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**The Role of SRSP in the Rehabilitation of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals
in the Earthquake Affected Areas of District Mansehra:
A Case Study of Two Union Councils**

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to evaluate the role of SRSP in the rehabilitation of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) in Garlat and Satbani union councils of District Mansehra. The data were collected using a pretested interview schedule from randomly selected respondents in October-December, 2010. More than half (54%) of the EVIs were from Satbani and 46% from Garlat. The Chi-square tests showed no significance difference between the numbers of EVIs in the two union councils. The SRSP has been most actively involved in rehabilitation process. About one-third of the respondents reported that SRSP had provided a combination of services/help including training, medical aid and treatment and tents for living. The t-test results showed that the average incomes of sample households were significantly higher after they received cash income from NGOs, especially the SRSP. The study concluded that although various NGOs were involved in the rehabilitation activities in the study area, SRSP was the one which played a pivotal role in helping EVIs and households which were badly affected by the 2005 earthquake. The study recommended that various NGOs should promote coordination among themselves so that in case of any other disasters in futures the EVIs could be assisted on a larger scale. The study also recommended that people of the area be imparted technical trainings in coping with disaster and in their own rehabilitation after natural calamities and disasters.

Keywords: SRSP; rehabilitation; 2005 earthquake; EVIs; Mansehra

Introduction

In October 2005, Pakistan was jolted by a severe earthquake of 7.6 intensity on the Richter scale and caused a death toll of about 85000 persons in areas hit by the earthquake. Hazara division of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were hit hard by this earthquake. More than 40,000 were killed by the earthquake and 65,000 were seriously injured. The people of the area suffered huge losses. According to the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA)'s estimates, the property loss is said to be in billions with huge loss of physical infrastructure and housing. In order to provide relief to the earthquake victims, a large scale coordinated effort was required on the part of the Government of Pakistan, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the civil society. Thousands of children were left orphaned by the earthquake. Similarly, many individuals were disabled who were declared extremely vulnerable individuals (McGinn, 2006).

SRSP was established in 1989 with the objective of replicating the "Rural Support Program" approach to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. This approach emphasizes the need to address the issue of poverty on scale by mobilizing the communities to be actively involved in the process by establishing framework of grass root institution. SRSP is registered as largest nonprofit, non-government organization (NGO) operated in fourteen districts of NWFP Pakistan. It has launched many different projects in District Mansehra.

As mentioned earlier, the October 8, 2005 earthquake has left many people extremely vulnerable in Hazara. Although many NGOs and governmental organizations have been working in rehabilitation work but still there are a large number of those who are extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs). This is one of the major problems in the earthquake affected areas of District Mansehra. As many as 1000 individuals have been identified as living in worst conditions. Very little research has been conducted on their rehabilitation; therefore, there is a need for a thorough investigation of such vulnerable individuals. This study is one of the first that was undertaken in the study area and will prove useful for future research in the area. The objectives of the study were to evaluate the role of SRSP in the rehabilitation of EVIs, to examine the constraints and weaknesses in the way the SRSP has been striving to improve the socio economic conditions of

EVI, and to suggest policy recommendations for improving the condition of the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals.

Literature Review

Bennell (1999) explored the role of training in assisting individuals who are economically vulnerable and socially excluded (EVSE) in developing countries. Roughly speaking, almost one in four of the population in the developing world lies in absolute poverty and this number continues to increase rather than decrease. Poverty reduction is now at the top of policy agendas of most bilateral donor agencies and development organizations within and outside United Nations systems as well as a growing number of governments. Raissi (2007) has investigated the rehabilitation needs of the 2003 Earthquake in Bam Iran. He reported that the earthquake left at least 36,000 dead and 23,000 injured. Approximately 10,000 people were admitted to temporary, local, or other hospitals in the country. The disaster left a great many people with residual deficits and disabilities. The rehabilitation process in Bam, although a long-term process, has suffered from these problems as well. On the other hand, because rehabilitation is a long-term process and the experience of the developing countries in rehabilitation is usually limited, international aid from the field of rehabilitation, if well organized, would be of great help in disaster areas.

Qureshi (2008) studied the role of the NGO's in the rehabilitation of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals after the earthquake in District Mansehra. Different constraints and difficulties were also faced by the NGO's working in quake affected areas to rehabilitate the vulnerable individuals. The constraints included lack of coordination, lack of resources, lack of sector specialist and emergency situation follow up. They tried their best to overcome these problems as the main constraint during the quake was time. The other difficulties were as usual the area being inaccessible, cultural values and racism and lack of working experience. McGinn (2006) conducted a comprehensive, multi-sectorial needs assessment in Allai Tehsil (sub-district) in the March and April of 2006. The study has confirmed that the people of Allai have enormous unmet needs in multiple sectors; although they are not starving, emergency conditions continue and the population remains extremely vulnerable.

A number of NGOs and other government departments have worked for the rehabilitation of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals after the earthquake. SRSP is actively involved in the rehabilitation of EVIs in the study area. Although, other aspects of SRSP have been studied by other researchers, the rehabilitation part of SRSP has not been investigated thoroughly especially in the study area. There is a dire need to examine the role of SRSP in the rehabilitation of EVIs in the study area. Therefore, the present study is concentrated upon the aforementioned aspects of SRSP and this study would be of pivotal importance for policy makers, NGOs and other stakeholders. This study was conducted with the aim to discuss the role of SRSP and constraints and weaknesses that it faced during their operation in the affected areas. The different socio-economic and cultural barriers that they face and the reason why still a large number of extremely vulnerable individuals still exist in order to provide useful recommendations for the policy makers.

Research Methodology

District Mansehra constitutes the area of the study because a large number of people were left extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) after October 2005 Earthquake in this area. There are many union councils in District Mansehra. But keeping in view the time and financial constraints only two union councils were purposively selected for this study. The reason for the purposive selection is that majority of the extremely vulnerable individuals are in UC Satbani and UC Garlat.

All the households having extremely individuals were the potential respondents of the study. To locate such respondents, an informal survey was conducted in the study area. On the whole 1300 households were identified to have at least one extremely vulnerable individual. A sample of 5 per cent was selected from the population of households having EVIs. The sample size, therefore, consisted of 65 households. The households were selected through simple random sampling in the two selected union councils. The distribution of sample and total households is given in Table 1.

To collect primary data from the sample respondent's interview schedule was prepared and was pretested in the study area before formal data collection. On the basis of pre-testing, the interview schedule was revised and finalized. The data were collected from the sample respondents by face to face interview. The

sample respondents were first briefed about the purpose of this study and then data were collected. It facilitated the data collection. The survey was conducted during October-December, 2010.

The collected data were analysed through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Chi-square and t-test analyses were also performed where needed.

$$\text{Chi-square } \chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

Where χ^2 is the Chi-square test for independence which compares two sets of categories to determine whether the two groups are distributed differently among the categories (McGibbon, 2006; Walpole, 1983). O_i and E_i are observed and expected frequencies, respectively.

Table 1:

Total and Sample Households in the Study Area

Union Council	Total Household	Sample Household
Satbani	700	35
Garlat	600	30
All	1300	65

Source: Survey

T-test for comparing means was used as follows:

$$t_{cal} = \frac{(\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2)}{S_{12} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}}$$

where S_{12} is the pooled estimate of standard deviation and is given by

$$S_{12} = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)S_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}}$$

and t_{cal} value is compared with the **critical** (theoretical) t_{tab} value corresponding to the given degree of freedom N (in the present case $N = (n_1 + n_2 - 2)$) and the confidence level chosen. Tables of critical t values can be found in any book of statistical analysis, as well as in many quantitative analysis textbooks. If $t_{cal} > t_{tab}$ then H_0 is rejected otherwise H_0 is retained (Walpole, 1983).

Results and Discussion

General Description

More than half (55%) of the sample respondents were literate and 45 % were illiterate in the study area. There was no significant difference between the numbers of literate and illiterate respondents in the two union councils.

Table 2:

Sample Respondents Classified by Literacy Status in the study Area

Literacy Status	Satbani	Garlat	All
Literate	20 (57)	16 (53)	36 (55)
Illiterate	15 (43)	14 (47)	29 (45)
All	35 (100)	30 (100)	65 (100)

$$\chi^2_{cal} = 0.087$$

Source: Survey

Notes: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Agricultural landholdings constitute important source of income and livelihood for the people of any area. It can be used for crop production, livestock holding, and other purposes. The study area is mainly mountainous and the people of the area have very small landholdings. The sample respondents reported their landholdings the distribution of which is given in Table 3.

It is clear from Table 3 that about 50 % of the sample households has landholdings of up to 2.5 *kanals*. About one-third of the households had

landholdings between 2.5 to 5 *kanals*. Only one-fifth of the sample households had land holdings of above 5 *kanals*. The reasons for the very small size of landholdings are that (i) the study area is mountainous and (ii) the households size sizes are higher due to population increase which leads to subdivision and fragmentation of land. However, no significant difference was found in landholdings in the two union councils.

Table 3:

Sample Households Classified by Landholdings

Landholdings (<i>kanals</i>)	Satbani	Garlat	All
Upto 2.5	18 (51)	14 (47)	32 (49)
2.5-5.0	11 (31)	9 (30)	20 (31)
Above 5	6 (18)	7 (23)	13 (20)
All	35 (100)	30 (100)	65 (100)

$$\chi^2_{\text{cal}} = 0.39$$

Source: Survey

Notes: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Incidence of EVIs in the Study Area

Data in Table 4 show that about half (49%) of the sample households had one EVI. More than one-third (34%) households had 2 EVIs. Households having 3 and 4 EVIs constituted 12% and 5%, respectively. Similarly, by comparing the distribution of EVIs in the two union councils it is evident from the data that 54% of the EVIs were from Satbani Union Council followed by 46% in Garlat.

The Chi-squared test shows no significance difference between the numbers of EVIs in the two union councils.

Table 4:

Classification of Sample Respondents in Sample Union Councils

Households with EVIs	Satbani	Garlat	Total
Households having 1 EVI	17	15	32 (49)
Households having 2 EVIs	12	10	22 (34)
Households having 3 EVIs	5	3	8 (12)
Households having 4 EVIs	1	2	3 (5)
All	35 (54)	30 (46)	65 (100)

$$\chi^2 = 0.76$$

Source: Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages

Distribution of EVIs by Type of Vulnerability

Table 5 shows type of vulnerability of sample respondents. Most of the respondents (35%) became physically or mentally disable as result of October 2005 earthquake. Earthquake did not only lead to human death toll, it also destroyed natural, physical, human, and financial capital of the people of the area. Thus, the earthquake severely damaged their sources of livelihood. It will require a long time for the people of the area to be fully rehabilitated.

Table 5:

Sample Households Distinguished by Having Various Types of EVIs

Type of Vulnerability	No. of Respondents	%
Serious Medical Condition	7	15
Physical or Mental Disability	23	35
Pregnant Women (>28 weeks)	4	6
Widow or Widowers	9	14
Single Parent or Child Headed Households	5	19
Separated Children/Orphan	7	11
All	65	100

Source: Survey

Perceptions of Sample Respondents Regarding Assistance Provided by NGOs

It was found out during the field survey that various NGOs had provided assistance in different forms to the EVIs in the sample area. The sample respondents reported that the NGOs involved in rehabilitation process included SRSP, BEST, SANGI, UN-HABITAT, MERCY CORPS, ODC, RED CROSS, etc. About, 44% of the respondents pointed SRSP was most actively involved in rehabilitation process. The respondents held the view that SRSP had provided assistance in different forms in the rehabilitation work in earthquake affected areas of Mansehra district. It has established Mansehra Regional Office in the earthquake affected area and assisted the affectees of the earthquake through different projects using social mobilization tool. It was observed during the survey that majority of the sample people had suffered due to loss of human lives, houses, livestock, etc. Although, these NGOs including SRSP have provided supports in different forms to these families but these have not been compensated for their 100% loss of their assets. Therefore, they still demanded that they be supported for their entire losses due to earthquake there. These findings are in line with some other studies conducted by some other researchers in other areas (Qureshi, 2008; Khan (n.d)).

Provision of Various Services by SRSP

According to the survey results, various types of treatment facilities provided by SRSP to the sample households in the study area. Out of the total respondents, 58% reported that they were provided basic health treatment and general medical treatment. In addition to medical treatment facilities, The SRSP also provided basic necessities to households having EVIs in the study area. One-fifth of the respondents showed that they were provided with edible item, tents and utensils by the SRSP. About 17 % of them reported that they were given edible item plus tents only. More than one-fifth were provided with tents, food, tarpaulin, and hygiene kits.

Similarly, The SRSP also imparted various kinds of trainings to the affected household members in the study area. Only 31% reported that they did not get any kind of training. The rest (69%) reported that they were given various types of trainings by the SRSP in the study area. The SRSP also helped the affected households by providing them linkages. This means that when SRSP could not

provide some services then it informed sample respondents about other sources that could provide such services. Different NGO's work in different sectors and according to their projects, they involved in only sector at time. Another important role that they play during this is the making of linkages with other departments and NGO's of these vulnerable individuals so that they can get maximum benefit from them as well.

Role of SRSP in Enhancing Income of Households Having EVIs

It was observed that the household income was significantly enhanced due to provision of cash by such NGOs. In order to examine the difference between household income before and after, t-test was used. The results of the comparison of income in the two union councils are given in Table 6.

Table 6:

Average Household Incomes Before and After Provision of Cash by SRSP

Union Council	Before (Rs)	After (Rs)	t-statistic
Satbani	14,509	23,675	3.15*
Garlat	16,589	25,508	3.60*
Study Area	15,549	24592	3.47*

Source: Survey

Note: * shows statistical significance at 1% level.

The t-statistics computed and given in Table 6 indicate that the average incomes of sample households were significantly higher after they received cash income from NGOs, especially the SRSP. This also supports findings of shows that SRSP played a very significant role in enhancing household incomes. We therefore reject the first null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that the role of SRSP was quite significant in rehabilitation work in the study area.

Since this study focused on the role of SRSP in rehabilitation of EVIs in the study area so the sample respondents were specifically asked if they were satisfied with the role of SRSP in their rehabilitation. The following table shows data regarding sample respondents' satisfaction about SRSP and other NGOs in the rehabilitation of affected households and especially the EVIs.

Table 7:

Sample Respondents Classified by Revealing Satisfaction about SRSP and other NGOs in Rehabilitation Activities

View of Respondents	SRSP	Other NGOs	All
Satisfied	35 (78)	6 (30)	41 (63)
Not Satisfied	10 (22)	14 (70)	24 (37)
All	45 (100)	20 (100)	65 (100)

$$\chi^2_{\text{cal}} = 13.59 \text{ and } \chi^2_{\text{tab}} = 3.84 \text{ at } \alpha = 0.05$$

Source: Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

It is clear from data in Table 7 the chi-square test is highly statistically significant at 5 per cent level. Thus we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that there is the evidence of strong association between the respondents' satisfaction and type of NGO (i.e. SRSP versus other NGOs). This implies that sample respondents were more satisfied with the role of SRSP as compared with the other NGOs. This finding is also supported by percentage figures as 78% of the respondents were satisfied with SRSP compared to 22% who were not satisfied with SRSP's role in rehabilitation work. The same finding can be found by looking from another angle. Regarding other NGOs role in rehabilitation activities, 70% of the respondents were not satisfied against 30% who were satisfied with those NGOs role. Thus, the findings of this study show a significant role played by SRSP in the rehabilitation of EVIs and their households in the study area. Thus we reject the second null hypothesis and accept the second alternative hypothesis that there was a significant difference between the

role of SRSP and other NGOs regarding rehabilitation activities in the study area. This implies that the role of SRSP was much better than other NGOs as this was revealed by the sample respondents and confirmed by test statistics.

Constraints Faced by SRSP in Rehabilitation Activities

Although SRSP has done a wonderful work in rehabilitating EVIs as well as affected households. However, it also faced various kinds of constraints in performing its functions in the study area. The officials of the SRSP reported that the main hurdles its way of rehabilitation activities included lack of coordination with other NGOs, lack of various sector specialists, lack of emergency situation follow up as well lack of financial resources. Other difficulties faced by SRSP in executing its activities were socio-cultural. These socio-cultural difficulties included area difficulty, cultural values, racism, religious and political conflicts, etc. Due to these reasons the SRSP workers were not able to reach the vulnerable individuals in time.

Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

The study concluded that although various NGOs were involved in the rehabilitation activities in the study area, SRSP was the one which played a pivotal role in helping EVIs and households which were badly affected by the 2005 earthquake. It provided assistance to the sample households in various form including provision of edible and non-edible items, training facilities, and medical treatment. The study also concluded that despite its significant role, the SRSP also faced various constraints and weakness in performing its due role in rehabilitation activities. These constraints included lack of coordination, political and religious factors inhibiting NGOs, difficulties in reaching the needy people in time because of mountainous nature of the area. Land sliding and power failure also added to the difficulties of SRSP in helping the extremely vulnerable individuals in the study area.

Since there was lack of coordination among various NGOs, the study recommended that various NGOs have strong coordination among themselves so that in case of any other disasters in futures such weaknesses could be avoided. There was some political and religious extremism which hampered SRSP in its rehabilitation work. The study recommended that various stakeholders play a

vital role in curtailing extremism and promoting tolerance so that governmental organizations and NGOs could play an effective role in disaster management. The study also recommended that people of the area be imparted technical trainings in coping with disaster and in their own rehabilitation after natural calamities and disasters. The government should shift people living in dangerous areas to those areas which are comparatively safe so human life loss and property loss could be minimized.

About the authors

The authors are Graduate Student, Professor, and Assistant Professor, respectively, at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The findings of the paper are based on the unpublished thesis of MSc (Hons) Rural Development submitted to KP Agricultural University, Peshawar.

Note

- ¹ According to the report of International Labor Organization (ILO), Vulnerability is feeling of being exposed to emotional hurt, being taken advantage of, or abused, feeling of being fragile, weak or susceptible to emotional pain and suffering and relating of your innermost feelings and fears to others with possibility that they might use such feelings and fears against you

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