



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

DECEMBER 2025 TRIMESTER

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU Online

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COURSE CODE: CDC 317

COURSE TITLE: PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGIES

EXAM DATE:

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TIME: 5:30PM-8:30PM

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- **Answer any THREE questions**
- *ALL PAC University's examination rules and regulations apply*

QUESTION ONE

Case Study:

The community of Kijiji Bora has been struggling with poverty and unemployment for decades. In the past, government and non-governmental organizations have introduced several development projects, but most have failed due to poor community involvement. In an effort to create sustainable change, a new project was introduced using participatory approaches to ensure active community engagement. The project facilitators used methods such as Rural Rapid Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory Rural Assessment (PRA) to involve residents in identifying their most urgent needs.

The results revealed that unemployment, lack of access to clean water, and inadequate healthcare services were the biggest concerns. Through participatory discussions, the community suggested practical solutions:

1. Establishing a vocational training center for youth employment
2. Constructing a borehole for clean water access
3. Training community health volunteers for improved healthcare

The facilitators ensured that the community members were actively involved in decision-making and implementation, increasing local ownership and sustainability of the project.

- a) Explain the significance of using participatory approaches in development, using examples from the case study. (15 Marks)
- b) Compare and contrast Rural Rapid Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory Rural Assessment (PRA) in the context of this case study. (15 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

Case Study:

In the urban slum of Mwangaza, a local non-profit organization, Hope for All (HFA), noticed that previous development programs were failing due to a top-down approach where experts designed solutions without consulting the community. To address this issue, HFA introduced a Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) model, ensuring that residents actively participated in problem identification, decision-making, and project execution.

The community identified key problems: waste management, lack of street lighting, and insecurity. To address these issues:

- Community mapping and transect walks were conducted to identify waste dumping sites.
- Focus group discussions helped to develop a community-led security initiative.
- Participatory planning meetings led to a strategy for installing solar streetlights with community contributions.

After six months, waste management improved, crime rates dropped, and residents felt empowered to sustain the initiatives.

In reference to the above case study:

- a) Evaluate how participatory methodologies contributed to the success of the development programs in Mwangaza. (8 Marks)
- b) Discuss two participatory tools used in this case study and explain their impact on community transformation. (7 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Discuss the evolution of participatory approaches in community development, highlighting key milestones and their significance. (7 Marks)
- b) Explain the different levels of participation in community development and assess their impact on project sustainability. (8 Marks)

QUESTION 4

Using a real or hypothetical community development project, critically examine how power dynamics within local leadership structures can either facilitate or hinder meaningful citizen participation. In your answer, analyse the mechanisms through which these power dynamics shape decision-making, representation, and accountability within the project.

(15 marks)

QUESTION 5

Technological tools such as mobile platforms, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and digital feedback systems are increasingly used in participatory development. Assess the extent to which digital technologies strengthen or weaken genuine community participation in resource-constrained environments. Provide a balanced argument supported by concrete examples.

(15 marks)