

The Role of Butana Integrated Rural Development Project (BIRDP) in Rural Development in Gezira State, Sudan.

¹Neimat O. Babiker, ²Adam E. Mohamed, ³Habib A. Suliman

¹Faculty of developmental studies university of Gezira

²Faculty of Agricultural Sciences university of Gezira

³Faculty of Economic and rural development university of Gezira

Corresponding Author: neimatkhairalla@gmail.com

Abstract: *The current study was conducted to investigate the role of Butana Integrated Rural Development Project (BIRDP) in Rural Development in Gezira State. The study depend on primary data that were collected via structured questionnaire and direct interviewing with respondents. The study used multi-stage random sampling technique while SPSS soft word was run for descriptive measures. The results showed that the project had played a key role in development and skills building of rural a rea by training them in, adult education, first aids, midwifery training, food culture training, national resources conservation, integrated pest management, veterinary worker training, and rural financial these activities had positive impacts on area where they had opportunities to increase their income through small project these activities had positive impacts. Where they had opportunities to increase their income through small projects and to participate in home and project decision making .*

Keywords: Butana, Integrated Rural Development, Gezira State, Sudan.

Introduction:

The term development is difficult to define precisely, because it means different things to different people. Also it has been used interchangeably with other terms like growth, progress or modernity throughout this period (Fadeel, 1998)

After the European countries had regained their economic power, the American Aid and the newly established European Aid Programmes were directed towards the Third World Countries Economic development at that time was largely linked to economic growth. It was defined in terms of the ability of the national economy "To generate and sustain an annual increase in it's Gross National Product (GNP)". This implies some change in the structure of production and employment and was seen as a purely economic phenomenon in which gains in (GNP) may trickle-down to the masses in the form of jobs and other economic opportunities. Also, it increase the necessary conditions for wider distribution of economic and social benefits. At that time a number of Third World nations achieved the stated growth targets, but the levels of living conditions of the masses remained unchanged. This meant to many scholars that was something wrong with the prevailing definition of development (Hussein,2005).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

The International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD, specialized agency of the United Nations, was established as an international financial institution in 1977, as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. Since that time IFAD has focused exclusively on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, raise productivity and incomes and improve the quality of their lives. The Fund had designed and implemented project in very different natural, socio-economic and cultural environments. Many IFAD-supported programs had been in remote areas, and had targeted some of the poorest and most deprived segments of the rural population. IFAD recognized that vulnerable groups can contribute to economic growth. In addition, its local-level operations in 117 countries and territories kept IFAD in continuous and direct contact with the rural poor (Suliman, 2012).

The effects and impact of IFAD projects is to achieve its ambitious objectives (support improvements in natural resource governance to ensure regulated access to land and water resources in the region for all, improve the access of women and men to livestock markets and strengthen their bargaining position within markets, by rehabilitating market infrastructure and by establishing market information systems and organizing producers' groups and build the capacity of grass-roots organizations to design and implement environmentally sound development initiatives that include women and marginalized social groups. This on-going process allows IFAD to successful rural development and poverty alleviation and to learn important lessons that may incorporate into the design and implementation of future projects and programs. Thus with this in mind IFAD endeavors to perform what national governments and voluntary organizations could not accomplish.

IFAD's main objective is to provide direct funding and mobilize additional resources to finance rural development projects specially aimed at assisting the poorest of the world's people, small farmers, landless poor, artist's fishermen, nomadic herdsman and rural poor women, to increases their food production, raise their income, improve their health, nutrition and educational standards and ensure their well-being on sustainable basis. In brief, IFAD works for the economic and social development of the poor classes. IFAD resources are voluntary contribution from member states replenished periodically. Special contribution from member states, loans, repayment and investment income.

These resources are not fully used for productive purposes or for project specific purposes. This is because considerable amount of this fund goes to assets such as cars, furniture in expensive accounts (Abd Elrhman , 2007).

Butana Integrated Rural Development Project (BIRDP)

The Butana Integrated Rural Development Project (BIRDP) is located in the rectangular area that is bounded by River Atbara from the northeast, River Nile from the Northwest, Blue Nile from the Southwest and Gadaref - Kassala Road from southeast. The area has wide geographical coverage estimated at 65000 km² (IFAD 2012) .

With regard to the concentration of IFAD in Sudan support and established Butana community Integrated Rural Development Project to improve livelihoods and strengthens' resilience in the face of drought, the project targets smallholder pastoralist households in the sand dunes and clay plains of the region, households engaged in irrigated farming, and smallholders who migrate seasonally with their herds. This study is concern with assessment of IFAD project's on rural development services in terms of access to means of production ,infrastructure provided by IFAD to the livelihood of people, and overall well-being of beneficiaries and to explore the benefits of IFAD services and to understand to what extent the beneficiaries satisfied by these services.

Methodology:

The study was depend mainly on primary data that was collected via a structured questionnaire and direct interviewing with respondents. Multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select ten villages as a sample size (State- Locality- Administrative- Villages, and because there were different periods of entering the project in different villages the study adopted (stratified sampling to selected the villages) with each stratum the sampled villages were selected using simple random sampling. And due to the homogeneity of the population in socio-economic activities and social characteristics, 10 villages were selected namely the study respondents were (male and female) were selected from each village according to the total number of population in each village, 400 questionnaires were distributed as the sample size of the population. Secondary data was collected from previous studies, internet, others related literature on the same subject and the different institutional sources. To achieve the research objectives; the data was analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) in terms of descriptive statistical analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE (1) DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

Educational level of the respondents	Frequency	Percent%
Illiterate	240	60.0
Khalwa	56	14.0
Primary	25	6.3
Basic	29	7.3
Intermediate	6	1.5
Secondary	41	10.3
University	3	.8
Total	400	100.0

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (1) shows that 80.3% of the respondents were illiterate with the less educational level, they considered education seems unfit for women with their traditional roles in the home and subsistence economy, early marriage and pregnancy for women exacerbate s educational inequalities. This because most of the respondents were females and traditionally, women's education was of the most

rudimentary kind, frequently provided by khalwa, or religious school, in which Quranic studies were taught to prepare women morally. Such level of education may facilitate the respondents' participation in the IFAD-CBARDP.

TABLE (2) DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

respondent participation in project activities	Frequency	Percent%
one activity	102	25.5
two activities	125	31.3
more than two activities	173	43.3
Total	400	100.0

Source: field survey (2019)

From table (2), it was observed that 43.3% of the respondents participate in more than two activities this indicates the willingness of the participants to multiply activities involvement in various activities of the programme could generate more income thereby improving the livelihood of the respondents. The implication of this result is that the participants were yet to have the full benefit of the project. However, the benefit might increase as more facets of the project are executed since the project is ongoing

TABLE (3) DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY TYPE OF FINANCED ACTIVITIES:

Financed activities	Frequency	Percent%
Agricultural	39	9.8
Animal production	49	12.3
Hand craft	75	18.5
Donkey car	64	16
Other	173	43

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (3) shows that 18.8% of the respondents got finance for small industries and handicrafts it could be explained by their desire to diversify sources of income. As evident from the results, the programme had various packages of employment opportunities that engaged the respondents in relevant areas of specialization. The involvement of the respondents in various activities of the programme could generate more in

TABLE (4) DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY CONTRIBUTION OF FINANCING ON FAMILY AFFAIRS:

Family affairs contribution	Frequency	Percent%
The health	129	32.3
The education	36	9
The improving production	70	17.5
The nutrition and living	179	44
The social activities	29	7.3

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (4) reveals most of the respondents (44%) said that the profit of their financing contributes in nutrition and living, 32% of them said the profit contribute to their family healthcare. 17.5% said the profit contribute to the improving of farm production. 9% of them said the profit contribute to their kids education, and only 7.3% of them said the profit contribute to their social activities. This result confirms that the project services and programmes met the basic needs of the households and strongly lead to improve the quality of life of households come thereby improving the livelihood of the respondents.

TABLE (5) DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY TYPE OF FUEL IS USED COOKING BEFORE AND AFTER THEIR PARTICIPATION:

Type of fuel used in cooking before and after their participation	Before		After	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent%
Wood	94	23.5	22	5.5
Coal	245	61.3	13	3.3
Gas	61	15.3	365	91.3
Total	400	100.0	400	100.0

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (5) shows that more than half of the respondents (61.3 %) to used coal for cooking before they participate in the project, 23.5% of the respondents they used wood, and 15.3% of the respondent said they used gas. While after participating in the project the respondents increasingly used cooking by gas, represented by 91.3%. Gas is largely subsidized in many countries, it has moderate or low impacts compared to traditional fuels in many environmental indicators associated with air emissions. This transformation is very clear evidence for the importance of the project and success of finance. At the community level, the project is finalizing a study to assess the alternative energy needs of households to identify practical options to replace traditional wood stoves. Communities will also be trained in the development of non-timber forest products to improve their livelihoods (IFAD, 2018)

TABLE (6) DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER BEFORE AND AFTER THE PROJECT:

Source of drinking water	Before		After	
	Frequency	Percent%	Frequency	Percent%
Surface wells	41	10.3	389	97.3
Waterways	8	2.0	3	.8
Bond	177	44.3	8	2.0
Other	174	43.5	0	0
Total	400	100.0	400	100

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (6) show that 10.3% just of the respondent mentioned that the source of drinking water is surface water before the project while more than 97.3% of the respondent stated that the source of drinking water was surface wells after the project. Therefore, the respondents were satisfied with the water / borehole provided by the programme. Water is a necessity of life is provided by the programme to raise the level of living and minimize scarcity. Thus, the provision of water had brought about an improvement in the water supply which minimizes the cost of water procurement in benefitting communities.

CONCLUSION.

IFAD has been active in Sudan since 1979 it has committed in financing many projects, one of them was BIRDP which has been active in the Gezira State for nearly 10 years with the general objective to improve the living standards of communities through different activities that included community development, natural resources utilization and development, rural financial services and project management and local capacity building. Thus the prime objective of the study was to identify the impact of development activities of Butana in Rural Development Project on household socio-economic status and to see to what extent the impact has been sustained. Based on the findings the study found out that; there was a positive relation between participation and some personal characteristics. There was very significant and effective participation of household in different activities of BIRDP and it has a positive impact which was reflected on their general life and contributed to improving household socio-economic status in the study area. There are still many benefits and impact of the project activities at the household level, villages and communities which have raised the general awareness of the importance of development activities.

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