

Contribution of NGOs on Post Tsunami Livelihood Activities in the Batticaloa District

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Abstract

The Batticaloa district just had recently begun to emerge from the civil war when the Tsunami hit. Coastal line of Batticaloa was destroyed by the Tsunami. The people in this coastal line have been severely affected due to the Tsunami. Having lost their houses, property and livelihood, the people in these areas faced with unstable food security situation, malnutrition of children and unemployment. This made significant damage in livelihood activities in the district. Therefore it is an urgent need to restore the livelihood activities in the district.

The main objective of the present study is to explore the contribution of the NGOs in the livelihood activities in the Batticaloa district after the Tsunami disaster.

Data on variables namely Resettlement, living standard, health, drinking water, education, infrastructure, market facilities, micro finance, income enhancement and NGOs project suitability were collected through a well structured questionnaire. Families who were randomly selected from the eight affected D.S division in the Batticaloa district. A field work was conducted during the period between 02nd of March – 15th April 2006. Under the univariate measures, likert scale ranking were used to analyze the data through SPSS 11.0

The study reveals that the NGOs' role in the resettlement, drinking water, education, income enhancement, infrastructure and living standard were in satisfactory level. However health, market facilities, micro finance and NGOs' project suitability were in the dissatisfactory level.

It is recommended that in order to restore the livelihood, the government and non governmental organizations should mainly focus on the areas such as health, micro finance and market facilities in the district.

Introduction

The Tsunami disaster of December 26th 2004 caused an enormous loss of lives and livelihoods and massive destruction of properties in South and South East Asia. The countries most affected by this tsunami were Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The Tsunami struck long coastal area over 1,000 kilometers (Two thirds of the country's coastline) the damage stretched from Jaffna in the north down the entire eastern and southern coast and covered the west coast. North East of Sri Lanka have been ravaged by a decades of civil war. Along with the disaster of this magnitude, came an unprecedented outpouring of sympathy and support from international governments and their people. The international community has insisted on an equitable distribution of aid between the areas. Immediately after the Tsunami struck the Government of Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency and humanitarian assistance. These actions were complemented by support programs by NGOs from Sri Lanka and overseas.

The Batticaloa district had recently begun to emerge from the civil war when the Tsunami hit. Coastal line of Batticaloa was destroyed by the Tsunami. The people in this coastal line have been severely affected due to the Tsunami. Having lost their houses, property and livelihood, the people in these areas was faced with unstable food security situation, malnutrition of children and unemployment. Since their primary livelihood is agriculture, they are suffering serve hardship due to a lack of facilities to recommence this profession. This has led to normal life being largely paralyzed. Significant damage to residences and fishing

equipment all along the coast of Batticaloa has been reported with the heavy damage. Villages along the strip have been completely destroyed.

The total population of the Batticaloa district is around 314,088. Eight D.S divisions have been directly affected while 5 have been indirectly affected. There are 57,876 families were displaced, nearly 2264 people died and over 11062 were injured, while 31,485 houses were completely destroyed and more than 5,000 houses partially damaged in this district. (Center for National Operation, 2005).

A significant loss of livelihood is becoming evident with the fishing industry being particularly hard hit. Boat and nets have been lost and/or broken, resulting in large unemployment in the affected areas. Immediate shelter needs are being managed in selected schools, places of worship and public buildings. These buildings were become generally overcrowded and were poorly equipped to meet the basic needs such as adequate food, drinking water facilities and basic health services.

The contribution of NGOs in the post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction in Batticaloa district needs to be placed in the wider context of the utility and the need for intervention by NGOs. For some the importance to do so is derived from the belief to protect the core of human lives from environmental, economic, food, health and etc. NGOs plays vital role in Batticaloa district to restore the livelihood of the displaced, restoration and development of infrastructure regaining and making land productive, creating the necessary social, economic frame work for overall development.

Literature review

The sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) is characterized as an improved way of thinking about the objectives, scope and priorities of development, which will meet the needs of the poor, both at project and policy level. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (Ashley and Carney 1999). Broadly, livelihood approaches are promoted through:

1. **Direct Support to Assets**

Providing poor people with better access to the assets that act as a foundation for their livelihood

2. **Support to Effective Functioning of Structure**

Policies, Public and private sector organization, Markets, Social relations that influence not only access to assets but also which livelihood strategies are open to poor.

Sustainable livelihood approaches (SLA) includes three types of activities that can be contributed to poverty deduction. SLA generally contributes in all these area.

- **Enabling actions** are those which support the policies.
- **Inclusive actions** are broad-based and improve opportunities and services.
- **Focused actions** are targeted directly at the needs of the poor.

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets, (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of livings. One of the three pillars of the government of Sri Lanka's strategy for achieving sustainable livelihood for tsunami-affected people is the generation of temporary employment and income through community improvements. These improvements include the removal of tsunami debris, the repair of tsunami damage public assets and the development of infrastructure that is need by the communities to improve their social and economic potential. Restoring livelihoods is best with issues relating to better balance between supply and demand, unavailability of comprehensive information, transparency of targeting beneficiaries and inadequate consultation with affected community. Several NGOs in Sri Lanka have important in employment generation schemes to assist the tsunami affected people in order to recover the livelihood activities. These schemes have been carries out to a wide variety of standards and scale. Some of schemes are little more than welfare with little phasing output with utilizing resources to produce output that are need by community. The livelihood development is an essential one for better future development of a country. It is a basic element in the development process.

1.3.2 Methodology

This study was carried out based on the primary data as well as secondary data. Primary data were collected through self-developed questionnaire by using sample process. Secondary data were collected through the statistical information from the district office and web site sources.

The research restricts to the coastal area in Batticaloa district and on the basis of percentage of sampling is applied to the each affected coastal area in Batticaloa district. It has been randomly selected 200 affected families from each tsunami-affected division in the coastal belt of Batticaloa district.

Tsunami-affected Population and Selected Sample

No	Affected divisions	Number of affected families	Selected sample
01	Vaharai	5027	16
02	Valachchenai	5850	20
03	Kiran	1135	04
04	Chenkallady	9085	30
05	Manmunai North	13,500	44
06	Kattankudy	6683	22
07	Manmunai Pattu	5820	20
08	Kaluwanchikudy	13,780	44
	Total	60,880	200

(Source: Tsunami Information unit Kachcheri, Batticaloa.)

1.3.3 Data Analysis and Presentation

The sample was analyzed by univariate analysis, where mean and standard deviation was taken and analyzed. SPSS11.0 computer package was used to analysis the data. The research questionnaire was designed taking in to account the variables that are to be measured. Likert scale rating (1-5) was used to measure variables through relevant statements.

Therefore the decision rule can be formulated as

<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Decision Rule</i>
$0 < X_i \leq 2.5$	Dissatisfactory level
$2.5 < X_i \leq 3.5$	Moderate satisfactory level
$3.5 < X_i \leq 5.0$	Satisfactory level

1.0 Resettlement

According to the conceptual framework firstly the resettlement activities of the NGOs are taken into consideration. There are four related statements were given to this variable. The mean and standard deviation are follows:

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	NGOs have helped to resettlement in the last year.	4.2500	1.25831
2.	NGOs have helped to construct temporary shelter.	4.6800	1.09064
3.	NGOs have assisted to construct permanent shelter.	3.2000	1.97969
4.	People are ready for resettlement.	4.9200	1.06918

The results reveal that the overall mean value of respondents related to resettlement is 4.51 and the standard deviation 1.789. It indicates that the people who lost their home due to Tsunami have high satisfaction on the resettlement activities of the NGOs.

For an example the NGOs such as World Vision, GTZ, UN Habitat, EHED and KPNDU have implemented some project to resettle the affected people in the places of Vaharai, Kalkudah, Thiraimadu, Onthachimadam and Kallady.

2.0 Living Standard

Living standard is one of the dimensions in this research. There are three statements given related to the Living standard. The mean and standard deviation are given below.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	Training given for self-employment	2.9500	1.64148
2.	I have got job through training given by NGOs	2.8100	1.62490
3.	Personal income is increased by the NGOs' training programme.	2.7100	1.44456

The overall mean value 2.8233 falls between the range of $2.5 < X_1 \leq 3.5$ shows the affected people have moderate satisfaction regards to living standard. The overall standard deviation is 1.45602.

The people said, there are a few training programme has been conducting by the certain NGOs. Especially EHED, World Vision, etc are organizing trainings for youths in the field of mesentery, carpentry, sewing, etc.

3.0 Health

Health facilities is another variable, includes three statements.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	Health care facilities are given by NGOs post Tsunami	2.4200	1.49869
2.	NGOs assist to improve health welfare	2.4300	1.53251
3.	NGOs are involving to prevent infection deceases	2.0400	1.37745

The ultimate mean value for these above three statements is 2.2967. This value represents that the affected people have dissatisfaction on the health facilities, which were given by NGOs.

We all know NGOs had provided medicines and conducting mobile hospital immediate after tsunami hit in the Batticaloa District. This situation prolonged certain period but now their interest on health care become slow down.

4.0 Drinking Water

Drinking water is one of the dimensions in this research. There are five statements given related to the drinking water. The mean and standard deviation are given below:

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	Drinking water is given by NGOs after the Tsunami	4.4400	0.85658
2.	Sufficient level of testified pure drinking water is available.	4.6100	0.93090

3.	I received well from NGOs on credit/subsidiary basis	2.2400	1.67042
4.	New wells constructed and cleaning debris from the wells and water purification are made by NGOs.	3.5300	0.84212
5.	NGOs have began long term water supply scheme	3.1300	1.39736

The overall mean value of drinking water, 3.5900 falls the condition of $2.5 < X_1 > 3.5$ shows the affected people have satisfaction regards to the above variable. The overall standard deviation is 1.22347.

When tsunami hits, the water resource severely polluted due to the seawater. The people had big problem to getting drinking water. All wells in coastal are filled with debris and the dirty seawater. That time NGOs provided drinking water. In addition it included clearing debris, testing and purifying water, etc. Nowadays they construct new wells for the replacement of fully damaged wells.

5.0 Education

Education is another variable, consist six statements.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	NGOs have assisted to pre- school	4.5000	0.99346
2.	NGOs have assisted to restore education	3.7700	1.50081
3.	School affected by tsunami have been rehabilitated by NGOs	3.5100	0.95869
4.	Assistance is given to school goers affected by tsunami	3.4536	1.22746
5.	NGOs assist to recover educational expenses	2.2200	1.22746
6.	NGOs assist physical resources to school affected by tsunami	4.0600	1.16185

According to the data collected from the 200-tsunami victims related to Education, 3.5950 are obtained as the overall mean value with the standard deviation of 0.50210. It indicates that the tsunami-affected people have satisfaction on the NGOs' interest on educational improvement.

Due to the tidal wave, there are 59 schools damaged fully and partially in coastal area of Batticaloa District. In addition valuable documents, furniture and other stationeries also washed away. Therefore NGOs as a humanitarian organization assist the affected people to develop their education in the context of conducting Pre- School, providing salary for those teachers, distributing school uniforms, bags, bicycles and other stationeries, etc especially we can see the activities of Unicef, it had wide rang of interest on uplifting the educational performance of the affected area.

6.0 Infrastructure

Infrastructure is one of the dimensions in this research. There are five statements given related to the infrastructure. The mean and standard deviation are given below.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	NGOs have constructed roads, bridges, etc in my area	4.1700	1.07360
2.	Public buildings are constructed by NGOs in my area	2.2700	1.50323
3.	Actions are taken to supply electricity by NGOs	2.7400	1.79010
4.	Community development centre constructed.	2.3200	0.61296
5.	Living standard is uplifted through infrastructure	4.1400	1.31825

The overall mean value 3.1280 falls between the range of $2.5 < X_1 \leq 3.5$ shows the affected people have moderate satisfaction regards to infrastructure. The overall standard deviation is 1.70407.

The bridges, roads and culverts are damaged due to the killer wave hit 2004 December. And also the community buildings, electricity supply, telecommunication were damaged. Some NGOs have taken actions to rebuilt infrastructure facilities but according to the response from the affected people their interest is not sufficient level.

7.0 Market Facilities

According to the conceptual framework marketing facilities of the NGOs is one of the variables. There are four statements given related to

the variable, marketing facilities. The mean and standard deviation are follows:

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	Marketing opportunities are created by NGOs to market our product.	1.2400	0.95473
2.	Market facilities have facilitated to increase earning.	1.3100	0.70632
3.	Marketing skill is increased through NGOs assistance.	1.0600	0.42212
4.	I am protected from the brokers.	1.1000	0.43809

The overall mean value of drinking water, 1.1775 falls the condition of $X_1 < 2.5$ shows the affected people have dissatisfaction regards to the above variable. The overall standard deviation is 0.34687.

Batticaloa district as agriculture district most of them are involved in cultivation. It has experts in this field and the sufficient level of natural resource such as land, fertilized soil and water. But poor marketing opportunity is the major barrier to get good profit. With the result of this research, we can see still they are facing this problem. So NGOs focus is needed to this field.

8.0 Micro Finance

Micro finance is one of the dimensions in this research. There are five statements given related to the micro finance. The mean and standard deviation are given below.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	NGOs have given micro credits.	1.8300	1.16584
2.	I have started self employment	1.8800	1.20839
3.	Income was increased due to self-employment	1.8600	1.20621
4.	NGOs monitor micro finance activities	1.9200	1.15544
5.	The credits were given by NGOs is enough	1.2100	0.72884

According to the data collected from the 200-tsunami victims related to micro finance, 1.7500 are obtained as the overall mean value with the standard deviation of 0.97540. It indicates that the tsunami-affected people have dissatisfaction regarding micro credit facilities.

The tsunami victims got huge amount of relief goods but not money assistant. This is the situation prevailed during that period that relieves provided repeatedly by number of NGOs and with surplus. That is not much with their needs some time. Therefore if they provide credit they use it for their need. But in the context of micro credit their service is very low. Because of that the result of this research shows the dissatisfaction level.

9.0 Income Enhancement and Living Standard

Income enhancement and living standard is another variable, consist four statements.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	Basic needs for living is available	2.9400	1.7911
2.	Training for self employment is given.	3.7200	1.19832
3.	Self employment opportunities are obtained through training.	3.8700	1.21983
4.	Instruments for self employment are given.	4.2800	0.93290

The overall mean value is 3.7025 with the standard deviation of 0.74170. The overall result shows that the victims had satisfaction on the above variable.

According to the response of the affected people, NGOs have been arranging training programme and providing tools like mamerty, big Knife, sewing machine, etc to restart their work.

10. 0 NGOs' Project Suitability

According to the conceptual framework NGOs' project suitability is one of the variables. There are six statements given related to this variable. The mean and standard deviation are follows.

No	Statements	Mean	S. Dev.
1.	NGOs identify correct needs.	2.2600	1.20286
2.	NGOs are prepared projects more suitable to the needs.	1.7600	1.12923
3.	Identified projects are properly implemented	2.1800	1.35124
4.	Projects are implemented at the time.	2.0400	1.05333
5.	NGOs projects are become successful	2.3900	1.08148
6.	Quality of life increased due to post tsunami NGOs' activities.	3.8000	0.40202

The overall mean value of NGOs' project suitability, 2.4050, is falls the condition $0 < X_1 < 2.5$ shows the affected people have dissatisfaction regards to the above variable. The overall standard deviation is 0.78254. After tsunami, more than 85 INGOs are working in Batticaloa District.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Livelihood development is essential for tsunami affected people of the Batticaloa district. The communities in the area are socially, economically very much affected and live under the poverty. Livelihood development process in the district should be accelerated in an effective manner. Specially Agriculture sector, fishing sector are the main sources of income of the people in the district. The following recommendations are suggested to enrich this research region.

Resettlement

- Resettlement is an urgent need in the livelihood development. It should be more concentrated.
- The houses going to be rebuilt should have minimum housing standards (500 Square feet with two rooms, porch, kitchen and tail roofing with toilet facilities).
- Housing construction should be monitor and it should be accelerated.

Living Standard

- Resource based training program should be implemented to the affected people.
- NGOs should provide training program for youth.
- NGOs should implement self employment opportunities and providing small and medium size loan and subsidiary facilities project.

Health

- Reconstruction of the damage hospitals and health institutions.
- Relocation of hospitals which are in the buffer zone.
- Detailed programme for trauma and stress care counseling.
- Establishment of a reliable health services in the coastal village.
- Development and extension of preventive health care programme.
- Give awareness about the environments (self resistance of body, impact of the disposal of garbage, preventing deceases, etc.)

Drinking Water

- Provide drinking water facility in required public places as far as possible.
- Assist to construct the well by providing loan facilities.
- Test the water quality and long term Drinking water projects can be implemented.

Education

- The construction of school buildings has to be accelerated.
- Re-equipped; it is important that all school has to be provided with modern laboratories, computer facilities, library and sporting facilities.
- Counseling programme will be arranged for teachers and students.

- Special needs of the children affected by disaster this will be includes catch-up education, health and nutrition, awareness programmes, teaching and learning materials for kits.

Infrastructure

- Easy access of roads; it is essential for their day to day and business activities.
- Construction of roads and bridges should be schedule within time period.

Market Opportunities

- Provide marketing and storage facilities for farmers.
- To ensure that the access of reasonable prices to the local farmers.

Micro Finance

- Providing financial facilities such as, compensation, grants, subsidies etc.
- Skill development that is, providing training and seminar for micro credit opportunities.
- Capacity building that is encourage through entrepreneur development.

Enhancement of Income and Living Standard

- Provision of the tools and equipment for self- employment opportunities for the affected people.
- Provide training opportunities for employees within the district and outside the district.
- Local revenue based approach.
- Strengthens credit delivery is essential.
- Improve knowledge on credit, savings and financial services among the tsunami victims.

NGOs' Project Suitability

- Identify the needs of the people before plan a project.
- Promote community involvement.
- Action plan of NGOs should be reviewed.

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