

## ABSTRACT

The Asian Development Bank Assisted Water Supply and Sanitation Project was implemented through participatory approach. The beneficiary communities involved in planning, designing, operation and maintenance of facilities through the establishment of community-based organisations. Established government or non-governmental organisations, known as "partner organisations" are assigned to mobilise communities towards the activities pertaining to the project. This study was focused on the assessment of the involvement of a partner organisation called Integrated Rural Alternative Development Organisation (IRADO).

Case study method was used with focused group discussions based on interview schedules with partner organisation and community-based organisations. In addition to that questionnaire survey, observations and informal discussions with Grama Niladharies and project officers were also used. A sample of 90 beneficiary households from three Grama Niladhari Divisions in Warakapola Pradeshiya Sabha Division was selected for the study.

It was found that the partner organisation was able to achieve the targets stipulated according to the guidelines in selecting small group representatives, conducting village participatory surveys, mobilising women and formation of community-based organisations. Samurdhi beneficiaries and women represented 55.0% and 45.0% respectively in the executive committees of community-based organisations. The community-based organisations managed to collect qualifying fees from all beneficiaries and included disadvantaged households for the project benefits. Partner

organisation was unsuccessful in the preparation of water supply proposals and getting effective involvement of communities. Beneficiary participation was poor and attendance was 27% in general meetings of the community-based organisations. Partner organisation had taken the responsibility of the tasks and made decisions on behalf of the community-based organisations. This may have affected the evolution of strong community-based organisations and sustainability of the project. To overcome these shortcomings, it is important to get the involvement of beneficiaries representing young, women and poor in project activities and further strengthening the community-based organisations through educational and training programmes.

**Key words - partner organisation, assessment, water supply and sanitation projects.**