

The Role of NGOs on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation: The Case of Hadarsa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Project in Toke Kumatye District, west Shewa Zone, Oromia Regional State Ethiopia”

Research Proposal Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Masters of Art (Rural Development) of Indira Gandhi National Open University/IGNOU/

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Table of Contents

+CHAPTER ONE	3
1.1Background of the Study.....	3
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Objective of the Study:	6
1.4 Research Questions.....	7
1.5 Methodology.....	7
1.6 Scope of the Study	9
1.7 Significance of the Study.....	9
1.8 Definition of Concept and Terms	10
1.9 Chapterization.....	11
Reference.....	12
Annexure.....	13

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background of the Study

Water and sanitation consist of several components including potable or drinking water provision, solid waste disposal, excreta and waste water disposal and hygiene promotion (Eva Agana Mmah, 2013).

The millennium declaration of 2000 and the subsequent effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) gave new impetus to long-standing efforts by governments and other development actors to enhance access to water and improve sanitation. The goal was to deal with this central cause of poverty and sickness for millions of people – especially children and women – around the world. Under MDG 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability” the world set itself the target of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015(Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012).

Lack of potable water and basic sanitation (toilet) facilities are undermining efforts to end extreme poverty and disease in the world's poorest countries. The state of human health is inextricably linked to a range of water-related conditions: safe drinking water; adequate sanitation; minimized burden of water-related diseases and healthy freshwater ecosystems. Urgent improvements in the ways in which water use and sanitation are managed are needed to improve progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to human health (WHO and UNICEF, JMP 2008).

The MDG drinking water target, to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water (an increase in coverage from 76% to 88%) between 1990 and 2015, was met in 2010. Between 1990 and 2012, 2.3 billion people gained access to an improved drinking water source, raising global coverage to 89% in 2012. There were only three countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Papua New Guinea) where less than half the population had access to an improved drinking water source. In a further 35 countries, 26 of which are in Sub- Saharan Africa, coverage of improved drinking water supply was between 50% and 75%(WHO, and UNICEF, 2014 JMP)

In the same document the regional drinking water coverage and increase since 1990 shows despite strong overall progress, 748 million people still did not have access to improved drinking water in 2012, 325 million (43%) of whom live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite increases in sanitation coverage, progress has been slow. Globally, 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. There are still 46 countries where less than half the population has access to an improved sanitation facility.

Considering the case of Ethiopia, the country had been in terrible conditions before 1991. Due to less attention given to the water and sanitation sector many million people were exposed to numerous socio-economic problems. Water problem has been no exception. Nevertheless, after the EPRDF took power in May 1991 and a national water management policy implemented, considerable achievements have been registered. Several potable drinking water service institutions were built throughout the country. Many people in the rural and urban have therefore become beneficiaries of the water supply services. In doing so, time and labor that have been lost and wasted in search of water have become saved so that they invest their time and labor for development (MoWE, 2013). Despite this positive progress WHO/UNICEF JMP (2015) update shows the country is only able to achieve a total improved water and sanitation coverage of 57% and 28% respectively.

Specifically the case of Hadarsa Kebele is not much different. Safe and adequate water supply and sanitation coverage was very low. Consequently, health risks are aggravated because of poor sanitation, inappropriate hygienic practices and lack of safe and adequate water supply. Hygiene and sanitation related health problems were common in the area. Based on this ground Hadarsa rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion project was designed to alleviate the existing problem in the target community. The project has four components, water supply, environmental protection, hygiene and sanitation education as well as community development.

The need for all countries to achieve “safely managed drinking water and sanitation services” has been recognized by the post-2015 proposals. The proposed targets emerging from this process are, by 2030, to eliminate open defecation; achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for households, schools and healthcare facilities; halve the proportion of

the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services; and progressively eliminate inequalities in access. It was widely agreed that the proposed post-2015 targets for WASH should build on the existing MDG targets – with non-discrimination and equity as central components. Achieving universal access to a basic drinking water source appears within reach, but universal access to basic sanitation will require a substantial acceleration in the pace of change. The targets go further to address “unfinished business”, including the shortfall in progress on sanitation as well as ensuring access for the hardest-to-reach people (JMP 2014 update).

In recognition of the limited capacity of government in meeting all the essential service needs of its citizenry, various non-governmental organizations have come in to lend a hand in the provision of a wide range of social facilities including water and sanitation in the rural areas. The non-governmental sector, have become significant actors in the development process. In the study Intermon Oxfam is working as a donor and water action as implementer, are active actors in wash sector. Its role in the rural society development is widely recognized in various poverty alleviation interventions. It is with this background this study was undertaken to assess the role of NGOs (Intermon Oxfam and Water Action) in General and Hadarsa WASH project in particular in rural water supply and sanitation interventions in four villages of Hadarsa Kebele, Toke Kumatye District, West Showa Zone, Oromia Region of Ethiopia.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

NGOs have made great contributions to public welfare, in many cases becoming national and international models which are being replicated in many countries of the world. Micro-finance, women empowerment, education, health, environment, rights-based awareness and demand creation are only a few examples of the whole range of areas in which NGOs are actively and commendably involved. www.ti-bangladesh.org/research/ExecSum-NGO

Undoubtedly, access to potable water and safe sanitation is a pre-requisite for sustained human development significant of which have been recognized by the international community. (Sulaiman Issah-Bello, 2011)

According to WHO/UNICEF JMP (2015), Ethiopia has improved drinking water supply coverage of 93% in urban areas and 49% in rural areas (total 57%) and improved sanitation coverage of 27% in urban areas and 28% in rural areas (total 28%).

It should nevertheless be noted, that the JMP figures do not take into consideration shared sanitation facilities contributing for 14% (rural 8% and urban 40% coverage) within their calculation even if these are of an acceptable standard. It can be seen from the data despite the encouraging progress, 43% of the population of the country still does not have access to an improved water source and as large as 29% of the population practice open defecation.

The data clearly show that the problem is worse in rural area than the urban. Despite a marked reduction in poverty during the past 15 years, most of Ethiopia's rural population still lives below the poverty line. Provision of basic services, including clean water, is a major challenge. The 2015 JMP update notes that seven out of ten of those without an improved drinking water source live in rural areas. About 80% of the 90 million population lives in rural areas, and not enough water is produced to meet the needs of the rural poor. www.wateraid.org/News/behindethiopiassuccessonwatersupply.

During the dry season more traditional sources of water are placed under pressure as shallow wells or other perennial sources dry-up. This situation worsens as these sources of water supply are shared with livestock (USAID, water and sanitation profile).

Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine the role played by NGOs in rural water supply and sanitation coverage improvement by identifying sample project.

1.3 Objective of the Study:

The general objective of the study is to assess the role of NGOs in rural water supply and sanitation by considering the case of Hadarsa rural water supply and sanitation project.

Specifically, the study seeks to analyze:

1. The project area water and sanitation state before the intervention of the project.
2. The impact of the project interventions.
3. The level of cooperation between relevant actors.
4. The challenges and opportunities in the process of their role play.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions drawn from the above objective are the following.

- 1 What was project area water and sanitation state before the intervention of the project?
- 2 What are the impacts of the project interventions?
- 3 What is the level of cooperation between relevant actors?
- 4 What are the challenges and opportunities in the process of their role play?

1.5 Methodology

Descriptive survey method will be employed because of its appropriateness to describe the currently existing role of NGOs in rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions; through analysis of the situation before intervention, the impact of interventions, the level of cooperation between relevant actors; and the challenges and opportunities in the process of their role play. Therefore, the method will enable the exploration of the current issues and recognize some of major findings and enable the researcher to note the recommendations for the prevailing findings.

Both primary and secondary data sources will be used for the study. Primary data will be gathered directly from the study area through fieldwork. The principal respondents include villagers/ project beneficiaries, WASHCO members, implementing NGO and District officials. The specific tools for data collection included field observation, structured questionnaires, and interviews. Secondary data includes information obtained from sources such as project proposal and reports, field visit reports, networks and collaboration information, implementation frame works, official publications and journals. Thus triangulation of data from primary and secondary sources is used to ensure a more rounded perspective.

The Coverage/Universe

Participants of the study will include village respondents, WASHCO members, implementing NGO and District officials. The total population of the target PA is 9,372. The total project beneficiary population is 2,108 rural people living within Hadarsa Kebele of Toke Kutaye Woreda. The funding agency for the project is Intermon Oxfam, a Spanish based INGO in partnership with implementing local partner, Water Action.

Sampling Techniques

In selecting the sample, purposive sampling will be used by taking into account a number of issues including accessibility, financial and time constraint. From the villages in Hadarsa Peasant Association, based on the project coverage four villages, namely Hadarsa, Toke, Tokuma and Menahria will be selected. From each village, twenty five respondents will be randomly selected for data collection purposes. To include the local community based organization leader opinion, three WASHCO members from sample villages will be questioned. In addition, two officials from the implementing NGO and other two from District office will be interviewed. Hence a total of one hundred seven respondents will be reached for the purpose of this study.

Table 1, Sample area respondents by village and peasant association

PA	Villages	Village level respondents			Government and NGO staffs		Total respondents
		Project beneficiaries	WASHCO members	Total	NGO officials	District officials	
Hadarsa	Hadarsa	25	3	28	2	2	32
	Toke	25		25			25
	Tokuma	25		25			25
	Menahria	25		25			25
	Total	100	3	103	2	2	107

Data Collection

To obtain descriptive information on the role of NGOs in rural water and sanitation intervention structured questionnaires will be administered with aim of gathering information of primary data

from sampled population of villages, WASHCO members, implementing NGO and district officials. This questionnaire will be developed by the researcher. The main tool for data collection will be interview schedule from the villagers and the WASHCO members. The items of the interview schedules will be mostly close ended questionnaire types, though some open ended and structured questions will be administered. The questions for the interview schedule will be formulated keeping in mind the objectives of the study.

In addition to the interview schedule and pre- coded questionnaire will be used as a tool for data collection. Personal observation will also be used as reliable data collection tool to supplement the information obtained by way of interview. Before dispatching the final questionnaires for the respondents of the study, it will be pre- tested. Based on the results of the pilot test of the study the questioners will be reviewed to ensure the sequence and relevance of the questions to the context of the respondents.

1.6 Scope of the Study

Even though the same NGO is implementing various water supply and sanitation projects in West Showa Zone, because of various reasons, the study will be restricted only to Hadarsa rural water supply and sanitation project.

The identified project involves collaboration partnership between the funding INGO, Implementing LNGO, and local government and community based organizations. The study emphasizes on assessing the contribution of the NGO to the rural water supply and sanitation intervention, assuming the limitations and opportunities in the project under consideration can be projected to other projects implemented under similar context.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The government of Ethiopia has finalized the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) in 2010 and started its implementation since then. GTP is a strategic framework to extricate Ethiopia from poverty so it becomes a middle income economy by the year 2025. The government is committed to create a favorable “enabling environment” for the WASH sector and has recently structured wash implementation framework (WIF) which acts as the guiding document for the

implementation of an integrated one WASH Program in the country. (Sanitation and Water for All, 2012)

The relevance of water and sanitation to rural development has led to its inclusion in the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, Goal 7 seeks to reduce by half the water and sanitation situation in the world by the year 2015. (Muriel Mavis Dangah, 2012)

The government has also laid out ambitious plans for water, sanitation and hygiene through its “Universal Access Plan II” – which seeks to reach 98.5% access to safe water and 100% access to sanitation by 2015, far more ambitious than the MDGs. (Sanitation and Water for All, 2012)

In recognition of the limited capacity of government in meeting all the essential service needs of its citizenry, various non-governmental organizations have come in to lend a hand in the provision of a wide range of social amenities including water and sanitation in the rural areas. (Muriel Mavis Dangah, 2012)

The work therefore bridges the gap in knowledge in the area of NGOs contribution to the provision of water and sanitation facilities. Also, it is hoped that findings will serve as reference material for other researchers who may want to further the research on water and sanitation problems. Finally, this study will serve as a guide to policy makers, donor organizations and the general public on the activities of NGOs, particularly in rural areas.

1.8 Definition of Concept and Terms

Rural Water Supply: - The provision of drinking and domestic water to the rural population plus supply of the water required for purposes such as garden watering and other human purposes.

Role of NGOs: - The proper or customary function played by non – governmental organizations that have made a major contribution to water supply and sanitation situation of the remote, inaccessible, rural areas.

Rural Sanitation:- the development and application of sanitary measures for the sake of cleanliness and protecting public health through the safe disposal of sewage and solid waste.

Hygiene: - refers to the conditions and practices conducive to maintaining health and prevent the spread of disease.

1.9 Cauterization

This study is organized into five chapters to address the objectives and research questions.

The first chapter consists of an introduction to the study. The general introduction should include the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, scope and justification of study.

Second chapter deals with the conceptual issues. A review of literature of earlier studies should be presented in this chapter.

The third chapter deals with the profile of the study area and the research design of the present study.

Chapter four captures the result and discussion section of the study.

Chapter five, which is the final chapter, looks at the summary of the study, conclusions and recommendations.

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Annexure

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