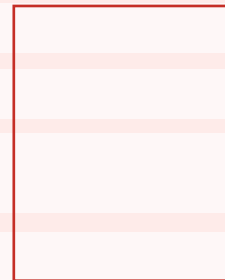


SAWA PGD Fellow : *Eva Manandhar*

Institution : *NEC*

Title : *Study of Effectiveness of Water-Induced Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives by I/NGOs*

Email : *eva_myriad@hotmail.com*



Background

Water-induced disasters are the most common type of disasters in Nepal. Every year the country bears a lot of losses of life, property and infrastructures due to such disasters. Disaster risk has increasingly attracted global concern as they are directly related to development process. For this, a world conference on disaster reduction was held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005 and adopted a Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. As Nepal is one of the signatories of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), various works have been done by government as well as non-government organizations for fulfilling the commitment. Still, the impacts of disasters have not come to a manageable limit. This connotes that the approaches adopted are not up to the mark. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) needs a holistic approach to address the related aspects. This study aims at developing a way of assessing whether or not the international and national non-government organizations (I/NGOs) have been carrying out water-induced disaster risk reduction (WIDRR) works in a holistic approach.

Objective of the Study

The overall objective of the thesis is to develop a systematic method to evaluate the effectiveness of the works of organizations working for WIDRR. The specific objectives are stated hereunder.

Methods and Working Procedure

The tools employed for achieving the objectives are enumerated below.

1. Reconnaissance
2. Field Survey
3. Key-informant interview
4. Identification and selection of Indicators
5. Focus group discussions
6. Secondary data collection
7. Data analysis

Selection of Indicators for EMM

The goal of the study was to develop an Effective Measurement Method (EMM) of the works of organizations, which would be done by blending the composite set of qualitative data and quantitative analysis. The selected indicators were distributed under the following five major priority actions as adopted in Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015).

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Data Analysis

The indicators of the five priority actions of EMM were scored from 0 to 5. Score 0 denoted the worst case and score 5 denoted the best result. Score 0 was given when no initiation of work was done: even the community was not aware of the need of intervention in the particular indicator. Each of the score in general represents the following:

- Score 1: No initiation of works but the community is aware of the need of the work
- Score 2: Some works have been done but with limited commitment
- Score 3: Management and coordination done but decision implementation not in coordination
- Score 4: Works initiated but lack of resources for continuation
- Score 5: Works in satisfactory condition, adequate resources for maintenance and long term use with proper monitoring

The score were then categorized as

- Grade A for score 100 to 80,
- Grade B for score 80-60
- Grade C for score 60-40
- Grade D for score <40

Research findings

FGDs done at the areas selected gave scores to each of the works done for WIDRR by the organizations. The summation of the scores shows that Practical Action got Grade B in all the selected areas (Kirtipur, Pragatinagar and Divyapuri) and Oxfam GB also got Grade B in all the selected areas (Chidiyadaha, Gaidatar and Santapur).

The scores show that Practical Action has focused on strengthening the livelihood aspect of the local people. This connotes to the apprehension of relation of poverty and the effects of disasters by the organization. As Practical Action has worked with a local NGO named Sahamati, there are limited possibilities for the continuous assistance by the NGO to the former beneficiaries even after the project is over.

The scores show that Oxfam GB has focused on institutional strengthening for WIDRR. The working partner of Oxfam GB, i.e. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Rautahat branch runs other programs besides WIDRR, such as WASH, as well as programs for empowering women. Such programs are also conducted by the committees formed for DRR by NRCS. In this way, there is add-on advantage for Oxfam GB for continuing the works for the beneficiaries.

Conclusions

The following conclusions are drawn based on the analysis of the primary and secondary data collected as a part of this study.

- The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of DRR in Nepal are contributing in one way or the other towards achievement of the objectives of Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA). The effectiveness of the interventions of the NGOs varies, depending on the evaluation criteria and the parameter assessed.
- Different independent evaluators have used their own tool of effectiveness assessment; however, a generally agreed effectiveness measurement method (EMM) is lacking in Nepalese context. Based on the response to the proposed EMM from the different stakeholders of the DRR sector in Nepal, the proposed EMM can be used as a basic tool to compare the effectiveness of the activities of different institutes, governmental and non-governmental alike, towards achievement of the objectives of HFA.
- The EMM developed and updated during this study, partly based on the response of the people living in the disaster prone areas of Nepal, has been tested at two different locations in Nepal. The results of the field experience and the response from the local stakeholders also indicate that the EMM is a useful tool to objectively compare the effectiveness of the DRR activities from the local stakeholders' viewpoint.

Recommendations

- The study of the approaches of government organizations should also be done so that various approaches being practiced in the country would be elucidated.
- Addition of indicators for other disasters like earthquake and fire would make EMM matrix more comprehensive. The supplementation of aspects like relevancy of the work in the chosen working area, economic efficiency and long-term impacts could increase the scope of its usage. Modifications of the indicators of the matrix as per the bounds of the working area and approach chosen can also be done to make it usable in small as well as in large scale.
- The results obtained from EMM can be used to improve the working approaches. These can also be used to compare and contrast the approaches and outcomes of different organizations working for DRR. EMM could also be used as an effective way of knowing the perspectives of the community stakeholders about the works of the organizations.

- Government can use the results obtained from EMM to assess the flaws, gaps and strong points in the working approaches for DRR. This will be of great significance in regulating, coordinating and monitoring the works for DRR within and with relevant organizations, and also to avoid duplications and overlapping. The results can also be used to formulate policies for better approach in DRR works.

- Systematic application of EMM developed as an outcome of the study can be used for standardizing the evaluation process of organizations working in DRR sector.