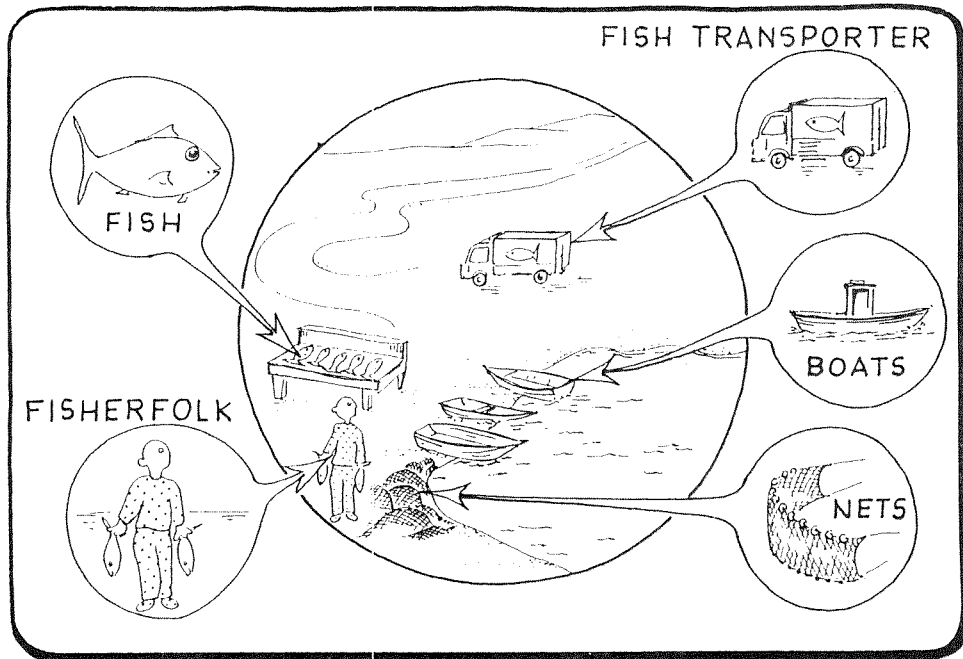


Analysis of Information

What is analysis?

Analysis is examining information (sorting it out, adding it up, comparing it) in order to understand the "parts" in relationship to the "whole".



Both insiders and outsiders contribute

Insiders and outsiders together plan the analysis. This helps ensure that information is comprehensive, valid and understood.

Analysis may be included in information gathering

Some of the analysis may have already been done, or partially done, depending on which information gathering tools have been used. For example, suppose the Ranking, Rating and Sorting Tool (Tool 10) had been used to answer the question: "which kind of fish (species) do people from the fishing village prefer to eat?" By using this tool, a list of ten species, from most preferred to least preferred, would have been produced - by using this tool, the villagers preferences have already been analysed.

Several analyses may be put together for greater understanding of a situation

This information can be examined along with other information, such as the species that are fished for other markets or specific processing purposes.

Analysis of Information

Partial analysis

If a team has been given responsibility for the analysis and are to present their results to the larger community group, presenting the information in partly analysed form can be very effective.

The benefits of partial analysis are:

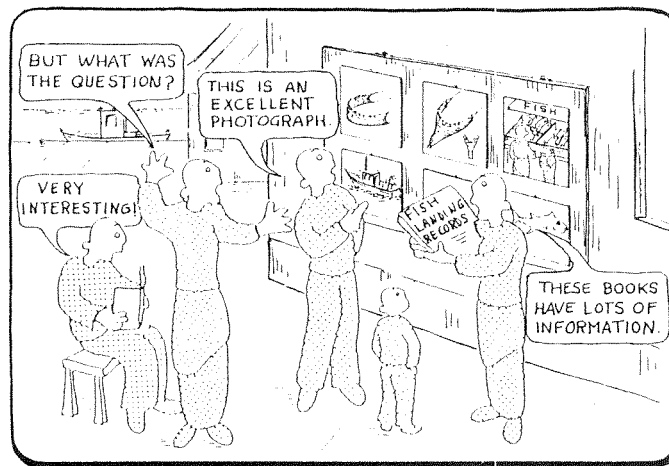
- the larger group has an opportunity to contribute to the analysis;
- the results are validated by more people and will be more reliable;
- the analysis process is understood by more people.

Steps to Analysis of Information

Step
1

Review the questions

The questions generated before the information was gathered should be reviewed. Why was this particular information necessary? What questions was it to answer? What kinds of decisions are to be made based on this information?



It is common for people to work very hard planning for the information they need and then, once the information is collected, to not look back and renew their understanding of the central issues and key questions.

Important results that were not anticipated should not, however, be ignored. Sometimes putting information together will raise important, unforeseen and relevant questions. These can be noted for future reference and pointed out in the presentation of results.

**Step
#2**

Organise the information

The mechanics of organising information for analysis will vary according to the thinking processes of different people. Sometimes it is best not to force a certain way of thinking. On the other hand, there is a certain logic that can be followed:

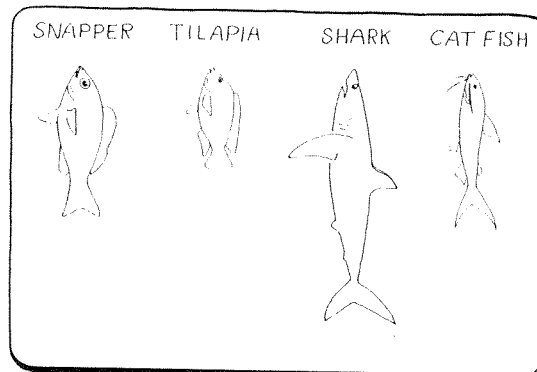
- Gather together all relevant information that has been collected;
- If necessary, sort information into parts which belong together;
- Some may have already been analysed. Some may be partly analysed, and some may need analysis.

**Step
#3**

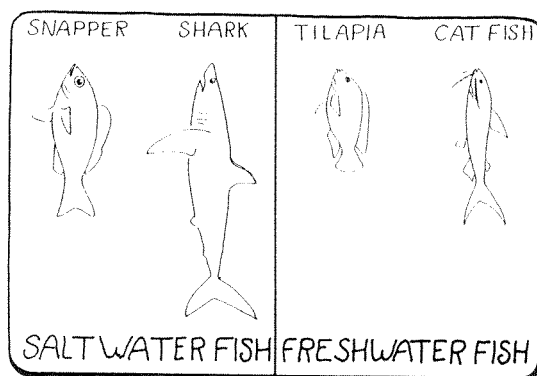
Decide how to analyse information

Analysis of some parts of the information may mean simply adding up numbers and averaging them or comparing information to examine the relationship of one thing to another, or two things together.

Analysis can take note of similarities, such as all of these fish are found in warm climates.

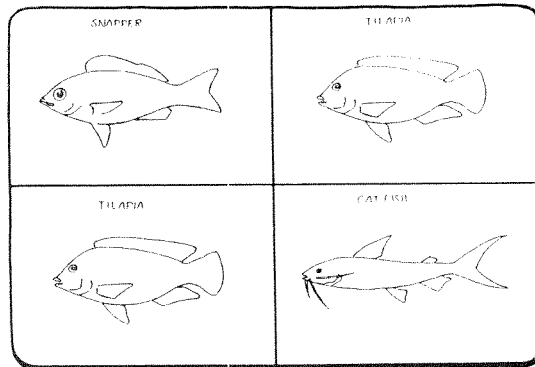


It can contrast information by setting two things in opposition so as to show the differences.



Analysis of Information

It can relate pieces of information to establish relationships between things, such as: 'these are all edible fish'.



Step
4

Analyse quantitative information

It is likely that quantitative (numeric) information will be computed by hand, or with the use of adding machines. Two straightforward ways to analyse information are Tally Sheets and Summary Sheets.

Tally sheets Tally sheets are useful for summarising information such as production figures, survival figures, and nursery sales. It is especially important to think carefully about the pieces of information that, when paired, will answer the questions that were originally asked.

The tally sheet is an especially good way to analyse information when literacy is not high. Sketches and/or symbols can be used to show the columns. When the tally sheet is prepared at a meeting, or in a group, patterns emerge in a way which everyone can see.

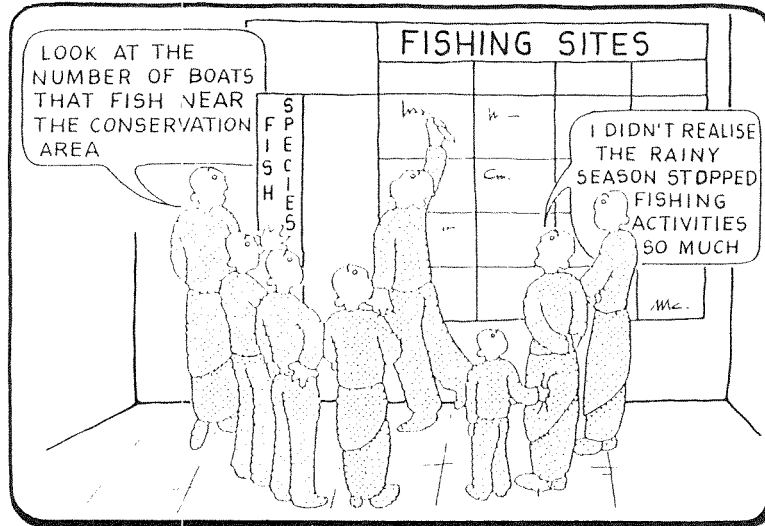
QUESTIONS	INTERVIEWS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	AVG
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD	4	7	6	8	3	2	9	2	
SIZE OF BOAT	6	7	6	8	6	6	7	5	
NUMBER OF DAYS FISHING EACH MONTH	15	20	12	20	15	20	18	12	
MONEY LOANED FROM COOPERATIVE	28	300	40	160	25	190	450	75	

GET AVERAGES BY ADDING HORIZONTALLY AND DIVIDING BY NUMBER

INFORMATION FROM EACH INTERVIEW IS FILLED DOWNWARD

Chapter Six

Summary sheets To show information individually, in order to see clearly the differences between each piece of information, a Summary Sheet can be used. They are especially useful for analysing information from interviews.



Step
5

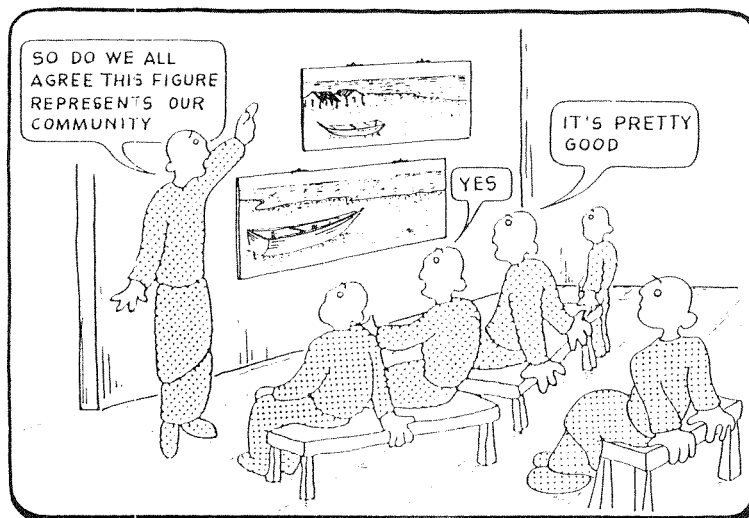
Analyse quantitative information

Analysis of qualitative (descriptive) information is a creative and critical process. The way the information has been gathered will probably determine how it can best be analysed.

For example, if drawings of a community have been done at the beginning, middle and end of the project, the community can be analysed by presenting a series of drawings to a number of individuals and asking them to:

validate the drawings
(are they truly
representative,
and if not,
why not)

rate the difference
(very good, good,
not very good)



Step
6

Integrate the information

Putting the analysed parts together in a way that tells the complete story can be done by the team that has been assigned to gather and analyse information. Partial analysis can be presented to the larger community group for completion.

