

**Impact Study of
Village Development Program
(*A case study of Bardiya District*)**

A Thesis

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural
Development**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis work entitled “**Impact Study of Village Development Program (A Case Study of Bardiya District)**” has been prepared by **Mr. Kishor Panthee** under my supervision and guidance. I hereby recommend this thesis work for examination by the thesis evaluation committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development.

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APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis work entitled “**Impact Study of Village Development Program (A case Study of Bardiya District)**” written and submitted by **Kishor Panthee** has been examined. It has been declared successful for fulfillment of the academic requirements towards the completion of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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-Kishor Panthee

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ABSTRACT

Participation is mental and emotional involvement of an individual in a group that encourages him/her to contribute to achieve common goals and to share common responsibility. Participation refers to the involvement of people in decision making process of all the aspects that have influence their life. Government of Nepal has adopted a national strategy of decentralized and participatory approach for the development of rural infrastructure in country.

The general objective of the study was to evaluate rural development through community mobilization at local level and specific objectives were :

- *To access the role of community mobilization in enhancing the equity, empowerment, decentralization, sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation.*
- *To examine development activities implemented through the community mobilizations in the study area.*
- *To assess the level of participation of the community members in different development activities and their involvement in the community mobilization process.*

The study was carried out through the primary data collected from the semi-structured questionnaire and secondary data along with other relevant literature. The questionnaire for primary data were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders like CO members, VDC personnel, DDC/DTO personnel and MLD personnel. The questionnaire seeks the responses from the stakeholders about the major issues on community mobilization. Issues were identified through the literature review and preliminary consultation with the stakeholders.

This study is mainly for academic purpose. The scope of the study was limited to DDC Bardiya. The rationale behind the selection of the topic for the study was to generate more information to enrich the knowledge about the effectiveness of community mobilization process for sustainable development, decentralization, empowerment and poverty alleviation in the rural context and come up with an alternative rural development approach and strategy.

The main findings of the study have been grouped under five components namely Admins & SO, CC, HRD, SGF and technology promotion.

Under Admin and SO, the formation of CO and the support organization at DDC were studied. A team of 14 staffs at DDC to support COs at different VDCs exists. COs were formed from the mass meeting of beneficiaries at the program VDCs. COs collect regular savings and provide loans to community people. LTF from the center is also utilized to provide credit. The rate of interest on savings and credits are decided by COs themselves.

The VDP enhances social capital by motivating people to initiate productive activities. On the basis of the weekly meetings and saving schemes in the COs, the community members have been able to probe and initiate different income-generating activities. In this way, the VDP has paved the way to start a number of entrepreneurial activities leading to the economic uplift of the people. Similarly, the amount of LTF is to be increased to meet the credit demands of the people.

Various training activities have been organized in the programme districts. The trainings are based on demand, which is decided by CO meeting. These training include village experts training leadership training, social mobilization training etc.

Under Seed Grant Fund, different infrastructure programme are implemented as demanded by COs based on their needs. Fund is provided at once only for construction and it is the duty of COs for O & M of the projects.

Under technology promotion program LTF provides financial support in the form of grant to procure new & modern technology.

It can be concluded that the main achievement of the NGO-led program is the empowerment of community people for their rights. Most of the deprived people from the study area became talkative even female who couldn't pronounce her name before the intervention of such program.

Appropriate policies and measures should be developed to enhance the active involvement of women in decision making program. Similarly the program suggested to be extended in more VDCs and to cover more and more settlements.

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CO	Community Organization
DDC	District Development Committee
DDCO	District Development Committee Office
DIDC	District Information and Documentation Centre
DMC	District Management Committee
DDA	District Development Advisor
DPCP	Decentralized Planning for Child Programme
FY	Fiscal Year
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GIS	Geographical Information System
GoN	Government of Nepal
HDI	Human Development Index
HH	Household
HMG	His Majesty's Government
HRDC	Human Resource Development Centre
JTA	Junior Technical Assistant
LDO	Local Development Officer
LGP	Local Governance Programme
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
LSGR	Local Self Governance Regulations
LTF	Local Trust Fund

LDF	Local Development Fund
MEDEP	Micro Enterprise Development Programme
M & E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MLD	Ministry of Local Development
MSP	Management Support Programme
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
PD	Participatory Development
PDDP	Participatory District Development Program
PMC	Project Management Committee
PMU	Program Management Unit
PO	Program Officer
PPMC	Public Private Management Committee
PPPP	Public Private Partnership Program
PPF	Partnership Promotion Facility
SGF	Seed Grant Fund
SO	Support Organization
SUP	Social Upliftment Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VDC	Village Development Committee
VDP	Village Development Program
WDO	Women Development Organization
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development

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