

Analyzing conflict management capacity of functionaries of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at JFMC Level in Madhya Pradesh

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The present study looked into the nature of conflict. and conflict management capacity of the functionaries in Joint Forest Management Committees of Forest Development Agency (FDA). The study is largely qualitative. The study was undertaken in three divisions of Hoshangabad, Seoni and Indore in Madhya Pradesh state. Thirty village functionaries were interviewed in these three divisions. Two villages namely Patharkathi and Guramkhedi were selected for intensive study.

In Joint Forest Management, conflicts between various stakeholders are largely accounted to ownership .of the forest, allotment and formation of Joint Forest Management Committees and functioning of the committees. Conflicts often occur due to lack of livelihood opportunities and hence villagers resort to illicit felling activities. Conflicts result from villagers' dissatisfaction over the allotted forest area. Conflicts related to encroachment, arise because of social status is associated with ownership of land.

The root cause of the conflicts arising out of encroachment was the policy of distributive justice of the government. Under which they started giving land to landless and SC/ST. The constitution and functioning of the committee was prone to community or social conflict. It was observed that in many cases a village forest committee could not be constituted, or if constituted, could not function due to rivalries amongst elite villagers, forest. The conflict management capacity of a joint forest management committee also depended on the age of the committee. In future, human resource development can be part of the project prepared for FDA. The study emphasized that conflict management is very important for meeting the goal of resource conservation and livelihood development.