The extract illustrated here shows the use of some PRA techniques to investigate issues relating to family planning.

- **Slide 110**

  A. Family Planning
  
  Objectives
  
  1. To find out villagers' understanding of family planning.
  2. To determine villagers' knowledge and use of different family planning methods.

- **Slide 111**

  **Time line**

  This gives a record of the arrival of different family planning methods, detailed by the farmers, in the village. It shows how long people have been exposed to different methods and through what channel they received the information. The dates recorded on the chart were not actually given by the farmers but they referred to major events, like the earthquake, in a more general time line. The slide shows information given by two informants, one on the left and one on the right, and illustrates the importance of cross-checking, or triangulation, of information. The informants became aware of different methods at different times. The reason for this could be investigated further.

- **Slide 112**

  **Pie diagram**

  This was used to discover the overall preference among family planning methods, showing vasectomy as the most popular.
Matrix ranking

The matrix ranks family planning methods for criteria important to the villagers. This was used to generate discussion on the reasons why people find one method more acceptable than another. When compared to the last slide there initially seems to be a contradiction; in the matrix, condom scores higher than vasectomy, yet the pie chart shows vasectomy as the most popular method. The farmers explained that the reasons they scored vasectomy lower in the matrix were:

Reliability There was one failed vasectomy in the village which caused some confusion.

Availability Men have to go to Pokhara or wait for the mobile clinic to have the vasectomy operation.

Simplicity in Use Vasectomy is not directly under their control due to the availability situation compared to the condom.

Resistance to Side Effects A convalescence period of several weeks, in which no farm work can be done, is needed after the operation.

---