

CAPACITY BUILDING AND VILLAGE SUPPORT ORGANIZATION: PROBLEM AND SOLUTION THROUGH SOCIOLOGICAL LENS

Dilkash Sapna¹ and Dr. Bushra Hassan Jan²

1. PhD Scholar, Department of Rural Sociology, The University of Agriculture Peshawar, Pakistan
2. Associate Professor and Chairperson, Department of Rural Sociology, The University of Agriculture Peshawar, Pakistan

Abstract- A cross sectional based study was conducted in district Swabi to explore the capacity building in the purview of village support organization. A sample size of 384 beneficiaries was selected randomly for data collection through structured questionnaire technique. Further the data was coded into SPSS for analysis i.e., associational test. The study found that VSOs arrange capacity building training, providing micro-credit facilities for marginalized people, enhance the local community literacy skills and make them able to deal with small financial transaction with corroboration of promoting existing abilities and capabilities within the study area. In addition, the study further explored that VSOs provides microfinance skills for communal empowerment and identification of the strength and gaps where capacity enhancement required for community members as per their needs. However, VSOs are up to some extent failed to bring social change in the rural pattern of thinking, behaving, and attitudes by the virtue of capacity building training along with lag in encouraging the inhabitants to participate in problems solving activities. Consequently, in order to overcome these obstacles, the organization must devote resources to this endeavor on an ongoing basis, despite the existence of other, seemingly more pressing concerns.

Keywords: Capacity Building; Village Support Organization; Micro-credit facilities; Communal Empowerment; Chi-square Test; Swabi-Pakistan

1 INTRODUCTION

From the last many decades, several developing countries having agriculture-based village settings are involved to uplift their rural communities. Countries whose economies are agriculture based and they have various challenges in improving their current socioeconomic circumstances. These rural villages are characterized by low per capita income, unemployment, a lack of education, and other basic necessities for life. For the acceleration of economic development in the country, the establishment of village/community organizations is of utmost important (Douangneune et al., 2005). Moreover, village organizations decentralize development planning and execution by including communities as key player in a number of developing nations. The projects are based on the notion that decentralization through community engagement may help poverty reduction strategies make them more efficient, accountable, and transparent by utilizing local knowledge and resources (Bardhan, 2002).

Village Support Organization [VSO] is an international development organization that primarily works through development workers. VSOs work in 38 developing countries towards a set of development goals identified in country strategic plans, linking the priorities of VSO's partner organisations, international development targets and VSO's distinctive competence (Low and Davenport, 2022). In addition, VSOs are the non-profit development groups that are neither politically nor ethnically affiliated. Prominent development and humanitarian practitioners who are committed to improve the social and economic well-being of rural areas often run these organizations. We might also classify these organizations as implementing associations, since they plan and carry out different development and humanitarian initiatives with the help of foreign donors and agencies. Furthermore, many of these rural groups are defined by their professional dedication to ensuring the long-term survival of society's neglected and vulnerable sectors for poverty alleviation and social justice. These are non-profit organizations that strive to improve the lives of rural people on a local level. These organizations aim to support community activities and promote equality in all aspects of life, including health care, environment, and educational quality, access to technology, and access to places, resident empowerment, and community development as a whole (Yatagai et al., 2015).

There are different generic terms or names given to these organizations depending upon their work or nature of the project. Among them are "community development associations," "neighborhood councils," and "unified community", "local support organization LSOs", "village support organization VSO's", "village organization VO's", "nonprofit organizations NPO's", "Civil society organizations CO's" and "community-based organizations CBO's" etc. All this organization work under the umbrella term "Voluntary Organizations (VOs)", working for the general welfare and development of the rural people, a specific sector of society, cooperative members and professionals, and so on (Biddle and Biddle, 1968; Agbola, 1998; Abegunde, 2009). Irrespective of the alteration of different names, all stand to serve the local communities which they stand for (Bennett, 1998; Teegen et al., 2004).

VSO mobilize the community for collective action, represent the socio-economic status of rural communities and support community members to foster social and financial growth and skills. They encourage citizens to support each other to meet economic and social needs (Ghaus-pasha, 2012) in particular; village support organizations are the integral part of the institutional framework to resolve the issue of poverty. The term 'capacity building' is usually applied to interventions that aim to strengthen the ability of an organization to improve its performance; for example, services to target groups (Girginov et al., 2017). Keeping in view

the above stock of literature, the present study is designed to explore the capacity building in the purview of VSOs through associational measures.

2 Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in rural Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan with cross sectional study. Because of several other factors, including the rural socioeconomic structure of the area and the extensive work done by VSOs in these areas, the present study was purposefully limited to the district of Swabi. Due to recently emerged a situation of COVID-19 the data was collected through feasible multiple options such as personal visits, during VSO's meetings, telephone, emails, etc. Purposive sampling technique was used to portray information from the relevant stakeholders on the study variables. According to the record obtained from Directorate of Social Welfare KPK (2019), a total number of "177,254" beneficiaries were registered with different VSOs in study area. Therefore, a sample size of 384 was selected by using Sekaran (2003) criteria. Further, the sample size was proportionally allocated to each strata i.e., Tehsils through application of Bowley (1936) formula (See Table 1 for further information). Moreover, a structured questionnaire technique was used for taking primary information regarding the study variables from various stakeholders i.e., community members, meetings with district social welfare officers, discussions with CBOs, LSOs, and VOS members respectively. The questionnaire was pre tested for its validity. Moreover, SPSS (26 version) was used for analysis i.e., chi-square test statistics was used to measure the association between independent (capacity building) and dependent variable (community satisfaction to VSO interventions) through indexation method.

Table-1: Showing sample size for each Tehsil in district Swabi, KPK

<i>Tehsil</i>	<i>Population Size</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Sample Size</i>
Lahor	264,748	34,113	74
Topi	275,317	38,358	83
Razr	557,775	72,651	157
Swabi	250,851	32,132	70
Grand Total	13,48,727	177,254	384

Source: Directorate of Social Welfare KhyberPuktukhwa (2019).

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 shows the association between capacity building and community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's. Following are discussed some of the research questions pertaining to capacity building in light of VSOs through associational statistics. A highly significant association ($P=0.000$) was found between community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's and VSOs arrange capacity-building trainings and promote existing

abilities or capabilities within a community. Based on these findings, it can be stated that in the area under investigation, VSOs bolstered community mobilization in terms of training and by providing creative ideas, hence enhancing the communal knowledge and skills necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goal-17. These results were comparable to those of Approaches that emphasize capacity building, according to the Harrington and Haggerty (2022), attempt to reduce residents' reliance on outside specialists as sources of information, resources, and solutions to challenges affecting local communities. Capacity building helps individuals to address locally-responsible issues by minimizing and preventing the establishment of a reliant connection with outsiders. Community partners will be able to exercise a higher degree of control over their own future development if capacity building fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment. Additionally, efforts to develop a community partner's capacity on one project may increase that community partner's self-confidence, skills, knowledge, and access to resources, hence enhancing that community partner's ability to conceive of and implement additional initiatives.

Similarly, a significant association ($P=0.005$) was found between VSOs provide micro-credit facilities for the marginalized people in your area and community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's. These results were also similar with Ravallion and Lokshin (2010); &Donaghue (2004) who disclosed that many social and economic ills could be traced back to poverty and income inequality, which have a strong association. 80% of the world's population lives in countries where economic inequality is widening. The world's poorest 40% of people receive only 5% of global revenue. UNDP estimates that the richest 20% of the population contribute for 75% of global revenue (Ravallion and Lokshin, 2010). To effectively reduce poverty, microfinance is one of the most potent instruments among the different worldwide anti-poverty initiatives (Donghue, 2004). Moreover, microfinance institutions (MFIs) have grown in popularity over the last two decades, especially after Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Muhammad Yunus' greatest achievement is making microfinance available to the unbendable poor on terms and conditions that differ from typical banking practices (Khan *et al.*, 2013). Despite utilizing many techniques to reduce overall poverty, Pakistan, like other growing countries, suffers from poverty. The number of people living in absolute poverty has dropped, according to government figures. The HCR was 30.6 percent in 1998–1999, 23.9 percent in 2004–2005, 22.3 percent in 2005–2006, and around 20 percent in 2009–2010. Footnote1 Pakistan is using a variety of ways to tackle pervasive poverty. Workers' Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI), Peoples' Work Program (PWP-I and II), Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM), and Vocational Training Programs (VTP) are among the programmes that fall under this category (Flaspohler *et al.*, 2008).

Moreover, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) was found between community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's and VSOs activities enhance the local community literacy skills and make them able to deal with small financial transactions. It could be inferred from these findings that VSO in the study area had a vivid amount of literacy responsibilities, which capable the community people towards small transaction of money. These results were similar with Roodman and Morduch (2014) who suggest that micro financing is not a panacea for reducing poverty because modest loans neither improve the status of the poor nor assist reduce poverty. However, they acknowledge that the poor require financial services for existence and that this is their fundamental right; like access to clean water and electricity, financial services are necessary for a healthy and contemporary lifestyle.

Likewise, a non-significant association ($P=0.336$) was found between VSOs play a signification role to bring social change in the rural pattern of thinking, behaviors and attitudes by capacity building trainings and community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's. It could be attributed from such findings that social change in rural pattern couldn't ensure just through different VSOs in the study area. Despite various other latent functions are still to be manifested. These results were not in line with Coleman (1999) who concludes that the provision of microfinance facilities can greatly enhance the beneficiaries' income and, consequently, alter their social standing. He examined the influence of these programmes on the wages of 900 consumers of three different MFIs using a sample of 900 clients. Using a multivariate linear regression model, he determined the impact of a set of explanatory variables on the dependent variable (Y). Likewise, in India (Madhya Pradesh), the rural women have initiated societal reform through self-help group effect social change in the village in terms of awareness, financial support, overcoming on reticence, governance. These ladies have set an example for many others, and they have unquestionably laid the way for a change that will continue long after the external support of NGOs has been withdrawn from the communities (Bhatlaet *al.*, 2021).

Furthermore, a non-significant association ($P=0.545$) was found between VSOs are fostered by a local action such as encouraging residents to participate in problem-solving activities and community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's. In order to collaborate closely with national and local government officials, village leaders, development professionals, affluent funders, and non-governmental organizations are all part of VSO's collaborative teams. For the village, this organization acts as the backbone of assistance. Until now, village leaders have been largely absent from problem-solving efforts in their communities. Thus VSO encouraged the inhabitants to participate in communal problems than involving outsider sources i.e., government, regional and international organization in the study area.

Moreover, a non-significant association ($P=0.156$) was found between VSOs assist in building potential power skills through the formation of large social groups working for common goals or agenda in community and community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's. It is possible to draw the conclusion from these data that the local residents of the research region were not fully support all of the VSOs' efforts to create skills through common goals and agendas because of their educational attainment and the quality of the information pertaining to facts and figures.

Similarly, a non-significant association ($P=0.405$) was found between community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's and VSOs provide counseling and support service, awareness raising and advocacy and legal aid for community empowerment. It could be concluded from these findings that community is developed due to the VSOs counseling and awareness raising advocacy criteria in very short span of time where a long term strategies for counseling could minimize the hurdles which community faced. Likewise, a significant association ($P=0.001$) was found between VSOs provide microfinance skill development for community empowerment and community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's. These results were similar with Roodman and Morduch (2014) who suggest that micro-financing is not a panacea for reducing poverty because modest loans neither improve the status of the poor nor assist reduce poverty. However, they acknowledge that the poor require financial services for existence and that this is their fundamental right; like access to clean water and electricity, financial services are necessary for a healthy and contemporary lifestyle.

Moreover, a non-significant association ($P=0.565$) was found between community satisfaction towards the efficacy of VSO's and VSOs value and use the positive contributions (such as experiences, abilities) of local people. Furthermore, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) was found between VSOs identify the strengths and gaps where capacity enhancement is required for community members according to their needs and community satisfaction towards the proficiency. It could be inferred from such findings that weakness and strength of any community could be addressed properly due to involvement of bottom to top approach as VSOs played their role efficiently working the study area. This could lead towards better management strategies and functioning the whole social system which resulted socio-economic development of the study area respectively.

Table-2: Association between capacity Building and Community Satisfaction Towards the Efficacy of VSO's

Capacity Building	Indexed Dependent variable	Chi-Square & P-value
VSOs arrange capacity-building trainings and promote existing abilities or capabilities within a community	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=62.723$ ($P=0.000$)
VSOs provide micro-credit facilities for the marginalized people in your area	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=10.430$ ($P=0.005$)
VSOs activities enhance the local community literacy skills and make them able to deal with small financial transactions	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=19.002$ ($P=0.000$)
VSOs play a signification role to bring social change in the rural pattern of thinking, behaviors and attitudes by capacity building trainings	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=2.184$ ($P=0.336$)
VSOs are fostered by a local action such as encouraging residents to participate in problem-solving activities	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=1.212$ ($P=0.545$)
VSOs assist in building potential power skills through the formation of large social groups working for common goals or agenda in community	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=3.716$ ($P=0.156$)
VSOs provide counseling and support service, awareness raising and advocacy and legal aid for community empowerment	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=1.809$ ($P=0.405$)
VSOs provide microfinance skill development for community empowerment	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=14.395$ ($P=0.001$)
VSOs value and use the positive contributions (such as experiences, abilities) of local people	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=1.141$ ($P=0.565$)
VSOs identify the strengths and gaps where capacity enhancement is required for community members according to their needs	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=18.001$ ($P=0.000$)

Source: Author (2022)

The process of establishing and enhancing the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources that organizations and communities require in order to survive, adapt, and succeed in an environment that is always changing is referred to as capacity building. In order for capacity to be built, one of the most important components must be a transformation that originates from within and is maintained over time; this kind of transformation goes beyond the simple completion of duties and encompasses the modification of mindsets and attitudes. The Seventeenth Goal of Sustainable Development: At the same time that it is revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, the United Nations is committed to undergoing an internal reform. The development of technology and innovation in the world's least developed countries is one of the capacity-building objectives included in Goal 17, along with improving data collection and monitoring to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are met. Universities, in particular, have the potential to serve as capacity-building hubs through activities such as research, innovation, data collection and analysis. Table-3 depicted the association between capacity building and community satisfaction towards the efficiency VSO was found highly significant ($P=0.000$). Keeping in view the above results it could be concluded that capacity building is one of the influential tools for community development

through local VSOs training and awareness at macro and micro level. Thus capacity building is an umbrella terms that promote training and existing abilities within community by providing micro credits facilities for marginalized people, enhanced local community literacy skills and make them able to deal with small financial transaction with corroboration of social change in rural patterns of thinking, behavior and attitudes (Ravallion, 2010; Roodman&Morduch, 2014).

Table 3. Association between Capacity Building and community satisfaction towards the efficiency of VSOs

Independent Variable	Dependent variable	Statistics
Capacity building	Community Satisfaction towards the Efficacy of VSO's	$X^2=117.628(0.00)$

Source: Author (2022)

5. CONCLUSION

The study found that VSO arrange capacity building training, providing micro-credit facilities for marginalized people, enhance the local community literacy skills and make them able to deal with small financial transaction with corroboration of promoting existing abilities and capabilities within the study area. In addition, the study further explored that VSOs provides microfinance skills for communal empowerment and identification of the strength and gaps where capacity enhancement required for community members as per their needs. However, VSOs are up to some extent failed to bring social change in the rural pattern of thinking, behaving, and attitudes by the virtue of capacity building training. Moreover, the study further explored that VSOs are also lag in encouraging the inhabitants to participate in problems solving activities along with assisting in building potential power skills through the formation of larger social group working for communal goal. Capacity building interventions had challenges at VSO i.e., difficulties in attribution and causation, timescale of change and hence assessment, and fluid approach is used objective insight seem less quantifiable and notion of success are harder to pinpoint. Thus, to overcome on these challenges, gathering relevant information devise and implement a workable approach along with organization must commit to dedicating resources to this end, on an ongoing basis, even when faced with others, seemingly more urgent priorities.

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