

SOME EMPIRICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE INITIATIVES MADE BY NGOs TOWARDS WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

A study on watershed Development Programmes has been a subject of considerable interest from various disciplines. The lives of marginal communities have radically changed as a result of the introduction of watershed programs in the drought-prone areas. The broad objective of the paper is to analyze the initiatives made by NGOs towards watershed development. 365 sample farmers are selected from Parigi, Doma, Tandur and Kulkacherla manuals of Ranga Reddy district, Telangana state. It is found that NGOs played the role of educator, and facilitator of development. Hence, it is suggested that the state and the related organs must encourage the role of NGOs by being liberal in terms of grants and fewer controls.

Keywords

NGO, Watershed, Organizations, Interdisciplinary Approach, Natural Resources.

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Non-Government Organizations are considered to be the change agents of development. Their development efforts are people-centric and known to be the builders of the nation from the below. A study on watershed Development Programmes has been a subject of considerable interest from various disciplines. The lives of marginal communities have radically changed as a result of the introduction of watershed programs in the drought-prone areas. The implementation and effective management of watershed-development projects are recognized as a strategy for rural development throughout the developing world. Several government and non-government agencies have launched watershed-development projects to tackle the challenges of soil conservation, improving land productivity, and economic upliftment of the rural poor for efficient use of natural resources. Participatory community-driven institutions of integrated watershed management are considered vital for the sustainability of natural resources. The broad objective of the paper is to analyze the initiatives made by NGOs towards watershed development. 365 sample farmers are selected from Parigi, Doma, Tandur and Kulkacherla manuals of Ranga Reddy district, Telangana state. The required data are collected from the sample farmers directly with the help of a structured questionnaire/schedule. The data collected is processed, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented below.

Results and Analysis

Table-1

Initiatives-Domain expertise is shared with local communities

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	259	71.0	71.0
No	106	29.0	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-1 shows that 71 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs shared domain expertise with local communities and 29 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-2

Initiatives-Scientific knowledge is shared with local communities

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	284	77.8	77.8
No	81	22.2	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-2 shows that 77.8 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs shared scientific knowledge with local communities and 22.2 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-3
Initiatives-Imparted training to the primary stakeholders

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	295	80.8	80.8
No	70	19.2	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-3 shows that 80.8 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGO imparted training to the primary stakeholders and 19.2 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-4
Initiatives-Conducted capacity building programs in the required fields

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	268	73.4	73.4
No	97	26.6	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-4 shows that 73.4 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs conducted capacity building programs in the required fields and 26.6 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-5
Initiatives-Presentation of case studies about watershed development

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	314	86.0	86.0
No	51	14.0	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-5 shows that 86 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs presented case studies about watershed development and 14 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-6
Initiatives-Shared the experience of other watershed programs

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	244	66.8	66.8
No	121	33.2	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-6 shows that 66.8 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs shared the experiences of other watershed programs and 33.2 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-7
Initiatives-Shared the knowledge of good practices

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	305	83.6	83.6
No	60	16.4	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-7 shows that 83.6 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs shared the knowledge of good practices and 16.4 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-8
Initiatives-Involvement of local talents and expertise in various phases

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	295	80.8	80.8
No	70	19.2	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-8 shows that 80.8 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs involved local talents and expertise in various phases of watershed and 19.2 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-9

Initiatives-Conducted interdisciplinary research to develop watershed

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	279	76.4	76.4
No	86	23.6	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-9 shows that 76.4 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs conducted interdisciplinary research in the development of watershed and 23.6 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-10

Initiatives-Contributed resources for the development of watershed

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	249	68.2	68.2
No	116	31.8	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-10 shows that 68.2 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs contributed resources for the development of watershed and 31.8 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-11

Initiatives-Could bridge science, practice, business and policy

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	280	76.7	76.7
No	85	23.3	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-11 shows that 76.7 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs could be able to bridge science, practice, business and policy and 23.3 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-12

Initiatives-Established monitoring mechanism to assess the progress

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	271	74.2	74.2
No	94	25.8	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-12 shows that 74.2 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGOs established monitoring mechanisms to assess the progress of watershed development and 25.8 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-13

Initiatives-Established evaluation center to assess the performance

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	274	75.1	75.1
No	91	24.9	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-13 shows that 75.1 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, the NGO established an evaluation center to assess the performance of watershed development and 24.9 percent did not subscribe to this view.

Table-14

Initiatives-Established learning systems to appraise watershed development programs

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	294	80.5	80.5
No	71	19.5	100.0
Total	365	100.0	

Source: A field study

Table-14 shows that 80.5 percent of the beneficiaries stated that as an integral part of the initiatives towards watershed development, NGO established learning systems to appraise watershed development programs and 19.5 percent did not subscribe to this view

Conclusion

Initiatives towards watershed development in the study area by NGOs are arranged in the descending order of endorsement which includes Presentation of case studies about watershed development, Shared the knowledge of good practices, Imparted training to the primary stakeholders, Involvement of local talents and expertise in various phases, Established learning systems to appraise watershed development programs, Scientific knowledge is shared with local communities, Conducted interdisciplinary research to develop watershed, Could bridge science, practice, business and policy, Established evaluation center to assess the performance, Established monitoring mechanism to assess the progress, Conducted capacity building programs in the required fields, Domain expertise is shared with local communities, Contributed resources for the development of watershed and Shared the experience of other watershed programs. Thus, it is found that NGOs played the role of educator, and facilitator of development. Hence, it is suggested that the state and the related organs must encourage the role of NGOs by being liberal in terms of grants and fewer controls.

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