

Contrasting Case Studies of Service Provision and Participation (Orissa)

Principal Investigators

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A PowerPoint presentation of this Case Study is included on the Project CD-ROM. The Case Study text appears on the following pages.

Origin

This Case Study from Orissa was proposed by Dr K P Singh, Mr P K Mishra, GVT State Coordinator for Orissa, William Savage and Graham Haylor.

Duration

The Case Study began in September 2002 following its setting up in August. The fieldwork ran through February 2003, with opportunities to report progress and get feedback on two occasions: the State-level Workshop in October 2002 and the Stakeholders Workshop in January 2003. Final presentation of the Case Study was made at the Policy Review Workshop in Noida, Delhi, in April 2003.

Location

The Case Study locations were Khajuria and Haldikundi Villages in Dhenkanal District, where government and GVT support has been available, and Batagaon Village where government support has been available.

Key Informants

Key informants included Damodar Sahoo and Ashok Kumar Sahoo from Khajuria and Haldikundi Villages, and Pabita Mohan Baral, Pradhan from Batagaon Village.

Method

The Case Study methods were individual interviews and small-group discussions, around issues raised by villagers about how their successful venture has impacted on their livelihoods. Mr Pandeya and Mr Sahay conducted the interviews and discussions in September 2002. These were completed by October and presented at the State-level Workshop in October for comment and recommendations, supported by photographs.

Content

The focuses of the Case Study were to:

- Document Khajuria and Haldikundi village success and show how tribal farmers have a strong community ethic, the capacity for collaboration and the vision and practical commitment to address their development needs
- Understand why Damodar Sahoo and Ashok Kumar Sahoo have been successful
- Highlight the objective of and imperative need for the undertaking
- Understand key informants' experiences of GVT services and government schemes including:
 - Mechanism for provision of loans versus use of local moneylenders
 - Process for supply of material inputs
 - Mechanism for provision of training
 - Process for communicating (about government schemes and technical extension messages, any systems for feedback, cross-checking and streamlining the system)

This Case Study from Orissa also highlights the contrast of neighboring Batagaon Village and their experience of government service provision (where a tank was constructed on land that does not hold water, costing Rs 100,000), highlighting the reasons for this outcome.

In addition, the Case Study considered marketing support and problems in marketing, networking and strategies, and the DOF's and banks' roles in decision-making about harvesting and its impact on market opportunities.

Community-managed Pond of Khajuria and Haldikundi

Pond History

This is a perennial pond of approximately 4.5 acres, with 40% and 60% of the pond area falling under the villages of Khajuria and Haldikundi respectively. The pond was first excavated in 1952 through the scheme of food for work. Until 1979, weed fish and catfish were being grown and distributed among people in both villages.



Group managed pond in project village

In 1980, Khajuria and Haldikundi villagers started aquaculture jointly. The cost of doing aquaculture and profit were distributed in the ratio of 40:60 by the two villages respectively. In 1989, the profit from the pond was donated for starting the school in Khajuria Village. In 2000, 18 members were selected from Khajuria and Haldikundi and a fish development committee was established by the facilitation of GVT. In this year, aquaculture was started by that committee. In 2000, GVT organized a training program for members of the fish development committee. In 2001, fry were stocked but the bund was broken due to flooding. With the help of the Panchayat, the villagers got Rs 70,000 for repairing the pond. In 2002, the aquaculture program was continuing by the village committee of both villages.

Community Realization of Success

Conducting the aquaculture program in a joint manner has led to better understanding, planning and implementation. The profit generated through the activities has increased the group fund and access of the community to credit. Through the joint efforts of both villages, a high school was started in 1989. Rs 5,000-6,000 per year is donated towards school development through the aquaculture program. Villagers from Batagaon and Koi Villages have learned from this village and started a school. A *kaju* (cashew nut) plantation of ten acres commonly belongs to Khajuria and Haldikundi and has been denoted for meeting the financial requirements of the school. Influencing the Panchayat has resulted in a sanction of Rs 70,000 for pond repair.

Loan Mechanism

The community prefers to take loans from private moneylenders because the process is easy with timely loan availability, but not from the government due to procedural delay.

Marketing

Marketing of fish is not a problem for the community. They sell the fish in Kamkhya Nager, Bhuwan, at Rs 40/kg for big fish and Rs 20-25/kg for small fish.



Group members presenting their success during a visit

Constraints on Aquaculture

Fry and fingerlings from government agencies are not available in the local area. The quality of seed is not assured (a private seed supplier gives 50% of the money back if seed is not of good quality). Seed provided by the fisheries department has the complaint of “long head and small body”. There is no village-based practical training program and a lack of low-cost technology.

Community Feeling

There should be a fry selling center and a government fry production center at the Panchayat level. High quality seed should also be ensured. Field-based training programs with economic inputs should be introduced. Site selection for pond excavation should be done with its technical feasibility.

Government-supported Pond of Batagaon

The community pond of 5.6 acres was dug in 1962 with an investment of about Rs 2,000. In 1989, redigging was done under the watershed development program at a cost of about Rs 20,000. In 1992, Rs 15,000 was invested for digging under the JRY¹ scheme. The pond was given to an individual by the government on a three-year lease. The payment for the lease varies from Rs 2,500-3,000/year. The pond is constructed on hard soil and water stagnation is only for 4-5 months.



Community pond at Batagaon

¹ Jowahar Rojgar Yojna, an Indian Government scheme for providing employment through asset creation

Community Realization

Leases to individuals reduce common access to the pond, and short-term leases lead to poor pond management. Stocking and harvesting are only done by the lease-taker; no input is given in the pond. There is no provision of any technical input by the government, nor provision of group-based aquaculture programs in government ponds.



Discussion with community at Batagaon



Community pond at Batagaon