A Practical Guideline to Successful Bottom up Development: Resettling the Indus

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Abstract

This case study examines the bottom-up development management process of Resettling the Indus by highlighting the key aspects for successful relief and rehabilitation in certain flood and war affected regions of Pakistan. This research explains how in the long run, the villagers’ farm surplus can be connected with the urban markets. Resettling the Indus grass root development process explains how these activities brings villagers’ economic life cycles back on track, raise the income levels of villagers on a sustainable basis and strengthens the entire scaling-up process.
Facts:

• 2010 Pakistan Floods
• 2011 Torrential Rains
• War on terrorism: 2001-2010
Resettling the Indus

• “Give a man a brick; you make his day; you teach a man how to make bricks, you make his life.”

• RT Indus is an ideology which engages communities in a resettling process through all aspects of Rehabilitation

• The project is an example of a development intervention in local communities.
The organization also focuses on:

• Education and health;

• Providing employment for locals;

• Creating awareness of important issues.
Top-down approach

Resources are controlled by authorities responsible for decision making and allocation.
Bottom-up approach:

“A systematic learning process which develops through establishing a mutual understanding between the community and professionals through dialogue to accommodate the needs of those on ground and focuses developmental efforts according to specific requirements.

This process then starts controlling future rehabilitation by paving the way for further work and facilitates expansion on the basis of relationships established at the ground level. Once dialogue has been established, to ensure a holistic approach, the establishment of cottage industries is important as it helps facilitate the further growth of the community through a solution-based approach to their socio-economic problems as well as aids such populations in becoming financially autonomous.

"Authors
Contractor-driven reconstruction, Owner-driven reconstruction

Contractor Driven Reconstruction (CDR):
• An organization procures a contractor for reconstruction purposes in rehabilitation.
• CDR builds in mass quantities and does not give emphasis to local or individual culture.
• CDR allows the organization to focus their efforts on fund raising and other activities. More time effective.
• If an NGO hires a contractor who further hires subcontractors this top-down approach trickles money away from the actual ground work.
• The sub-hiring required in this approach also makes the contractor many times removed from the actual ground realities.
• Materials are more expensive when communities are aware contractors are hired to rebuild.
• No real checks can be kept on the market value of materials which may be over priced.

Owner Driven Reconstruction (ODR):
• RT Indus hires all the labor from the villages and trains them in raw material production and construction (ODR).
• Eliminating the contractor and reconstructing with local labor eliminates extra costs and ensures high quality production.
• A shortage of external facilitators can affect the quality of construction as no one is available to provide on-ground training, site supervision and quality control.
• ODR is slow to start and slower during reconstruction. Sometimes, the pressure from donors is such that unable to withstand time constraints.
• Building relationships is an important aspect for better housing quality in ODR programs. The availability of professionals to train is scarce and expensive.
Resettling the Indus’ Approach

Resettling the Indus managed to adopt an ODR program based on:

- Establishing a dialogue with the community
- Community cohesion.

- Training in construction techniques by architects.
- Initially time consuming
- Feasible and effective in the long run
Material procurement price issues

- Disasters increase demand for local materials which affect costs.

- Production of raw materials and training of local labor is cost-effective and optimizes the construction process.

- Financial autonomy of the community.

- This backward vertical integration helps lower construction cost and is not subject to supply-demand economics.
Scaling up

Essentials of Scaling Up

• In order to be most efficient, rural areas should scale up with labor-intensive social production until all local labor supply is completely absorbed.

• Setting up cottage industries helps provide employment and make rehabilitation projects self-sufficient.
Methodology: Pilot Project

Phase 1: In-depth surveys

Phase 2: Community meetings

Phase 3: Rebuilding of communities through mutual consent and optimal benefit in a cost efficient manner.

Phase 4: Scaling up.

Phase 5: Cottage Industry & Infrastructure Development

Phase 6: Self-sufficiency

Development model: Implemented in Muzaffargarh district, Punjab, Pakistan

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Punjab
Sindh
Waziristan

Relief

Rehabilitation: Community development

Cottage Industry & Infrastructure development

Funding
Discussion
Conclusion
"A systematic learning process which develops through establishing a mutual understanding between the community and professionals through dialogue to accommodate the needs of those on ground and focuses developmental efforts according to specific requirements.

This process then starts controlling future rehabilitation by paving the way for further work and facilitates expansion on the basis of relationships established at the ground level. Once dialogue has been established, to ensure a holistic approach, the establishment of cottage industries is important as it helps facilitate the further growth of the community through a solution-based approach to their socio-economic problems as well as aids such populations in becoming financially autonomous.

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Thank You. Questions?