

Integrated Program through CBOs and NGOs and their Impact in Policies and People's Life in Dangisharan Rural Municipality, Dang

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Abstract

The key aim of this study is to look into the impact of policies and programs conducted by different non-government organizations in the study area. The exploration of gap between policy and practice is the main area of research. What are the best practices, skills and how they (non-governmental organization) are using this knowledge solving the major problems of poor and vulnerable community is also the issue of research. Method of study was purely purposive non-probability judgmental sampling techniques; qualitative data saturation procedure was adopted so that it would help to make valid understanding of non-government organization's activities. For this inquiry; 42 (forty-two) sample respondents were selected from 420 beneficiaries' households (10%) specially, the elected bodies like ward chairman, mayor, vice mayor, ward members, local government officers, representative of NGOs/CBOs and social workers. To achieve the objective of the study the researcher frequently visits of the targeted area to explore and find out the impacts of integrated development program conducted by CBOs and NGOs in the Dangisharan Rural municipality, ward no 3, Dang district. The projects were found to be relevant and have positive impact on the way of life of people. On the other hand, local women were engaged in different income generating activities. However, they do not have sustainability unless funding or donor is continued or beneficiaries are developed capable and competent to self-sustain.

Keywords: Interventions, Relevancy, Program, Beneficiaries, Organizations

Background

As a part of building resilience, non-government organizations promote different livelihood opportunities at the community level. In Nepal due causes of socio-economic status from poor families and marginalized groups and communities face multi-dimensional problems triggering further various consequences in absence of capacity and income opportunities in society, they have very limited options for health, education, livelihood and social protection situation, therefore, it has become urgent to initiate transforming the environment for such socio-economically vulnerable people so that they can strengthened with various life in the study site (NESAC, 1998).

Marginalization is at the core of exclusion from fulfilling social lives at individual, interpersonal and societal levels. People who are marginalized have relatively little control over their lives and resources available to them. Their opportunities to make social contributors may be limited and they may develop low self-confidence and self-esteem, social policies and practices may mean they have relatively limited access to valued social resources such as education, health services, housing, income, leisure activities and work (Kagan et al., 2012). Therefore, empowerment, which is a multi-dimensional social process, can help people gain control over their own lives. It also occurs at various levels, such as individual, group and community. It is a process that fosters power (that is, the capacity to implement in people and their society that they define as important (Page and Zuba, 2007).

Among them livelihood issues are very fundamental World Food Program (WFP) addressed that a majority of rural people in the Mid and Far-Western development regions have facing a dangerous livelihood situation. The main districts are Achham, Bajura, Dailekh, Rukum, Kalikot etc. (WFP, 2008). The right to food is the fundamental human rights of the citizen. In these districts more people died due to inadequate food and unsafe Water, Sanitation, Poor Hygiene (WASH) which caused

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diarrhea (Thapa, 2009). Similarly, World Bank has defined livelihood promotion as the "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life." The availability and accessibility of food to meet basic needs should also be sustainable (World Bank, 1986).

Major source of livelihood for nearly 80 percent of the total population of Nepal is agriculture (Subedi, et al. 2007). Similarly, Sharma addressed that agriculture sector is suffering from lack of enough investment without enough investment it cannot prosper and develop let along its contribution to alleviating poverty (Sharma, 2009).

According to UNESCO (2012) absolute poverty measures poverty in relation to the amount of money necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Likewise, relative poverty defines poverty in relation to the economic status of other members of the society: People are poor if they fall below prevailing of living in a given societal context.

The study focused on integrated program conducted by the NGOs in the targeted site and the series of events for the direct benefits of school children, orphans, women, farmers and disaster victims from poor families with respect to their socio-economic status in the communities. Primarily, the project has aimed to improving children education through educational support with scholarships and basic educational materials, construction and renovation of schools and classroom. Secondly, enhancing livelihood options through startup support for self-employment and income generation with poultry farming, bee keeping, tailoring, milk collection center, machinery support for poor farmers in the communities, construction of shelter homes. Thirdly, the program has supported individuals and communities with physical infrastructures like safe drinking water system, toilet, construction of community welfare building, and awareness (campaign) for sanitation. Fourthly, providing humanitarian support for disaster victims belonging to poor families.

Objectives of the Study

This paper aims to explore and explain the impacts of integrated development program conducted by CBOs and NGOs in 3 no. ward of Dangisharan Rural municipality, Dang district.

The study was to observe the activities performed inputs made and the immediate results achieved and to oversee which interventions have led most to those changes for direct beneficiaries and its impact towards their family members as well as in terms of the projects sustainability.

Methods and Materials

Dangisharan Rural municipality of Dang district was selected for the study mainly 3 no. ward of Dangisharan Rural municipality were purposively selected as a sample. Dang district was chosen as research site for the study to make the investigation easy. Dang itself is the Head Quarter of Lumbini Province.

The study was based on the results of a mixed method design conducted by the researcher between June 8 to 13 of 2023 with frequent visits of the study area. The study made use of both the primary and secondary sources to substantiate the facts were collected and more qualitative data analysis was used for data analysis and interpretation.

The study adopted descriptive and exploring design. The strategies used in this study methods (qualitative and quantitative) like interview, questionnaire, the key informant interview (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD) meeting with service providers, beneficiaries and observation were used to ascertain primary information whereas secondary data were collected from different project reports, policy documents, audit report, published by government and non-government organizations progress reports or literature including local government reports. For quantitative data, questionnaire was distributed among 42 purposively selected respondents connected to the NGO's program. The sample was selected so as to obtain a representative and meaningful dataset. Finally, qualitative findings from KII, FGD and observation were also applied to justify and strengthen the quantitative findings. For this purpose, interviews were conducted among Ward Chairman, Mayor, Teachers, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries etc.

This explorative study is conducted when a new area is being studied or when not much is known about the area of interest it is used to find out the full nature of the phenomenon along with other factors related to it. In this research, the changes brought about the opinions and attitude of community towards problems posed by the target groups were explored through in-depth interview and FGD. While descriptive research is designed to provide a real picture of a situation on it naturally happens. In this study, descriptive research was used to describe the general socio-economic background of the program supported families. The sampling method used to select the study site and KII was purely purposive. 42 sample respondents were selected from 420 households (10%) ultimately for primary data collection. Local people, elected officials, mayor, vice mayor, government officer, ward members, NGOs/CBOs, and public workers were among the 42 respondents. However, the researcher made frequent contact over the phone and made all arrangement for the interviews. They accepted the request and made the time available for the interview

All respondents were requested for voluntary participation and informed that they can withdraw from the study at any time if they wish. There was no any financial burden and incentive for participating in the study. The participants' confidentiality was guarded by not disclosing the data to anybody except the researcher. Both descriptive and analytical methods were used in data analysis and interpretation. The quantitative data were analyzed using simple statistics, and the qualitative information was interpreted manually by developing detailed transcription. The whole data analysis process consisted of coding, categorizing, and using SPSS version 21 and were analyzed in mean, mode, percentage etc..

Results

This study was focused to examine inputs, outputs, outcomes and immediate impact of different level of project implementation. Similarly changes of the lives of beneficiary, especially women and poor families within the program areas overtime and places through project interventions have been presented below:

There are various dimensions of effect. It would be good to discuss in different themes under policies and people's life.

Table 1

Outputs achieved through activities during Jan 2020 to June 2023

S.N	Name of the activities	Material provide	Targeted HHs	Achieved HHs	Achieved %
1	Support to establish poultry business	Chickens net, feeding grains	450 HHs	115 HHs	25.55%
2	Restocking of livestock through provision of goals farming	65 goats an 5 breeding buck and CGI seeds	300 HHs	80HHs	26.66%
3	Support to establish Milk Dairy, Vegetables	Required goods, equipment Rent etc.	80 HHs	32HHs	40%
4	Support for Tailoring with sewing machines	Machine and required accessories	105 HHs	56 HHs	53.33%
5	Start up support for bee keeping to farmers	Bee hives with bee and tools	30 HHs	40 HHs	40%
6	Support agricultural machines to farmers groups	20 HP power tiller	50 HHs	32 HHs	64%
7	Small scale irrigation support to farmers groups.	Boring, pump set, delivery pipe etc.	180 HHs	90 HHs	50%
8	Provision of drinking inter through water pumps	2000 tube well sets	1900 HHs	1900 HHs	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table 1 presents a target vs achievement program conducted by different NGOs in the period of Jan 2020 to June 2023 focused on the major thematic areas like agriculture, drinking water, capacity building, and income generating sectors in the study area. It shows the out puts/out comes of the intervention program during that period.

Note: During the study period, the researcher assessed NGOs/CBOs, ward and rural municipality, BASE organization's documents, reports, records including organized discussion with project staffs and beneficiaries

Efficiency and Effectiveness

The project is helping the poor and vulnerable communities. The service provided by the organization has been highly valued by the beneficiaries. However, covid-19 situation developed obstacles on scheduled program activities, except few cases the planned program was found conducted. Apart from this, income generation program from the NGO or CBOs are linked to income generating activities and capacity building even if it a small for livelihood, which has given relief from the fear of financial crisis.

Impact

The efforts taken by the project in linking the beneficiaries with local government and other relevant stakeholders were found to be quite positive and promising, although more needs to be done in the future. On the other hand, local women were engaged in different income generating activities like vegetable and milk collections Centre.

Similarly, series of awareness raising initiatives of the project has been instrumental for changing belief on deep rooted socio and cultural pressure in Nepal.

The efforts made by the project team in linking the beneficiaries with local government and other relevant stakeholders were found to be somewhat effective. The community seemed positive about the project in enhancing capacity and empowerment. Consultation with relevant authorities regarding potentials to continue these activities or program revealed that local authorities need to be fully prepared to use these initiatives as their regular plans and program. Beneficiaries who have been exposed and oriented to all the interventions started under the project and they have better understood and engaged in the design, implement learn out of the project promoted initiatives such as raising awareness, advocacy, micro and macro level intervention etc. However, given that their interventions were not wholly resource intensive there is a probability of local and province government to provide continuity to these initiatives in the coming future.

Sustainability

Some of the livelihood and capacity building projects like: pig, goat, pickle and poultry farming have turned to produce weak results even few have already discontinued. The researcher assumes the discontinuity may be by lack of market. The agricultural equipments provided by the project are functioning well but what next after if any technical issues. Hence, they do not have sustainability unless the funding or donor is continued, or beneficiaries are developed capable and competent to self-sustain so, sustainability has become major concern of the project.

Conclusion

With due causes of socio-economic status of children, women, and persons with disabilities from poor families and marginalized groups and communities face multi-dimensional problems triggering further various consequences in absence of capacity and income opportunities in society. These sorts of socio-economic consequences lead to backwardness towards hardships in life opportunities. Whether in rural or urban settings in underdeveloped societies, it has become common and in increasing in trend throughout the country that the issues of children and women from poor families have limited their options for better education, health, livelihood and social protection situation.

The project is efficient and effective. It has largely attained the progress while measuring against the indicators. The achievement has target beneficiaries and related stakeholders to have enhanced capacity of target group, they were more capable of sharing their ideas in the community level meeting and interpersonal level. Relationship among each other has been strengthened. The level of awareness was found increased in their thinking and decision-making capacity. Almost all the respondents of the study expressed their satisfaction over the performance of the project activities.

The project was found to be relevant and have positive impact on way of life of the people e.g. livelihood, infrastructure development, education, employment, etc.

However, continuity and sustainability of the project activities are doubtful because lack of resources with partner NGOs/CBOs and other stakeholders as well as inadequate capacity of target beneficiaries in managerial and technical aspects. Therefore, there was urgency of interventions especially to equip the women, children and member of poor families from marginalized communities with income options and life skills to develop them capable and self-sustainable. For which, NGOs/CBOs launched integrated program to intervene with various livelihood and capacity building projects for backward community in Dangisharan RM, Dang district.

The study closely observed the status of impact of project/program activities one to one consultation and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the key stakeholders revealed that few gaps and challenges in each of these sectors. Funding gap is the main issue for the project implementation the study.

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