

Institutions in natural resource management: a case from North West Frontier Province, Pakistan

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Abstract

This study was undertaken in the district Dir, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan. It is focused on the involvement of institutions in effective management of natural resources, mainly the forests. The main objective being to see the effect of the presence of the state institutions on the natural resource use and forest depletion.

Two major tools for obtaining information and data were used. Firstly, questionnaire, was employed in assessing the household characteristic, and subject like forest, user groups, forest products etc. Secondly, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), used, digging out information about the social setting, history, present perception and views about the future regarding natural resources. It also helped in getting information about the various institutions and their role in natural resource management.

The household adaptation in the villages of Dir District partly reflect the resource endowments such as land, labour, capital and forest resources available for the production of household entitlements. This study observed that the cultivable land and capital is insufficient and most production processes are dependent on the family labour. This scenario inclined the people towards excessive exploitation of the surrounding forests. Land and labour have been the most important cause of social and economic in the villages of Dir.

The common pool resources have been exploited by a wide variety of user groups. They have different objectives and priorities for resource use. This results in creating problems in management. It has also been noticed that the customary laws, that used to be governed and respected in past have been seriously eroded. Centralized state institutions with an ethos of regulation and control are ill equipped to regulate and manage resource system with sustainable benefit streams

NWFP Dir has a variety of land tenure systems, this make land use planning difficult. It has resulted in conflicts and, insufficient and improper use of land. This situation applies to most of the state managed forests, where access and use conflicts have resulted into degradation and depletion of the resources. In case of Dir co-management or joint forest management is a feasible way forward, if its benefits are to be realised by both present and future generations.

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of Master of Science in Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture (MNRSA)

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