

Benefits of Community Based Organizations for community development

Arshad Ali and Ali Khan

Disaster Management,
National University of Sciences and Technology,
Islamabad, Pakistan

Copyright © 2014 ISSR Journals. This is an open access article distributed under the ***Creative Commons Attribution License***, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ABSTRACT: The research is based on comparative study which evaluates performance of various Community Based Organizations in different localities of Nowshera Kalan (Pakistan) after 2010 floods which devastated the whole region, with the aim to find relationship between Community Based Organizations and community development. After 2010 floods, people in Nowshera Kalan were facing too many problems for removing mud, dead animals and repair and cleaning of houses. Many national and international nongovernmental organizations intervened to help the affected people but they were unable to contact any elder or representative from each locality. These nongovernmental organizations had encouraged these community based organizations for each locality and then provided them financial support and resources for restoration and reconstruction of lifelines and livelihoods. For this research, progress reports of Various Community Based Organizations in the study area were studied who worked in different areas like education, public health, WATSAN (Water and sanitation), public awareness, sustainable livelihood and social welfare of the community. The study found that there is strong relationship between Community Based Organizations and community development. Educating and Encouraging local population about the importance of community based organizations and its role in problem solving of a particular community is of utmost importance. The study highlights visible changes among the two communities having and lacking these organizations. They can play vital role in community development if funds are provided and enhanced their capacities and resource base.

KEYWORDS: Livelihood, Impact, Water and sanitation, healthcare, community development.

1 INTRODUCTION

Community based organizations (CBOs) are represented with different names in different regions like community development associations, societies, welfare organizations, neighborhood councils and united community [1]. People working in the same environment irrespective of their creed, culture and religion set up these organizations for collective benefits and wellbeing. These are localized institutions in nature and its membership is based on equality with an aim of socioeconomic welfare of the concerned community [2]. Being non-profit and non-governmental localized institutions, they depend on its members for financial needs for the fulfillment of its responsibilities and do not look towards government for funds [3]. All benefits gained from members' contributions to the associations are shared accordingly with fairness.

In 2010 Pakistan floods, Nowshera Kalan in District Nowshera was completely submerged in flood water and severely devastated. To meet challenges offered by flood, people in different localities formed community based organizations (CBOs) to overcome different challenges.

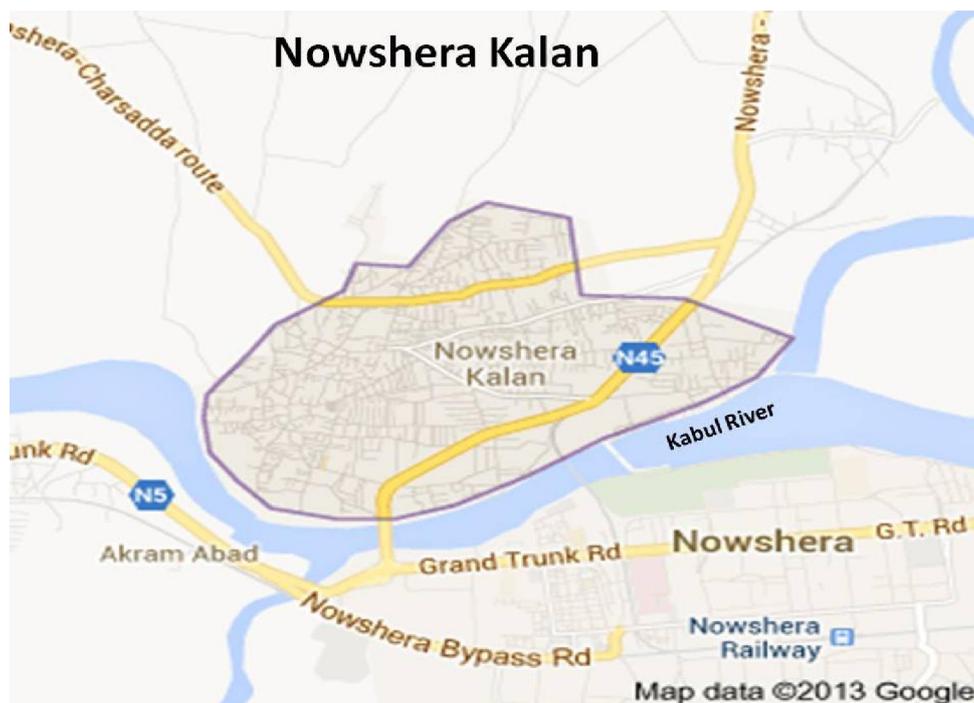


Fig. 1. Nowshera Kalan, District Nowshera, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Pakistan

The objective of this study is to find the relationship between existence of CBOs and community development and to compare the changes in two areas i.e one with having CBOs (Nowshera Kalan) and the other where no CBOs were formed (Aman Garh).

2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development is the planned evolution of economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects of community well-being [4]. CBOs' members are considered well-informed and skillful in core areas of community interventions such as development of goals and objectives, problem identification, planning and implementation [5]. Community development can be termed as a change process of improvement and empowerment in the situation of community members in social, economic, physical and environmental respects and to keep its sustenance in future.

3 METHODOLOGY

Being a comparative study, it is based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data has been collected from interaction and interviews of the management of these CBOs and secondary data has been collected from various progress reports of these CBOs and various district departments like education and health. Target areas and population are Nowshera Kalan and Aman Garh in District Nowshera. Then the results obtained from Nowshera Kalan is compared with the data from Aman Garh using bar charts to evolve the effect of CBOs on community development. The time span consists of three years from August 2010 to July 2013.

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Nowshera Kalan consists of different localities as the most populous region of district Nowshera. Almost each locality has formed their CBOs to address different problems facing that particular locality. CBOs working in Nowshera Kalan which are selected for the study, having area of specialization are : Fatima Welfare Foundation has core competencies in mother- child healthcare while Shah Hussaini Welfare society is providing vocational training like carpenter, tailoring and masonry etc to their respective community. Aba Khel Welfare Organization is working in infrastructure and WATSAN. Grana Khor Women Society mission is to educate the most vulnerable and neglected segment of community specially women and children through non formal education system. A Honarmand Nokhaar program provides skill development related training such as farming and handicrafts etc. to enhance capacity and resilience of the community. Khegara Welfare Society is working for

awareness rising, poverty alleviation and disaster risk reduction through certain projects and programs like provision of livelihood support in terms of money and resources and through workshops. Nowkhaar Youth Society has been working since its inception in WATSAN and infrastructure maintenance damaged by the floods.

4.1 BASIC HEALTH FACILITIES

After 2010 floods, different diseases like itching, diarrhea and motion caused havoc in Nowshera Kalan. DHQ Nowshera was not sufficient to tackle the situation. So different

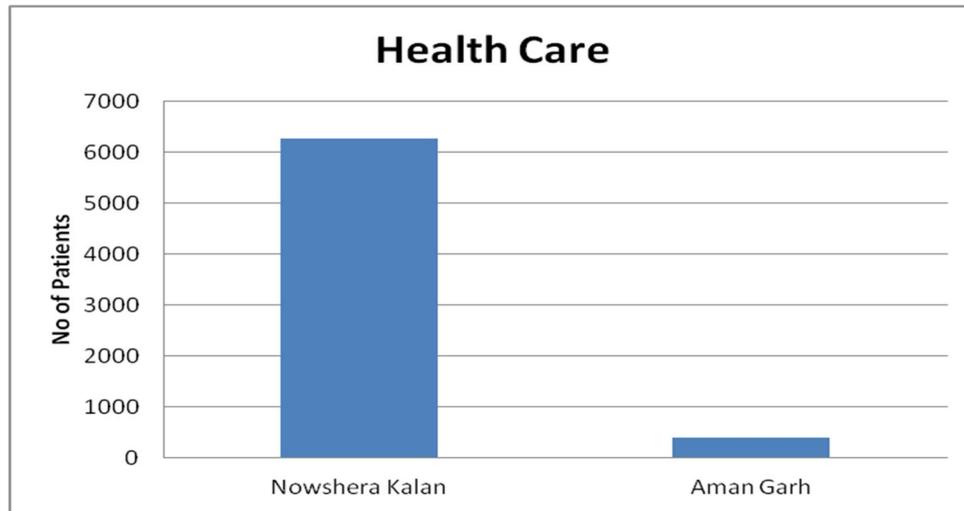


Fig. 2. Health care facilities in Nowshera Kalan and Aman Garh

CBOs working on health were funded by major donors like Medicine Sans Frontier (MSF) and WHO. 6266 patients including children got treatment through these CBOs. In comparison, in Aman Gargh, 394 people got treatment due to non availability of CBOs from District Headquarter (DHQ) Nowshera.

4.2 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Active participation by the donors, CBOs provided skill development related training like tailoring, carpenter, vocational training to women and girls, welding etc. to the youth and bread earners. Total of 2540 participants including female got training in Nowshera Kalan, while in Aman Garh only 287 youths including female got training due to non existence of CBOs.

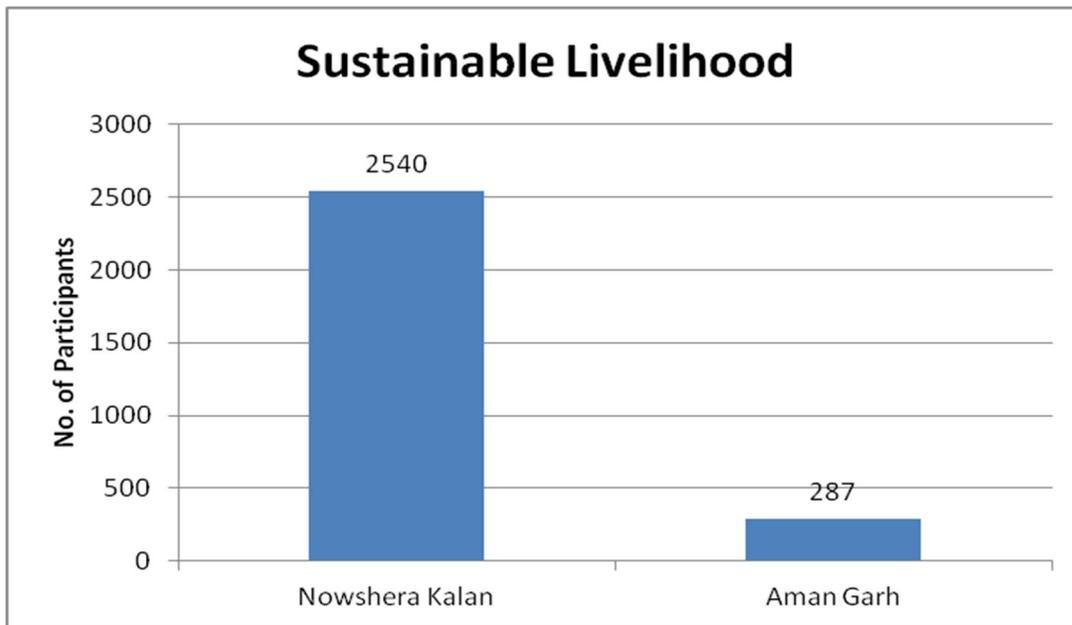


Fig. 3. Livelihood development outcomes in Nowshera Kalan and Aman Garh

4.3 EDUCATION

Data obtained from District Education department reveals that enrolment in primary schools increased in Nowshera Kalan both in male and female. The number of students enrolled during the study period are 3511 while in Aman Garh only 595 kids enrolled in schools. This difference is due to hectic and concerted efforts of CBOs in Nowshera Kalan.

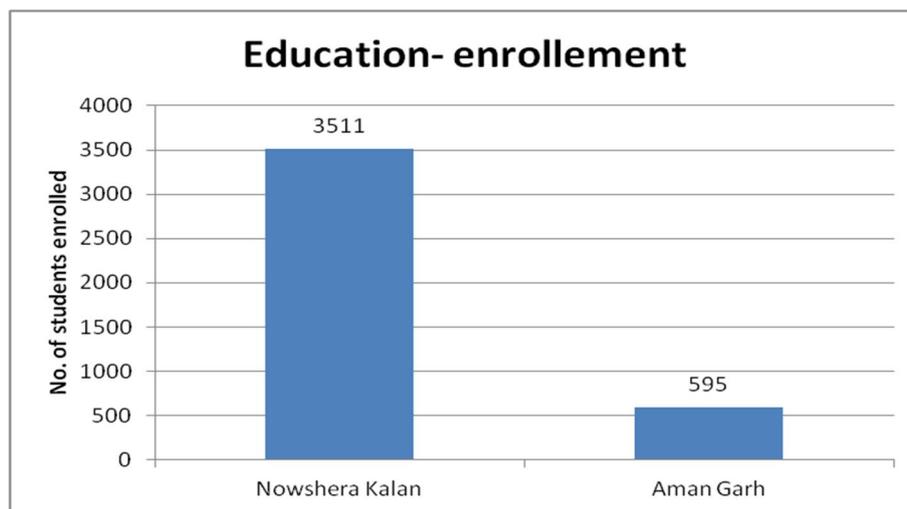


Fig. 4. Enrollment in schools in Nowshera Kalan and Aman Garh

4.4 WATSAN AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CBOs working in infrastructure and WATSAN have performed tremendously with the help of German Development Department (GIZ). Sewerage system of about 2 km have been repaired and some 150 hand pumps have been installed in Nowshera Kalan. While 80 toilets have been constructed. While in Aman Gargh, local NGOs constructed only 11 toilets and 7 hand pumps.

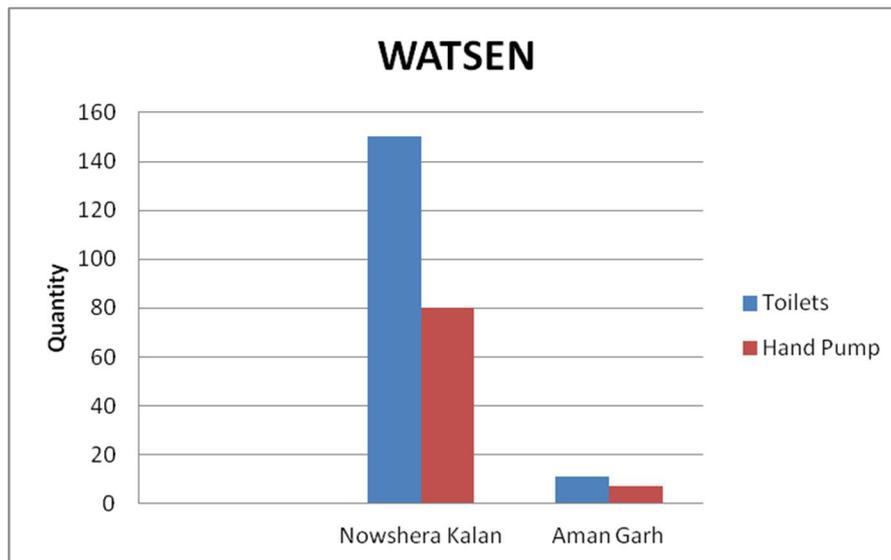


Fig. 5. Comparison of WATSAN provided in Nowshera Kalan and Aman Garh

5 CONCLUSION

From the findings of this study, it is revealed that with the community participation and empowerment and provision of funds and technical knowledge, the community has the capacity to sort out their problems and amicably solve it. The study also revealed that there is strong relationship between community based organizations and community development. It will be only effective when these CBOs are truly representative and do not serve only vested interests of the powerful and influential. These should be provided funds for its projects and recurring costs. By excluding the poor from CBOs and decision making, they will prove to be problem creator rather problem solver.

REFERENCES

- [1] Agbola and Tunde, "Nigeria Voluntary Agencies and their contributions to Housing Development: An Appraisal," *Research for Development*, Vol. 13, No. 1 & 2, pp. 25-41, 1998.
- [2] A. A. Abegunde, "Community Based Organizations in the Sustainable Development of the Rural Area of Atiba L.G.A., Oyo State," *Journal of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners*, Vol. 17, No.1, pp. 1-9, 2004.
- [3] C. Jahn, "Non-profit organizations as Developers of Affordable Housing," *Eastern Shore Family Resources Association (ESFRA), Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre Coastal Communities Network, Nova Scotia, Canada*, 2003.
- [4] F. Frank and A. Smith, *The community development handbook: a tool to build community capacity*, pp. 13, 1999.
- [5] M. Mayberry, P.Daniels, T. H. Akintobi, E. M. Yancey, J.Berry, and N.Clark, "Community-based Organizations' Capacity to Plan, Implement, and Evaluate Success," *Journal of Community Health*, Vol. 33, No.1, pp. 285-292, 2008.