



Time line is a method used to explore the temporal dimension from a historical perspective, capturing the chronology of events as recalled by local people. It is drawn as a sequential aggregate of past events, which provides the historical landmarks of a community, an individual, or an institution. Time line is not history as much the events of the past as the people themselves perceive and recall them. It is very useful if done at the beginning of information gathering process.

Steps: The suggested steps in the process of doing a time line include:

1. Identify some elderly persons in the village willing to talk about the history of the village, invite them to a discussion.
2. Explain the purpose of the exercise to them, then initiate a discussion on the history of the village.
3. Ask them: "When was the village established?" "What were some important events in the history of the village?" "What major changes took place and why?"
4. Ask one of the participants if to note down the major events in brief on cards – they can use symbols and be creative, especially if illiterate. Ensure that key points are recorded, do this yourself if necessary.
5. Once you feel that the list is more or less complete, ask them to keep the cards in a chronological order, let them make changes if they want.
6. Add years (est. when needed) to the left side of the list of events.
7. You can focus on those aspects that are your area of interest: ex. try to have participants focus on events of an education nature, or on women's roles.
8. Initiate a discussion on the time line to help the participants analyze and reflect on it and ask clarifying questions: "What was the situation in the past?" "What major changes took place and why?" "Can you tell me more about ____, and what does that mean?"
9. Copy the details onto paper. Note down the names of participants, facilitators, location details, dates, legends, etc.,
10. Triangulate with other elderly persons in the village to see the correctness of the information given in the time line.

Objectives

- Learn from the community what their important past events are.
- Understand the community's historical perspective on current issues.
- Generate discussions on changes with issues at hand (e.g., education, health, food security, gender relations, economic conditions, etc.).

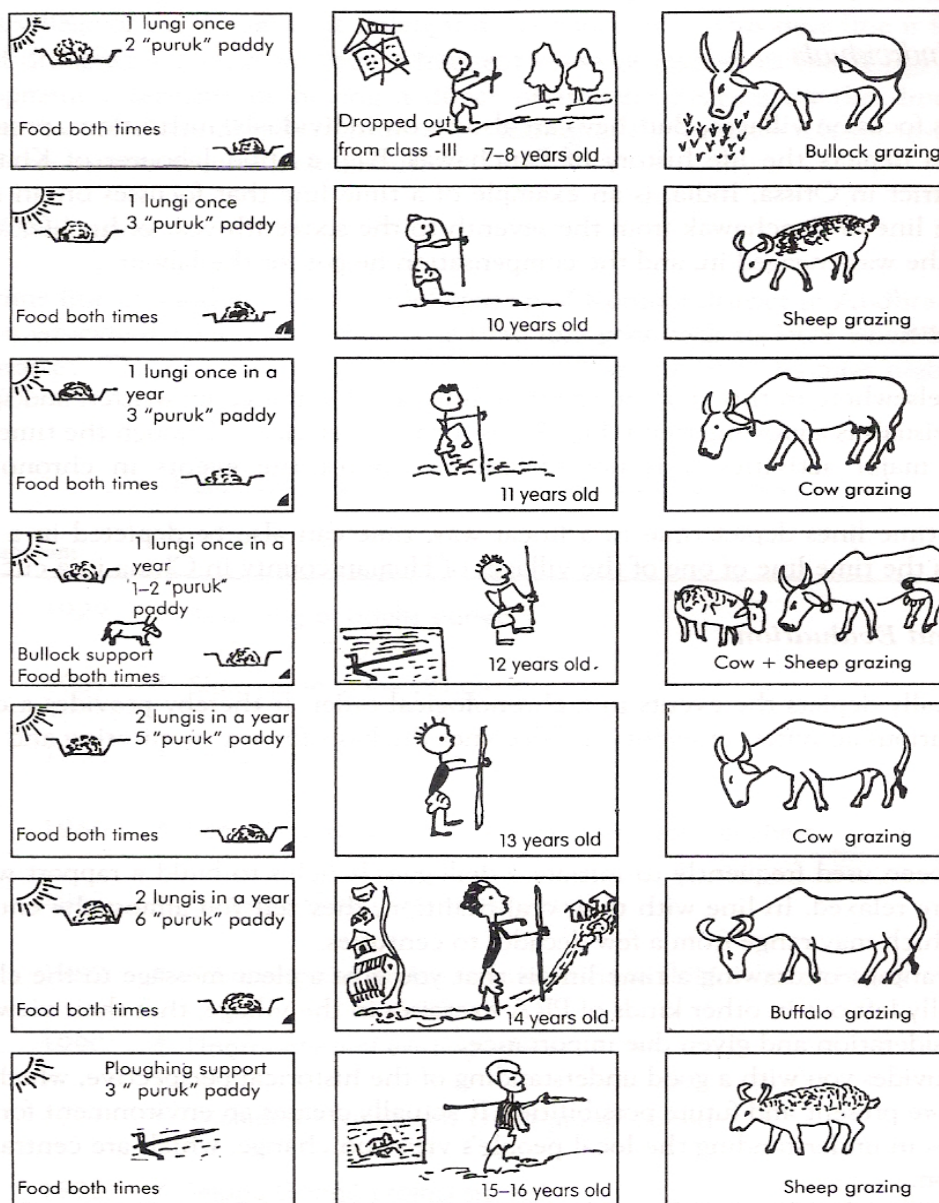
Discussing the village's past can be a non-threatening and enjoyable starting point to develop a rapport with villagers.

- To gain information on the technological time line in a village
- To gain year-wise information

Partial Time Line done of Bannur Village

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1905 | Construction of irrigation tank
Main crops were jowar, horse gram and a coarse cereal locally known as Korr |
| 1931 | Drought-20 families migrated |
| 1940 | Private school building constructed |
| 1945 | 10 irrigation wells excavated. Led to changes in crops cultivated later |

Time Line



Legend:  Morning
Participant: Panchawak Bag

 Evening


 Food

Figure 1. Time line of Khairmal village from the perspective of a child laborer.

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