSION ROLES?

8. Host families
Izzy Birch with contributions from Gauriben, Ramilaben, Shantaben and Kamlaben, Ama Gariba, Sam Mpanga, and Saurabh Kumar 42
9. Not your usual facilitator...
Dee Jupp 47
10. Interpreters
Izzy Birch with contributions from Katy Oswald, Hawa Awuro Sam, and Sonya Ruparel 50
11. Reflections by participants on the interaction with their hosts
Izzy Birch with contributions from Katy Oswald, Arjan de Haan, and Edward Bresnyan, and Ravi Kanbur 53

SECTION 3: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS 56

12. Extract from immersion report: Funsu, Ghana
Koy Thomson 57
13. Reflections on an immersion: Funsu, Ghana
Rosalind Eyben 60
14. Personal reflection on Funsu immersion: ActionAid Ghana
Taaka Awori 62
15. Reflections on my immersion in India
Gary Fields 65
16. The salt of the earth
Praful Patel 67
17. Everyone at Sida should do an immersion!
Olof Sandkull and Göran Schill 71
18. Legends of Choar Mumtaz: Saleiha Chachi smiles
John Samuel 75

SECTION 4: INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTS

Part I: Staff selection, orientation and training	77
19. Immersion as a form of apprenticeship at PRADAN <i>The HRD Unit at PRADAN with a contribution from Vishal Jamkar</i>	79
20. How SRIJAN uses immersions as part of its recruitment process <i>Raj Kumar with Haridarkee</i>	84
21. How SEWA uses Exposure and Dialogue Programmes (EDPs) for internal capacity building <i>Poonam Shroff</i>	88
22. The Global Journey: a quest for reality <i>Bosse Kramsjö</i>	90
Part II: Programme development and accountability	93
23. Programme development and immersions at Plan Bangladesh <i>Haider W Yaqub and Saiful Islam</i>	94
24. An extract from 'Views of the Poor' <i>Dee Jupp</i>	100
25. Immersion: the soul of development <i>Qazi Azmat Isa</i>	103
26. Reality Check: accountability, learning, and practice with the people who matter <i>Ashish Shah</i>	107
Part III: Influencing policy and institutional direction	117
27. Taking onboard immersions within Sida <i>Esse Nilsson, Olof Sandkull, and Molly Sundberg</i>	118
28. Reality Checks: first reflections <i>Dee Jupp with Malin Arvidson, Enamul Huda, Syed Rukonuddin, Nasrin Jahan, Md Amir Hossain, Dil Afroze, Fatima Jahan Seema, Md Mominur Rahman, Sohel Ibn Ali, Rabiul Hasan Arif, Somita, David Lewis, and Hans Hedlund</i>	123
29. The impact of Exposure and Dialogue Programmes (EDPs) on German parliamentary work and decisions <i>Ruth Möller</i>	126
30. With the strength of the powerless: using immersions for processes of structural change <i>Karl Osner</i>	128

CLOSING EDITORIAL

31. Immersions and face-to-face learning: reflections on practice <i>Izzy Birch and Raffaella Catani</i>	133
---	-----

REGULAR FEATURES

Editorial	3
In Touch	140
RCPLA Network	150