

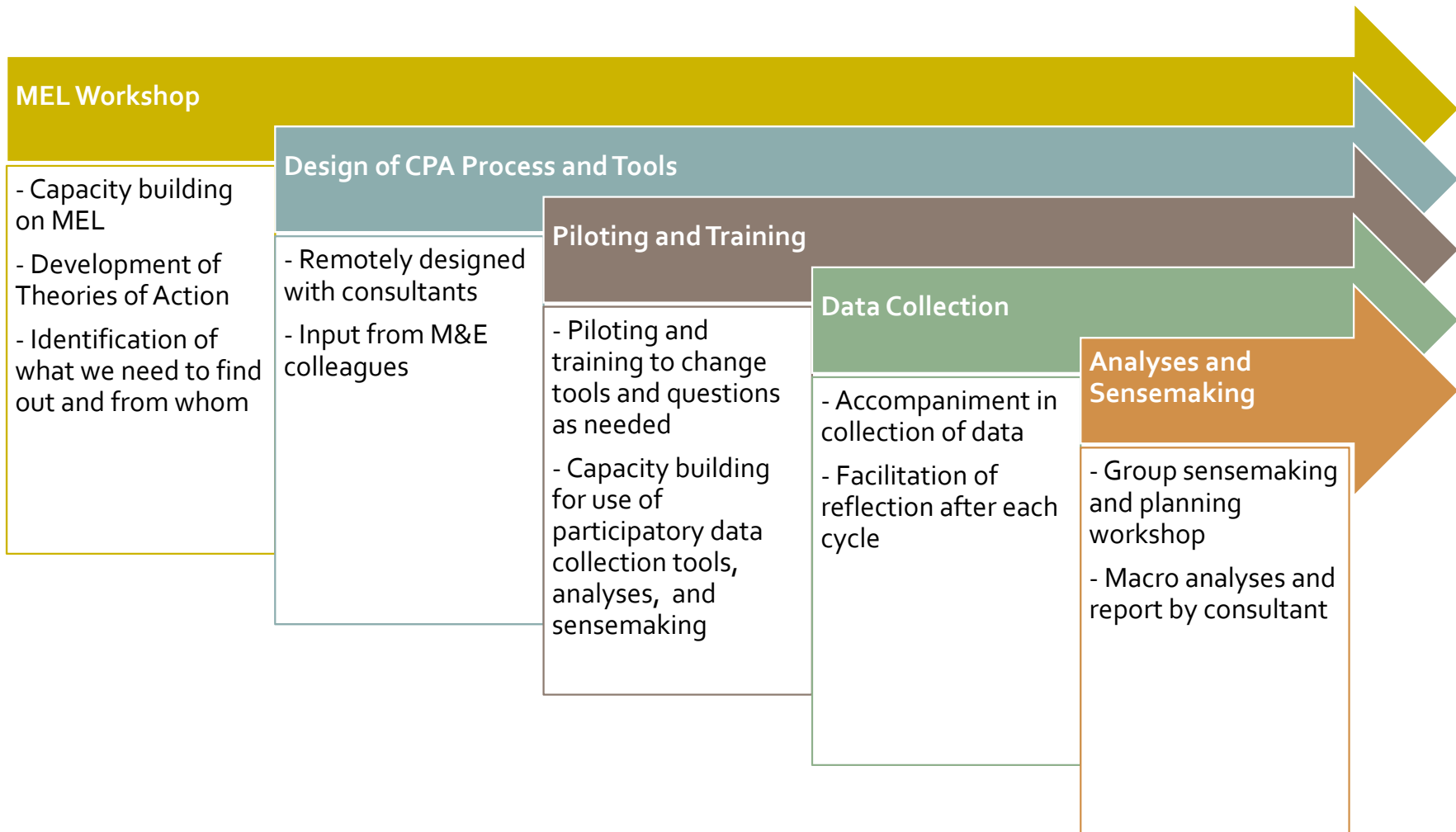
Participatory Community Analyses: Experiences from a Multi-country Child Marriage Project



Doris Bartel
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Participatory Community Analyses (PCA)



PCA Data Collection Tools



Social Mapping

- A participatory mapping of the full village informed by adults and adolescents to understand the household distribution, the presence of other NGOs, schools, etc.

Seasonal Calendar

- A calendar of important village events focusing on relationships between seasons and marriage and impact on adolescent life, for parents/adult & adolescents

Visioning exercise

- Two separate groups of unmarried adolescents boys and girls explore their dreams, barriers to dreams, and impact of marriage on those dreams

Time line exercise

- From the perspective of parents, a depiction of typical experiences of a girl or boy as s/he grows up in the community, from age 0 (birth) along a line to age of adulthood (defined by parent participants)

Risks and benefits

- A tool to understand community members' perceptions of risks and benefits of early marriage, primarily on girls, but also on boys; parents & community adults

Key informant interviews

- Very relaxed, 1-on-1 conversation exploring experiences of young married girls/women who were married as adolescents to understand how puberty and marriage affect a girl's life

PCA Data Collection Tools – Visioning Exercise



In School	Not in School
Help family financially	Self-reliance
Professional jobs (teacher, doctor)	Poultry raising or animal husbandry
Get children in the village educated	Raise children, take care of in-laws
Marry at 18-25 to educated, smart service holders	Marry at 18-22 to businessmen, farmers with plenty of food all year round
Marry at their will	Marry at parents' will



Creates a space for girls to think about their own aspirations

Communicates to girls that they have the right to have their own aspirations

For many girls this was a very difficult task because no one had ever asked them about their own dreams

PCA Data Collection Tools – Risks Benefits Exercise



Risks of Delaying Marriage	Benefits of Delaying Marriage
Higher dowry	Better relationship with spouse
People start making negative remarks	Better maternal and child health
Harder to find grooms	Better able to manage household
Beauty wears off	



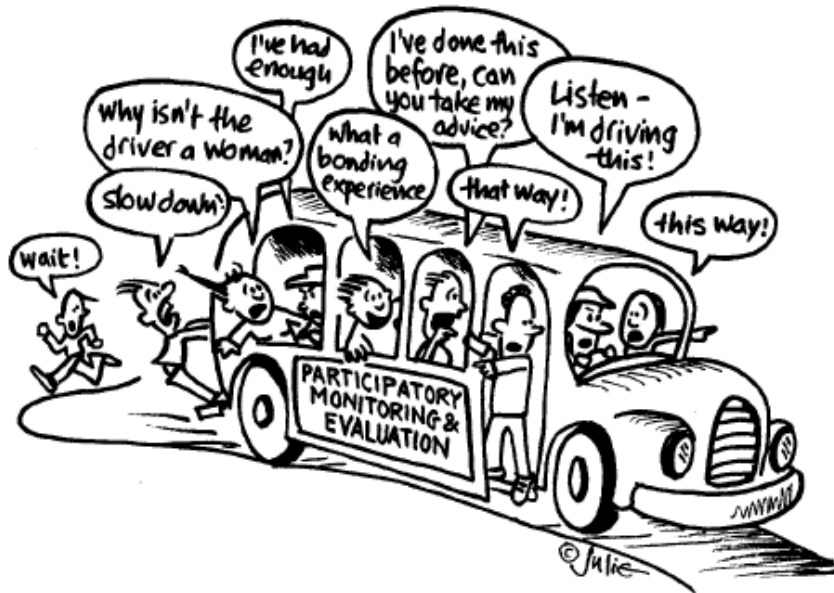
Diana Wu, CARE 2014

Creates a space for fathers and mothers to look at their own perceptions that are driving the marriage decisions for their children

Allows a comparison between perceptions of fathers and mothers

Most parents have never been asked about the “benefits” of child marriage or the “risks” of delaying marriage

Some Challenges



Balancing knowledge needs and what counts as "evidence" is an ongoing tension

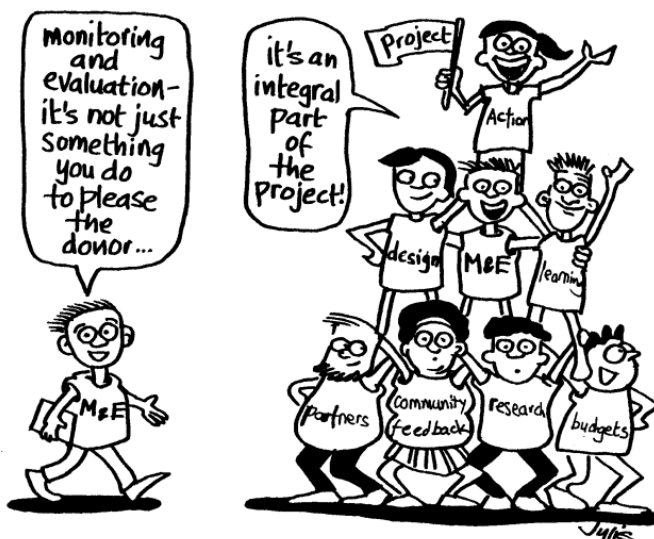
Facilitation skills make it or break it



Some Successes

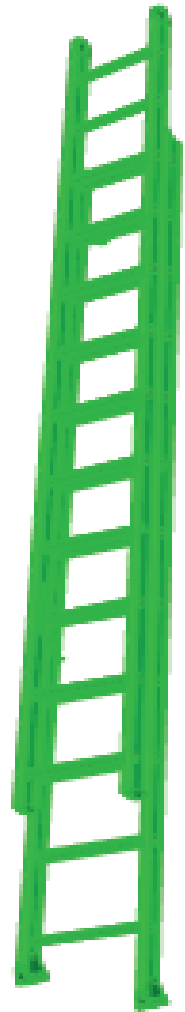
Starting to see more
“Evaluation Thinking”
amongst field colleagues and
overall project team

“Excavating the root causes of child marriage and trying to come up with a theory of action together in a participatory manner gave us a feeling that our views were heard, respected and included-because of this we had a sense that we have collective ownership of the purpose of the project.”



Engaging in the data collection, analyses, and sensemaking has helped the teams be reflective and critical about the strategies they will be implementing and what community driven programming and monitoring can look like

Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation²⁴



- Rung 8** Participants share decision making with others as equal partners
- Rung 7** Participants lead and initiate action
- Rung 6** External actors initiate action, but participants share decisions
- Rung 5** Participants consulted and informed
- Rung 4** Participants informed
- Rung 3** Participants tokenized (non-participation)
- Rung 2** Participants are decoration (non-participation)
- Rung 1** Participants are manipulated (non-participation)



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