

Participation of Beneficiaries in Rural Development Schemes

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Abstract:

Participation of beneficiaries in rural development schemes/poverty alleviation schemes is not a new concept but an integral part of the whole process of the implementation of poverty alleviation schemes. To understand the relevance of participation of beneficiaries/representativity raises many doubts about the legitimacy of implementing agencies and stakeholders in the process. This is especially worrying as grassroots level representatives have numerous competitive advantages as compared to other stakeholders in the poverty reduction strategy process and would have a variety of credible entry points to make the poverty reduction strategy process more legitimate and accountable. Also it is observed that the key sections of the civil society i.e. (most vulnerable, persons/children with disabilities, orphan, people suffering from natural calamities/prolonged illness, etc.) and sometimes of the government (i.e. line departments, local governments or administrations) were missing from the participation process or under-represented. It is seen that effective involvement in discussion depends on a structured participatory process that lack in most of the cases and sometimes strain relationships with the elected representatives at the grassroots level and governments. Participation of beneficiaries affects the process of formulation, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies especially when poverty is seen as failure of a range of basic capabilities. Also lack of institutional framework contributing to the failure to facilitate broad based participation processes and the poor quality of participation for those who were able to participate and in most of the cases as adhoc exercise has been done that would need to be sustained. This paper is an attempt to acknowledge the concept of participation of beneficiaries in the process of planning and implementation of poverty alleviation schemes.

KEY WORDS: Participation, Capability, Realization, Empowerment, Opportunities,

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