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COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS OF WATER USERS AND FACTORS CONTRIBUTING FOR FUNCTIONALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN SRI LANKA

Dimuthu Daluwatte D., Sivakumar S S.,

Author Dimuthu Daluwatte D is currently pursuing MPhil degree programme in Water Engineering in University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka,

Co-Author S S Sivakumar Department of Civil Engineering, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. E-mail: sssivakumar@eng.jfn.ac.lk

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ABSTRACT

As sixth goal in SGDs, of ensure safe drinking water for all, Community Based Water Projects with CBOs are functioning a major role of providing safe drinking water to many parts of the world. Approach with Community Ownership, organizational structure and management and administrative framework, financial factors, technological factors, Institutional framework, community participation and engagement, legal entity and satisfactory of the community etc.. are contributing in different levels to function water CBOs well while achieving sustainability. Further these factors will contribute in different ways for sustainability and different levels for well-functioning and up to the contextual factors of different communities. Study of different factors above mentioned, the levels and the way it will be affected will study in this research taking step to form a new method to assess Community Based Water Societies in their functionality and sustainability through studying different community based water societies in Sri Lanka.

1. INTRODUCTION

Safe drinking water for all is the sixth goal in Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. In rural areas of many countries, community based water projects are in place as a strategy of reducing cost for safe drinking water supply, while increasing the community engagement for safe drinking water supply. Gender, peace building, protection, disability, community development and engagement are the cross cutting achievements in most of the societies. There are different factors contribute to the functionality of these CBOs to drive it in to sustainability. As an organization functioning for an specific task, there are specific measurements to analyses, the functionality and sustainability of the particular organization. As a result of beneficiaries organizing both men and women equally participated for leadership roles in the Community Based Water projects in Anuradhapura district. (Ministry of Finance & Planning in Sri Lanka, 2014)

Further this study was done to measure sustainability and the reasons for sustainability, is revealed that the projects which were employed demand - responsive approach was highly sustainable. Some projects were failed due to the lack or lower level participation in each decision making and monitoring processes. (Kähköne 1999)

For the performance of Community Based Water Projects, Social Homogeneity of water users (Watson, Jagannathan, Gelting and Beteta ,1997), Operational rules of the society (Sara and Katz ,1998); Isham and Kähkönen,1998), Prior organization of users (Narayan, 1995), Participation of users in other community groups (Isham and Kähkönen,1998), Coordination with government (Sara and Katz ,1998; Isham and Kähkönen,1998), Legal recognition of water user group (Watson, Jagannathan, Gelting, and Beteta, 1997), Skills and knowledge of users (Rondinelli, 1991; Sara and Katz, 1998; Isham and Kähkönen, 1998) and Appropriate technology and access to spare parts (Rondinelli, 1991), are main factors.

In the project of Community Based Water Projects started in Northern and Eastern provinces by National Water Supply and Drainage Board with the support of AUS AID, shows success in community mobilization and community leadership in development. (I.V.W.Ediriweera 2016) Further this study revealed the point of social harmony and transforming technology with outsourcing contracts. As same as women leadership came out and they compel to cultivate food stuffs in their home gardens improving health status of their families.

Further in Sri Lanka there is other Community Based Water projects constructed using supply responsive approach was failed. Especially these projects are implemented with the full support of different NGOs and government. (H.K.S. Shanthasiri 2004)

As a disadvantage mentioned here is maintaining water quality due to miscellaneous reasons. Previous practices of using non- chlorinated water and difficult situation to change the mind sets are the main reasons for this situation. (H.K.S. Shanthasiri 2004)

2. METHODOLOGY

This method is developed to assess the functionality and sustainability of community based water projects referring different tools and indexes used in different countries and different organizations in the world. As same as, to contextualize this method to the Sri Lankan context, different field studies were done through Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with different Community Based Water Societies in Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Kandy and Matale districts.

2.1 Factors Considered to Develop the Tool

In Sri Lanka, there are number of community based water societies and most of them are properly functioning, while some of them are not functioning properly. There are miscellaneous motives in approach and functional and service providing features which are affected for wellness of functioning of these societies.

2.2 Community Ownership

Approach with Community Ownership is the main aspect of the origin of well-functioning in a CBO. In Sri Lanka, there are some community based water projects constructed by different organizations using fully of organizational funding were failed due to lack of community ownership. In the other hand, these organizations become in to an institute which is contributed for unnecessary thing to the particular community. Further it is better to conduct a need assessment prior to implement a project, for well functionality and sustainability. There are many community based water projects, which are success due to addressing the need of community with community ownership.

2.3 Institutional Framework

This is another major factor, which is contribute for well-functionality of Water CBOs. Always these CBOs should link with a government institution. In Sri Lanka, Local governments and National Community Water Supply Department is playing a major role in providing institutional framework for Water CBOs. With this institutional framework, close monitoring mechanism will be provided while strengthening foundation for well functionality and sustainability. Limited number of staff and limited facilities for particular staff are the major challenge in Sri Lanka to address the all community based water societies for well functionality. Through legal empowerment of these CBOs, there is a potential to ensure better functionality than now.

2.4 Organization Structure and Management Framework

OSFM is playing a considerable role for well-functioning of community based water societies providing firm process for functionality. Through CBO level strong leadership can ensure good management of water resources and finance resources as well. Proper internal monitoring and maintenance mechanism also will be created in particular CBOs if there is a strong leadership.

2.5 Community Participation and Engagement

This is also the other factor to indicate the functionality and sustainability. There are some CBOs which are functioning with one or two persons leadership and some CBOs are lack of community participation and this level of participation and engagement performs different level in functioning and sustainability.

2.6 Legal Entity

Legal entity is essential in Community level water management up to the social context of Sri Lanka like countries. With legal acceptance make easy to create centralized governance in particular CBO. With that, CBOs are having power to avoided misuses and destructions.

2.7 Financial Factors and Financial Health

This has impact in considerable level for continuous functioning and sustainability of the water CBO. If the CBO loose it's financial strength, it will be the main point of collapsing organizational functionality.

Better financial health management will be done up to the leadership in particular CBO. While having good monitoring for finance, CBO leadership and state sector involvement will play a considerable role of proper finance management.

In many parts of the Sri Lanka, can see failed CBOs due to poor maintenance, as a result of lack of finance strength. Finally these CBOs are looking at organizations for their maintenance or collapse.

2.8 Technological Capacity

The other important factor for the continuous functioning of the water CBO is the technical capability. In Sri Lanka, there are many experiences of collapsing water CBOs due to lack of technological capacity. In many parts of the country, can observe, if there is a maintenance need, they do not do it due to lack of technological capacity and finally it will drive in to the way of collapse of the particular CBO.

2.9 Community Level Satisfaction

The client satisfaction is another factor contribute to the well function and sustainability of the water CBOs. If the CBO unable to provide qualitatively and quantitative enough service, it will be the point of losing the satisfaction of community and reducing community participation, as the origin of functionality collapse.

3. CONCLUSIONS

According to the findings, there was a considerable quality loss in the hand of nutritionally and in the other hand economically, due to miscellaneous handling practices of fish. Here described regarding only a one fisheries harbour and as a world, there is a considerable quality loss and economic loss. Rectification actions through further research might make solution to avoid that damage increasing food security saving valuable protein source. Factors discussed in here are strongly affected to the functionality and sustainability of water CBOs. Further these factors are interrelated and depended one another. As mentioned above, finance and technological capacities are interrelated factors for good maintenance and proper functionality.

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