

Self Reliant Village Cooperative Society at the Age of Globalisation: a case of Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)

M. Kamrul Hasan*
Nasima Akhter**

Abstract

Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) is a rural development endeavor under village based cooperative organization. CVDP is a brainchild of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), now it is a national project of the Bangladesh Government, which being implementing at least one Upazila (subdistrict) of 64 Districts of Bangladesh. The objective of the article was to delineate the self help approach by Comprehensive Village Development Society (CVDS) and the inspiration of its members with considerations of modus operandi, challenges despite of individualism at globalisation. The scope of the study included approaches of advocacy cum motivation for getting membership, support services at receiving ends. This paper based on authors own experience and observation in CVDP villages of BARD. The general objective of the CVDP project is to create single cooperative organization irrespective from all strata, occupations, gender of the village for organizing development efforts at the village and reduction of poverty of them. The society is formed through voluntary, spontaneous and folk solidarity of the villagers. The seven principles of cooperative are being practicing by the members of the society. It has three types of members like male, female, and children. The CVDP believes in individual's entrepreneurship in one hand and inclusiveness of villagers on the other, motivate the members for own initiative development through training and capability improvement. Therefore CVDP provides training on various fields such as leadership, agricultural development, gender development, child rights. On the other hand CVDP arranges technical training for the youth members of the society and giving training on electrical, plumbing, refrigeration, tailoring and solar installation. CVDP links its members with the Nation Building

* Joint Director, BARD and Deputy Project Director CVDP

** Joint Director, BARD

Departments through training, participation and visit. The major motto of CVDP is to develop physical and human capital. On the other hand cooperative society buildup financial capital and offers small loans from own savings/share to the members. This project harnesses the capacity and capability of the society as well as its members. On the other hand people are showing keen interest on global labour market, business and trade. The comprehensive cooperative society patronizes its members for providing loans and information for going abroad in view of remittance earnings. CVDP has shown its capacity for achieving MDGs. With the democratic practices the poor people can be organized here through raises their voices. CVDP also knocks achieving competitiveness of its members through education and training. However the project already experienced some of the challenges like sustainability of the village society and multiplicity of development organizations with contrasts.

Keywords: Comprehensive approach, umbrella platform, economic and social wellbeing, nation building departments, education and training, motivation, women and child development, and village network for progress.

Prologue

Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) is a multidimensional rural development approach which based on villagers own initiatives and resource mobilization consists of village people and their function under village based cooperative organization. CVDP is a brainchild of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), which has been begun its journey as an experimental project named Total Village Development Programme (TVDP) in 1975. Since 1983 the project renamed as Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP). After several stages of experiments successfully over the periods, CVDP turn into a national project of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The government is provided fund of training and salaries of the project personnel. Since July 2008, CVDP is being implementing at least one Upazila (Subdistrict) of all 64 Districts of Bangladesh At its 2nd phase, The four institutions like Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Rural Development Academy (RDA), Department of Cooperatives, and Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) are implementing the project of CVDP-2nd phase which will be ended in December 2015.

Objectives, scopes and methods of the study

The objective of the article was to delineate the self help approach entangled with services by the Comprehensive Village Development

Cooperative Society (CVDCS) and the motivation of togetherness of its members with considerations of modus operandi, challenges at the age of market economy under globalization. The scope of the study is included process of advocacy cum motivation of inclusion in terms of membership, participation of support service providers and Nation Building Departments (NBDs), financial capital formation by the members and their process of building of social capital. This paper based on author's own long experiences and observation in the field of rural development and working in CVDP villages of BARD. Besides, case stories, group discussions at the village levels have been organised for data collection.

Overview of CVDP

The general objective of the CVDP project is to create single comprehensive cooperative organization irrespective from all strata, gender, occupations of the villagers for organizing development efforts at the village and reduction of poverty. The project is evolved through working with village people in participatory approach. The major learning from the long experiences of CVDP is multiple. The society is formed through voluntary, spontaneous and folk solidarity of the villagers. The seven principles of cooperative such as democratic control of the society, the financial participation of the members, autonomy of the society, education and training, inter-cooperative relations, and social involvement are being practicing by the members of the society. It has three types of members like male, female, and children, those are assembled here. The CVDP believes in individual's entrepreneurship in one hand and inclusiveness of the villagers on the other. Therefore it has several dimensions such as self help, receiving end of Nation Building Departments, family cum community development. The motivation is the key of CVDP activities. Imparting training with motivation is inspiring the members for taking own initiative development. Therefore CVDP provides training on various fields such as leadership, capability development, agricultural development, gender development, child rights, family planning, orientation programmes on current issues like entrepreneur development and others. On the other hand CVDP arranges technical training for the youth members of the society and giving training on electrical, plumbing, refrigeration, tailoring and solar installation. After successful completion of technical trade training the fellow receives some of the inputs like sewing machine particularly for women. CVDP links its members with the Nation Building Departments through training, participation and visit. The major motto of CVDP is to develop physical and human capital. On the other hand cooperative society rises financial capital and offers small loans from own savings/share to the members. In this view CVDP follows some sort of self reliant in terms of own capital formation. This project harnesses the

capacity and capability of the society as well as its individual members. At the organizational level the major components of CVDP are given below:

- Motivation and training
- Open membership
- Leadership development and team work
- Trained village development worker
- Capital formation and investment programme
- Economic development and self employment
- Social development activities
- Local level planning
- Monthly joint meeting

Self help approach

Comprehensive Village Development Programme has been evolved with own initiatives to mobilize resources of the villagers. They are organized for creating a socio economic organization beneath with cooperative norms. This is very organized and self dependent organization which incorporated so far about 0.4 million (4 lakh) people. The members of the cooperative society are helping themselves in terms of development of individual, family and village society. The village cooperative society is a registered society. The comprehensive village cooperative society is governed by the 9 members of elected executive committee. The establishment of single comprehensive cooperative society has own dynamism and strength and may act as an umbrella organization at the village level. It is totally depends on solidarity cum team work of the villagers. Effective relations with local government organizations and nation building departments or service providers are developed through monthly joint meeting at the village level. Agriculture extension, livestock, youth department are extending their services through CVDCS. The Upazila Project Implementation Committee and Union Project Implementation Committee are being operating for coordination of training and development of CVDP. However, the Assistant Project Director of Upazila level is the member secretary of both the committees. Currently there are 4080 CVDCS is operating in 64 Districts. Every village have village information based book on village survey conducted by CVDP. Comprehensive Village Development Society is a development platform where Nation Building Departments and various service providers irrespective of Non Government Organization and Voluntary Organizations can work here coordinately or jointly for wellbeing of the rural people. At the village level several development efforts are operating in the field of health and nutrition, human resource

development and education services, agriculture and irrigation services, youth, fishery, and livestock, rural conflict mitigation, local resource utilization.

Globalisation and changing village society of Bangladesh

The village of Bangladesh is not isolated even in early period of history. The process of globalization directly and indirectly influences the rural Bangladesh. The pattern of social mobility has been changed due to several causes such as technology, education, politics, migration, women participation and etc. . New occupations are interferences at the villages. The rate of urbanization directly impact on villages. The style of living has been changed. CVDP is a process of social inclusion with view of folk and spontaneous solidarity of the villager. Inclusion is the process which is national and global development strategy. Access to information and leadership style of village people, capacity to establish linkages and willing to work are very important to run the village society. The aim of CVDP is to reduce poverty through mobilization of own thrift deposit savings and share. CVDP is the model of solidarity. It has capacity to accelerate division of labour among the village which may indicate the organic solidarity, which articulated by sociologist Emile Durkheim. CVDP has inclusiveness and harnessing of human capacity to get opportunity from globalization in terms of trade, employment generation through skilled training on technical fields. The comprehensive cooperative society patronizes its members for providing loans and information for going abroad in view of remittance earnings. The technical trained member of the society can go to abroad for remittance earning. A post training utilization study on technical training of CVDP reveals that about 5 percent (69 persons of CVDP technically trained members) are now working at respective fields in foreign countries. On the other hand 93 percent (1340 persons) of them are self employed those working in the country. About 2 percent (32 persons) is working different formal and non formal organizations. Therefore the process of it in view of technical training and investment plan of the member(s) has increased the employment generation significantly. With the democratic practices the poor people can be organized here through assemble at the village organization and having raises their voices. The experiences with CVDP indicate that essentially rural poor people are more interested to join the CVDP. It depends on nature of motivation and information. CVDP also knocks achieving competitiveness of its members through education and training. The major components of the CVDP are agriculture development, economic and social wellbeing, organizing capacity and leadership, good governance, village solidarity, networks, self employment, and local level planning. Regional and international development agencies are also utilize CVDCS as platform for community development which successfully organized By volunteers from Korea

International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) at Raicho village of Comilla Sadar Upazila and different villages of Burichang Upazila of Comilla district.

Table 1: Some of the achievements of CVDP 2nd Phase BARD

Components	Cumulative achievements up to October, 2014
Formation of registered comprehensive cooperative society	1020
Number of family inclusion at the cooperative society	96183
Number of membership in the Comprehensive Village Development Cooperative Society (CVDCS)	147472
Formation of capital (share, savings, and others) (Tk. In Lakh)	2602.61
Savings and others (Tk. In Lakh)	1912.81
Disbursement of credit/investment (Tk. In Lakh)	4329.38
Self employment through training and credit (person)	49347

Source: Project information for Annual Development Programme Review Meeting

The changes have been occurred at the leadership pattern through CVDP. Traditional leadership is fading away from the villages on progress of CVDCS. New leadership comes from lower income and middle income groups. The majority of the comprehensive cooperative members are derived from poor socio economic position. They are mainly day labourers and small farmers (RDCD, 2013). The members of the CVDCS have shown their capability in the fields of education, family planning, sanitation, forestation, livestock and poultry birds rearing. Self reliant approach now days probably obsolete due to individualism. However Gandhian view on self reliant addresses one thing that is recognition of artisans on reciprocal exchange. On the other hand other self reliant approaches are Julius Nayerer's socialist Ujama which dismantled due to advent of market capital economy. CVDP has two ends, to be self reliant at modern time in regards of own credit operations and getting training from technical and knowledge institutions. The trained manpower has opportunities to train village people. It was commitment that promised at the input giving ceremony after completion of the technical trade based training. So that CVDP is contributing to develop modern artisans which significantly valued at national development. CVDP has shown its capacity for achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Challenges and concluding remarks

The motto of CVDP is to faith on human power and create enabling environment for human development. CVDP is an interdependent socio

economic development oriented cooperative organization. With its huge coverage in terms of social involvements therefore it is necessary to continue the motivation of the villagers for achieving maximum outputs. It is necessary to enhance capital in provisions of financial and social through CVDP movement. The demanding new trades on application of computer, air conditioning, motor and pump mechanic, veterinary training, paramedics, block and batik, midwifery training where CVDCS members can be participated in skill based technical training (RDCD, 2013). To achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) it is necessary cover ultra poor at the CVDP project. The contradictions of micro credit those are provided by different NGOs, Grameen Bank, and other Government agencies should be coordinated and the rate of interest of credit must be affordable. However the project already experienced some of the challenges like sustainability of the village society and multiplicity of development organizations with contrasts.

The single most challenge is prevails in contradictions of poverty reduction programmes in terms of different modus operandi and rate of interest. The other challenges are leadership motivation and trust of members upon leader, challenges in enabling environment for synergy. urbanization and changing rural lives, level of motivation and vision of service providers.

In real sense CVDP was designed for coordinating the development works from different service providers in the village. It can be worked with local government institutions. Without people's participation and leadership development at village level the functions of CVDP can be complex. On the other hand political commitment, harmonization of the government programmes in terms of providing contributory fund to all group or society and commitments of service providers are very decisive for running CVDP. In view of effective CVDP requires societal values, human energy, visionary village leadership, willing to participate in different social activities, utilize the networks and sharing the ideas for future planning of the villagers.

Reference

Rural Development and Co-operative Division, GoB (2013), Revised Development Project Proposal on Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP-2nd Phase).

CVDP, BARD (2014), Introduction to CVDP