

Public Abstract

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Title:EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: ANALYZING CASE STUDIES IN UZBEKISTAN

The focus of this study was to assess how projects that engage local community people in decisions about development fare. It assesses how capacity training and institutions contribute to success water projects, the most common problem prioritized by the majority of targeted communities served by this program. Elinor Ostrom's and Manzur Olson's principles of collective action inform the development of a framework applied to the analysis of water projects implemented by the program in four communities. The purpose is to identify factors that contribute or hinder the success of collective action, and the sustainability of the produced collective good. Using a multiple-embedded case study design, water development projects are studied in four communities located in four districts of Namangan region of Uzbekistan.

The success of collective action in these projects was determined by the perceived value of clean water among households, and by strength of incentives to get access to the clean drinking water. In addition to these, other factors identified included community involvement in the decision making processes, existing norms and customary institutions, local conditions (such as the existence of alternative water sources), and nature of leadership (engaging the group in decisions, and the training of the leaders). These were important for the initiation of the project and during the process of implementation in the target communities. The findings of the study indicate that it is important to use a polycentric approach while designing intervention methods and approaches of development projects. In order to ensure sustainability of the outcome of project, where a participatory approach is used, the difference between imposed and voluntary organized collective action has to be recognized. The incentives and involvement of the community in decision making processes can determine the success of the project and ensure long-endurance of the outcome.