

Impact of Participation in IFAD -Project on Rural Communities development in Gezira State. Sudan

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Abstract: *The current study was conducted to investigate the impact of local people participation in IFAD-project on Rural Communities in Butana Area East Gezira and Umelgura localities. The study depended 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 respondent participation in the project activities had benefits by training them in adult education, first Aids , midwifery training, food Culture training ,national resources conservation, integrated pest management ,veterinary worker training , 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.*

Introduction

Definition of participation:

The concept of people's participation is not new and cannot be traced to one source (Aurick, 2017). Literature documenting lack of people's participation in development projects began appearing in the 1970s (Perez, 1999) and represented a reflection of a gradual evolution in the paradigm of development. The paradigm shift resulted from the failure of 'top-down' or growth models of development which did not live up to their expectations, and from the realization that approaches to development had to be adapted to local conditions that are shaped by different, socio-cultural, economic and political realities that favor greater individual and social control over project and programme interventions (Brett, 2003).

Participation is "a process in which the target group members take an active part in planning and decision making, implementation and evaluation" which leads to a sense of control over resources and responsibility for the future (Kenny, 1997).

Participation in the development context is a process through which all members of a community or organization are involved in and have influence on decisions related to development activities that will affect them. That implies the development projects will address those community or group needs on which members have chosen to focus, and that all phases of the development process will be characterized by active involvement of community or organization members.

The diversity mentioned above is evident by the sheer number of definitions of participation that have been proposed. The FAO Informal Working Group on Participatory Approaches and Methods gives its own definition of participation in development as:

A process of equitable and active involvement of all stakeholders in the formulation of development policies and strategies and in the analysis, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development activities. To allow for a more equitable development process, disadvantaged stakeholders need to be empowered to increase their level of knowledge, influence and control over their own livelihoods, including development initiatives affecting them.

Socioeconomic Status and Participation

People's participation is greatly determined by the socio-economic factors in which they are bound to live and adjust. The socially poor, disadvantaged community and minorities are seldom asked for participation in government run program/ projects. This is shaped by the prevailing social norms and cultures in a society. As social theory implies, the social determinants for participation are gender, economic status, level of education, person's influence in the society. Actually socio-economic factors play significant role in shaping both participation and participatory outcomes (Mohammad, 2010).

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 and do 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). Thus IFAD is an attempt by international community to positively participate in development and combat hunger and rural poverty .IFAD assistance is in the form of loans and grants as part of IFAD regular programs (IFAD, 2002).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 herdsmen 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 2018).

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 (Elshekh ali -Abu gauy- Abu jeera- As-sayal elmerafab –hran -Awlad gmaah - eltriah –Elsaeldia – Omjzair- Elkahly zidan) the participant respondents (female and male) 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 Statistic a Package of Social Science (SPSS) in terms of descriptive statistical analysis (frequencies, percentages) .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table (1): DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activities	Frequency	Percent%
Adult education	159	39.8
First Aids	166	41.5
Midwifery training	4	1
Food culture training	169	42.3
National resources conservation	121	30.3
Integrated pest management	74	18.5
Veterinary worker training	65	16.3
Rural financial (bank – Sandog)	175	43.8

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (1) shows that 39.8%. Of the respondents were participated in adult education training. 41.5% of them participated in first aid training. 1% of them have participated in midwifery training. 42.5% of them have participated in food culture activities, 30.3% of them participated in national resources conservation, 18.5% them participated in integrated pest management training. 16.3% of them participated in veterinary worker training and 43.8% of them participated in rural financial (Bank - Sandog).). There was a high level of participation in the different training programmes but most of the respondents were participated in rural finances due to their motivations to improve their family income and this can highlight their potential acceptance of rural finance services. The low-level percentage of participation in some projects activities may be attributed to the customs and traditions of the local communities.

Table (2): DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY REASONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES:

Participations Reasons	Frequency	Percent%
Life and religious knowledge	175	43.8
Basic nursing skills	161	40.3
Mothers health	16	4
Nutrition skills	173	43.3
Conservation kills	112	28.4
Skills of integrated pest management	83	20.8
Skills of animal production	53	13.3
Skills and veterinary knowledge	61	15.3

Source: field survey (2019)

The result presented in table (2) revealed that 43% of the respondents refer the reason behind participation is to acquire life and religious knowledge, De Blij (2009) argues that for the faithful, religion is the key to identity, and such identity is part of the impress of place, religion and place are strongly coupled. and 40.3% of the respondents participate in nursing skills to acquire first aids, while 43.3% of respondents participate in nutrition skills, these is above activities were more likely preferred by respondents more than other activities. Rural development involves the building of human life, which includes social, cultural, religious, political and economic conditions. 13.3% of the respondents the reason was skills in animal production and 15.3 % of them the reason was veterinary knowledge. Training programs for capacity building in issues related to poultry husbandry practices and marketing is crucial, with the objectives of improving the management related problems and effectively improve upon their household poultry production (Malik, 2006). There is a need for extension, and training for rural women and development of paravet which would be useful in controlling losses and improving productivity and profit (Malik, 2012).

Table (3): DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY LEVEL OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT PROGRAMME:

level of participation in project programme	Frequency	Percent%
Very good	257	64.3
Good	110	27.5
Medium	27	6.8
Weak	6	1.5
Total	400	100.0

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (3) rated that more than half of the respondents (64.3 %) participated very good in development activities this value indicates higher level of participation. While 27.5% of them their level of participation was good, 6.8% of them their level of participation was medium, and 1.5% of them their level of participation was weak. However it is important to note that community participation can provide different benefits, for beneficiaries of a project, the communities, and organizations and to the professionals. While the citizens may perceive it in terms of their overall empowerment, the professionals may look only at the advantages it offers to their project success. Lucky (2016) said that, the success of community development programmes has been found to be extensive influences by people's ownership and participation.

Table (4): DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY BENEFITS FROM PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY AFFAIRS:

Benefits from participation	Frequency	%
Improving the food and nutrition	330	82.5
Food insurance	145	36.3
Education for family members	136	34
Health and disease prevention	301	75.3
Good home environment and family atmosphere	266	66.5
Improving and increased the household income	135	33.8
Purchase of home furniture	102	25.5
Improvement and change of building style	78	19.5

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (4) shows all the respondents said that they gained benefits from participation in the programme activities. This confirms that all the activities led to improving the rural life of project beneficiaries. The specific objectives of the project include establishing a coherent and cost-effective governance framework that ensures regulated access to land and water resources of the Butana, improving the access and bargaining position of women and men in the marketing of livestock, and developing the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in economically and environmentally sound, socially and gender-equitable development initiatives (IFAD, 2018)

Table (5): DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION FOR COMMUNITY:

Impact and benefits for community	Frequency	%
Providing of schools	38	9.5
Enrolment in education increased	100	25
The interest in girls education has increased	87	21.8
Midwifery services are available in the village	184	46
The maternal mortality rate was reduced	210	52.5
Provides animal treatment services in the village	387	96.8
Low of mortality animal	387	96.8
Provides home nursing services	392	98.2
Provide good water source	377	94.3
Provides development house	35	8.8
Increase public awareness	339	84.8
Reduced rat of migration	14	3.5
Additional job wear available in the village-for finance	94	23.5
Social cohesion teamwork	325	81.3

Source: field survey (2019)

Table (5) shows that all the respondents said that the impact of the activities in the community is the provision of many social services for these communities. There was strong evidence among the respondents the project activities have benefits and has impacts which reflected on their general life, this useful result is considered as a step towards sustainability. Also this confirms that the activities were very successful and it achieved a degree of sustainability through providing different quantity of services in those communities. When communities are involved in project initiation and implementation, there is the assurance of sustainability subject to some conditions unlike when they have no idea about the project or when it is imposed on them. There ought to be genuine demand by a community or groups within it for all projects whether aided or non-aided by the government or any international agency. This eliminates the tendency to abandon the projects when they are half-way completed and sustains the interest of communities or groups within them in maintenance and protection of those projects. The project is not seen on a stranger. For projects to be sustainable there must be community participation. This is because through participation the community develops skills for collective action, maintenance and sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The study to assess impact the participation by IFAD-project on Rural Communities in Butana Area East Gezira and Umelgura Locality Gezira State Sudan the study has addressed the question of what the respondents benefits of participation from the service the project It is concluded that the majority of the respondents(64.3 %) participated very good in development activities this value indicates higher level of participation the respondents said that they gained benefits from participation in the programme activities. all the respondents said that the impact of the activities in the community is the provision of many social services for their communities, This confirms that all the activities led to improving the rural life of project beneficiaries. which indicate the high participations from the women and men in decision making in the project.

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