



Role of non-government organizations

Keshab Bahadur Bist

Assistant Professor

Kanchan Vidhya Mandir Samudayik College

bkeshabbahadur@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the utility and effectiveness of NGOs to change the economic level of rural people in Nepal. NGOs' major rural development programs in Nepal are agricultural, health and human resource development. The objective of this study is first to analyze the role of NGOs in the sustainable development of agriculture second one is to find out how the NGOs are promoting awareness programs and upgrading infrastructural facilities. For this study, the TROSA project of RUDES Baitadi has been selected, it is supported by OXFAM (Nepal). For a detailed study, relevant information was collected by personal visit, and field survey. The overall analysis of this study reveals that NGOs are playing a very important role to change the living standard of farmers through technical and economic support.

Keywords: NGOs, Rural development, Agriculture, Economic improvement, Health programs, Infrastructure development, Sustainable development

Introduction

The economy of Nepal largely depends on agriculture. It remains Nepal's principal economic activity, employing about 65% of the population and providing 31% GDP. Cereals are the main production, and most farmers have their land, but the holding size of the land is small. Therefore, modern production technologies are not used. The traditional way of production makes this sector less productive and less profitable. Although various policies and programs are made to alleviate poverty, it is still not sufficient to alleviate poverty.

David Saddon(1987) wrote:

"Poverty in Nepal is largely the manifestation of poor agricultural situation

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which itself is an immediate consequence of the prevailing structure of economic and political relation."

Poverty is the main challenge for the Nepalese economy, but there are various causes of such conditions. Political stability, appropriate policies, and proper infrastructure as to implement the policies needed to increase the growth rate so that poverty can be reduced, Rajendra Pandit (2005) has given his ideas as

"Low-income countries are in a big temptation to find the best policy measures and programs for poverty reduction; therefore low-income countries are always desperate to achieve a high level of economic growth."

Agriculture is the backbone of the Nepalese economy, and it is the primary sector for economic planning in Nepal. Every economic planning focuses on agricultural reform and development, but efforts are not much effective to change the basic condition of this sector. Nepal has recently transitioned from a unitary system of government to a federal system. It is a new provision or can be said a new experiment to develop the nation. There are three levels of government: central, provincial and local government. Provincial and local governments have a clear mandate on the activities that are to be carried out by them, but the provincial and local governments are facing various problems. One of them is resource scarcity, which makes it hard cake for them to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. The role of development partners and NGOs will be important to solve problems in such conditions.

Mostshari Ali (2005) introduces NGOs as,

The term NGO or non-government organization came into use in 1945 because of the need for the UN to differentiate in its charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies those for international private organizations at the UN, virtually all types of private bodies can be recognized as NGO. They only have to be e independent from government control, not seeking to challenge government either as a political party for by a narrow focus on human rights, non-profit making, and non-criminal.

The social welfare council is a government office where NGOs are registered before their activities in Nepal. In Nepal, over 47000 induces are registered with the council. Most of them are inactive, and some of the NGOs are funded by INGOs. INGOs have

been funding local NGOs to health, agriculture, poverty alleviation and good governance programs. Despite thousands of NGOs and a huge amount of foreign aid, Nepal is counted among the poor countries.

Literature Review

There are various research and studies carried out by scholars in agricultural development and the role of NGOs as a government development partner for agricultural, rural development. When we study about agricultural sector of least developed countries, at first it draws a picture of a rural and poor farmer who works throughout the year. Still, the incentive goes to him less than his productivity. It produces the scarcity of various inputs and services to farmers. Liladhar Tiwari (2010) concludes his research as,

Most of the poor Nepalese people live in rural areas. Thus, poverty is one of the major characteristics of the rural part of Nepal. Most of the Nepalese poor are peasants whose one of the main means of support is agricultural products. The problem of poverty arises due to the small landholding, low productivity, lack of more productive seeds, lack of market facilities, lack of rural credit, and lack of off-farm opportunities.

Various research activities and study proved a wide gap between commodities and services needed to farmers for appropriate use of the whole agricultural sector and actual availability of resources. Liberalization and globalization have made the world very small, and technology and knowledge have become a universal wealth due to the fact NGOs and INGOs are playing a vital role in the agricultural revolution too. Regarding the role of NGOs and INGOs, D. Gauchan (2003) states:

In recent years with liberal economic policies, the role of the private sector and other non-state actors such as cooperatives, producers groups, community-based organizations (CBOs), and non-government organizations (NGOs) are increasingly emerging as key providers of inputs, seeds, exotic varieties, and the technical services.

There is a need for different types of services to be provided to farmers. Government alone cannot provide all services to needy farmers; therefore, the role of development

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partners like NGOs and CBOs becomes important. Enyioke, Newman C. (2012) expressed the importance of NGOs as,

The essence of the non-government organization remains; to provide basic services to those who need them. Many NGOs have demonstrated an ability to reach poor people, work in inaccessible areas, innovate, or in other ways achieve things better than by official agencies. Many NGOs have close links with poor communities. Some are a membership organization of poor or vulnerable people; others are skilled participatory approach. Their resources are largely additional. They complement the development efforts of others, and they can help to make the development process more accountable, transparent, and participatory. They not only "fill in the gaps," but they also act as a response to failures in public and private sectors in providing basic services.

Only government of least developed countries is insufficient to support people by their resources. NGOs can play a vital role in mobilizing economic sources of rural people, self-help, self-sustainable development programs, and educating people for better use of resources to modernize agricultural production methods to commercialize their productions.

Statement of problem

Nepal is an agricultural country, and 65% of the population is involved in the agricultural sector for their livelihood. It provides 31% of GDP. In Nepal traditional way of production is adopted by farmers to produce agricultural products. Cereals, mainly paddy, wheat, and maize, are the principal productions of this sector. There is a broad scope of modernization of production patterns in agriculture and commercialization of agricultural products. Most of the farmers are poor. The root cause of poverty is farmers cannot get an appropriate price for their productions. The government of Nepal keeps the agricultural sector on first priority. The government keeps agriculture sector plan in each five-year plan, but it is not significant change in the actual condition of farmers due to various reasons. The relevancy of non-government organizations has become more important to promote economic activities related to the farmer. If there is a strong government that can deliver every service and requirement of people properly, the role of

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NGOs may not be significant. In developing countries, there are fewer resources, less capacity, and inefficient or insufficient involvement of government in the public interest. It makes an environment to flourish NGOs. Regarding constant theme of it, Karki R. (2016) views on the rise of NGOs as:

The alternative development paradigm that supports people-centered activities, including empowerment, right, and participation and views the government as inefficient and unable to deliver the requisite services. Instead, their services can be efficiently delivered as project or empowerment and rights issues advocated by NGOs.

Following research questions have been formulated:

- a. Is there any role of NGOs for the sustainable development?
- b. What are the results of infrastructural changes in agriculture?
- c. What is the role of NGOs in living standard of farmer?

The objectives of the study

There are various slogans and causes that the government, NGOs, and CBOs show people to prove their relevancy to society. Most NGOs cannot pass the exam on people's beliefs; therefore, they are dismissed and wiped out from the scenario. The specific objectives of this study are,

- to analyze the role of TROSA for sustainable development of agriculture in the study area.
- to find out the results of infrastructural changes and real impacts on agricultural products.
- to analyze to change in the living standard of farmers in the study area.

Methods and process

Research design:

This study is based on a mixed-method under which Researcher selected an explanatory sequential mixed method. It adopts the qualities of both quantitative and qualitative methods. The research process of the explanatory sequential method is to collect and analyze quantitative data first; then, qualitative data are collected and analyzed to explain

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quantitative data. This method is used to find out the real picture of the study because the quantitative method cannot illustrate the humanitarian aspects of the study.

Research site:

The research site of this study is the Dashrath Chand municipality ward numbers 6 and 10, where recognized NGO Rural development and environment management society (RUDES) is working. RUDES has implemented TROSA project. The objective of this NGO to implement the TROSA project is; to increase people's livelihood, modernize agricultural production, implement the government policies in favor of people, explore the resources in favor of people, and build the capacity and efficiency of people. This NGO has been selected for study. The population of the research area is 5776. The study area is aligned with the boundary of India, which is separated by the Mahakali river. Shera and Teerkhadani are the areas where research has been centralized.

Process and sample

The total number of farmers in the study area is 5200. Out of them, 120 farmers are members of the TROSA project, who represent 120 families of farmers. Only women farmers are member of TROSA. There RUDES, Baitadi has provided various facilities and training under TROSA. Water lift machines are operated in various places, making unirrigated barren land very useful and productive for them. The random sampling method is used to collect information from the study site. The sample size of the study is 60, and it is divided into two categories. Thirty samples are taken from the area where RUDES is working, and 30 samples are taken out of that area. The questionnaire is a set of 13 questions. Two experienced enumerators are used to collect information, and ten farmers are selected randomly for interviews. Interviews were taken by researcher. The economic differences were compared in both areas to find out effectiveness of NGO.

Research hypothesis

The hypothesis of this study is to reach a particular conclusion about the problem is, The NGOs are playing a significant role in developing the agricultural sector. The NGOs are not alternatives but the additional factor for government to modernize and commercialize the farm sector to provide a supportive incentive for farmers.

Results and discussions

This study organized the survey on those two different areas where the project has been

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working and another area is where project is not launched. Same questions are asked to both areas. Oral interviews show meaningful differences between both areas. People get irrigation facility for their unirrigated field in project area. Due to infrastructural development, the method of agriculture has been changed. People get not only irrigation facility, but they get technological support and education also by TROSA. They know better technology to farm, store and sell. People out of the project area don't have such access of irrigation, knowledge of production process and postproduction activities. Two enumerators are used to collect primary data from both areas. Some numerical values are found as following:

Table: 1 - Occupational involvement of farmers

S.N.	Occupation	in percent	
		project area	out of project area
1	Agriculture	100	100
2	Trade	6.66	-
3	Service	47.33	19.9
4	Other	-	6.6

Source: Survey

All of the samples of this study are farmers, but survey shows 6.66% people were found involved in trade, 47.33% people were service holders as well as farmers in project area. Out of project area, 26.5% farmers were found involving in other economic activities. It shows that most of farmers were doing some other economic activities because only agriculture couldn't provide sufficient income to them. Average land holding in study area is 8.5 ropani. Percentage of farmers involved in different agricultural activities and purpose of production is presented in the table:

Table: 2 - Main products and percentage of farmers involvement

S.N.	Products	in percent	
		project area	out of project area
1	Cereals	100	88.88
2	Vegetable	100	19.91
3	Fruits	33.33	13.16
4	Others	-	-

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Source: Survey

Table shows that farmer of both areas is involved in production of all types. There is not any specialization of production. It is traditional way of Agro activity but in project area more farmers were involved in vegetable and fruit production. It is more profitable. In project area all farmers are involved in Cereals and vegetables production where 33.33% farmers also produce fruits. Out of project area, 88.88% are producing Cereals, 19.9% vegetable and 13.16% fruits. Oral interview found that all of these farmers keep livestock also. According to the survey 100% farmers produce for consumption and they involve in selling also. Out of project area only 33% people are able to sell their products and 67% people are only to consume. Project areas hundred percent of farmers use hybrid seeds for vegetable and cereal production but in out of project area only 6.66% people use hybrid rest of them use local breed. In both areas all of the farmers use organic fertilizers. It is because there is no easy access to chemical fertilizers and every farmer has livestock. farmers are asked how much they invest for production. Most of farmers from out of project area cannot answer but in project area most of the people answered.

In project area average monthly cost is rupees 4560 they do not include their own labor cost following table shows how much quantity farmers sell their products:

Table: 3 - Selling percent of product

S.N.	Percentage of output sold	percentage of farmers	
		project area	out of project area
1	25	13.33	6.6
2	50	16.6	6.6
3	75	56.6	13.3
4	above 75	13.33	-

Source: Survey

Study shows that in project area people sell more percentage of their product 100% of the farmers sell their product. Their average of sold quantity is 70% in project area but in out of project area, only 27.5% people sell their products. In project area, 13.3% farmers selling, 25% of their output and 16.6%, 56.6, 13.3 percent farmers are selling respectively, 50%, 75% and above 75% out of their products. But out of project area

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6.6% farmers selling 25% of their total production. Other 6.6% and 13.3% sell 50% and 75% output respectively. 72.5% people cannot sell any product because of less quantity of production. Average earning from Agricultural Products in project area and out of project area is compared in following:

Table: 4 - Earning of farmers

S.N.	income in Rs.	percentage of farmer	
		project area	out of project area
1	10,000	-	6.6%
2	15,000	13.3%	6.6%
3	20,000	39.3%	6.6%
4	more than 20,000	47.4%	6.6%

Source: Survey

Above table shows, in project area 13.3% people have 15,000 per month income, 39.3% have 20,000 per month and 47.4% people have more than 20,000 per month income. But out of project area people cannot earn in such way. 6.6% people have 10,000 per month income, other 6.6% have 15,000 and 6.6% at 20,000 and 6.6% have more than 20,000. Other people do not answer this question. When researcher asked them, they answered that they earned less than 10,000. It means that 73.6% people can earn less than 10,000 per month in non project area. This is their family income.

Above analysis shows a good effort of small investment and motivation of NGOs. The effective role of INGOs and NGOs can change the life of farmers. Oral interviews by researcher find out some other facts also. According to some respondents in project area, "they are doing their respectful job." In past they did the work as daily wage labors due to nearness of Indian markets. Out of project area, even now, the poor condition of farmers in every sector has been found. Farmers who are member of TROSA are found more aware, high living standards than out of project area's farmers. In past, farmers of project area had to borrow to celebrate festivals but now they are economically independent.

Conclusion

Analysis shows that appropriate Infrastructures provided to farmers, necessary knowledge and technical assistance given to farmers may change the agricultural pattern

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and life of rural people. In the past, people were doing farming with traditional way and they produced what their forefathers produced. The remarkable change has been found in production pattern. The production pattern is not only changed but thinking of farmers has also been changed. They feel that agricultural sector is profitable as business trade and industry. Agricultural sector is an important sector. It can change the whole economic scene of Nepal. If all of the efforts of Government and non-government sector concentrated to modernize and commercialize this sector, it will increase GDP of the nation. Honest efforts are needed to educate farmers technically. Farmers do hard work, but they don't know how to get more production and incentives. NGO's may play a vital role to improve the conditions. Time has come to motivate NGO's to make their plans to eradicate the weaknesses of productive sector. NGO's have wide access among people they work as the part of society therefore they should support Government and non-government sector should help them to meet the goals. The study shows that small effort of a NGO who have no very much budget has changed to the living standard and level of income of thousands of people.

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