Analysis of the Background for the Failures of Poverty Alleviation Programmes
Special Reference to Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

Poverty is the main problem in the world. In fact, poverty is recognized as the main factor that influence for the economic growth of a country. Apparently, many regions are still have the problem of poverty and make effort to reduce poverty. Consequently the scholars found the factors affecting poverty alleviation programmes are community participation, integrative framework, knowledge, stakeholder engagement, network, safety and security, redeployment, state of the programme, legislation and support, governance, political factors, corruption, lack of involvement, communication problems, problems of rural development programme, social sector and poverty, unemployment and the labor market, vulnerability of the poor, poor targeting. In collecting data Quantitative, methods were used. The primary data was gathered from Divisional secretariats staffs who are directly involved in the poverty alleviation Programmes has considered for this research in the Trincomalee district. There are 11 divisional secretariat in the district. Therefore, 500 questionnaires issued to those division. The analysis shows that political factors has a very strong correlation while communication and involvement has strong correlation. Moreover, knowledge has a negative correlation.

Key words: Poverty, Poverty alleviation, Poverty alleviation programmes

1. Introduction

Poverty alleviation Programmes have been rooted all over the world but their success has been limited despite all efforts, poverty remains a continuing problem in all developing countries. Almost half of the world 6 billion people living in south Asia. There is a significant variation in the incidence of poverty across countries. Available data on the incidence of poverty indicate that it is highest in Bangladesh and Nepal followed by Pakistan. Sri Lanka is almost the lowest in the region but indicts a difference between the rural and the urban sectors. In fact, the urban incidence of poverty is far better than the rest of the region at 13%. Rural incidence of poverty is not so and is comparable with other countries at about 29%. The population of Sri Lanka is largely rural with about 85.3% living rural areas. In the current poverty is the main problem in the world that recognize as the main factor that influence for the economic growth of a country. Apparently, many regions are still have the problem of poverty and make effort to reduce poverty. However, there poverty level is lower in developed countries than developing countries. In fact, developing countries have the high level of poverty rate.

According to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (2017), there is a high poverty rate in African region which recorded 41% by 2013. On the other hand, when considering the poverty rate at South Asia it represents 15% in 2013 and remain in the second-high poverty in the world. The statistics further shows that the poverty has declined from 1990 to 2013 respectively. The poverty gap is the average shortfall of the total population from poverty line. The measurement is used to reflect the intensity of poverty. The above table 1.5 indicates that the poverty gap registered in 2012/13 was 1.2%. However, when compare with poverty gap in 2006/07 and 2009/10 it is very much low and it is declined continually from the past years. The estate areas had the highest poverty gap compare with other urban and rural areas. In 2006/07 the poverty gap was 6.2 and it’s reduce as 1.2 in 2012/13 the main reason for this was government has introduced good poverty alleviation Programmes to reduce the poverty in Sri Lanka (Department of Census Statistics, 2016).According to the Economic and social statistic of Sri Lanka (2017) final rate of poverty is reported as 1.2% for the country. When considering at the poverty gap by province it can be indicate the different rate of index by each province. The Uva province has the high rate of 2.6 % and next to it eastern province shows the second-high value as 2.1% of poverty gap index in the country. The western province has the low level of poverty gap index as 0.4%. The year period of 2006/07 to 2012/13, the rate of index declined continually. The absolute international poverty line was set at $1.25/day in
2005 dollars. However, in 2015 the World Bank updated this from $1.25 to $1.90 per day, in 2011 dollars, to reflect the changes in the estimated purchasing power of the dollar in poor countries.

In both cases, the line was set based on the national poverty lines of 15 very low-income countries, converted to US$ using purchasing power parity exchange rates. Excluding the Northern and Eastern provinces, headcount poverty fell from 22.7 percent to 6.1 percent between 2002 and 2012/13. In that same period, extreme poverty in Sri Lanka decreased from 13 percent to less than 3 percent in 2012/13—lower than many of Sri Lanka’s neighbors, other post-conflict countries, and other comparable countries (World Bank, 2018). However, the country remains a low-income country. Although Sri Lanka's long-term growth compares favorably with developing countries, it falls short of the growth achieved during the last 50 years by the high-performing East Asian economies such as Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. This was partly due to policy mismanagement and the on-going war that has now continued for 17 years. It was also a case of missed opportunities (Kelegama, 2001).

2. Literature Review
Poverty is defined in many different ways and using many different standards. “Poverty is pronounced as deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one’s life” (Phillip & Rayhan, 2004). Lima et al., (2011) describes that poverty alleviation is the first of the United Nations established Millennium Development Goals (MDG), with sustainable poverty alleviation being acknowledged as a main expansion action to the accomplishment of this goal. Over the last years, promise to poverty alleviation as an expansion strategy for the emerging world has gained a rehabilitated attention within governments and growth organizations in the contentment of the United Nations MDGs. Public programme implementation or delivery can affect by the attitude or the behavior of the implementers either in positive or negative manner. That is, if they are negatively disposed to a programme, there will be lack of commitment to the implementation process. Even though the set objectives of government policies stand to benefit the public, the cabal that holds the top level of government hostage, at any point in time, will risk or frustrate the implementation of public policies. There are three fundamental barriers to programme implementation, dispositional problems (when implementers do not want to do what they are supposed to do), communication problems (when implementers do not know what they are supposed to do), and capability problems (when implementers are not able to do what they are supposed to do). They further states that most programmes for poverty alleviation fail to achieve their goals because of the lack of resources (Pathirage, 2015).

Implementation often requires involvement. Involvement is a concept based on a set of behaviors, activities and assignments that engage officials throughout the programme implementation process. According to him, this involvement has multiple dimensions: overall responsibility that the official may have with the programme, the relationship between the officer and the programme, and hands-on programme-related tasks. Increasing involvement in one or more of these dimensions enhances the implementation while decreasing in one or more of these dimensions delay the implementation. The strength of an individual's involvement relates in direct way to the implementation failure. Apparently, another barrier for successful implementation is lack of involvement (Pathirage, 2015). Getting to know the information about the programme leads to the success of the implementation, while hiding the information may delay the implementation success. When implementers do not know what they are supposed to do, the programme cannot achieve its intended objectives. The programme failures have been due to the lack of community participation, the lack of follow up activities and unclear concepts and programmes and mismanagement of development programmes, the lack of inter-agency coordination supported by top- down approach and non-participatory approach to development (Pathirage, 2015). Lima et al, (2011) conducted their study on find out the determinants for tourism and poverty alleviation. The key objective of the study was to identify the main determinants to consider when poverty alleviation is the main aim under the tourism international development cooperation programmes. The study conducted by using UNWTO programme. Trained and skilled volunteers carried out the programme throughout eight months in order to achieve a strategic tourism-planning project. This was aim of the programme was to filling a knowledge gap, building on existing information and research by means of participatory methods to explore and analyze perception and practice of local tourism system in the region of Chiapas in order to convert such knowledge into capacity building. The study has implemented data collection process by using local officials. However, in the planning and research of secondary data before the fieldwork phase, and most importantly during the fieldwork
from a range of local stakeholder that demonstrated to have a great base of knowledge.

3. Conceptual framework

Conceptualization is the process of taking a construct and refining it by giving it a conceptual or theoretical definition. Instead, the researcher takes keywords in their research question or hypothesis and finds a clear and consistent definition that is agreeing upon by others in the scientific community. Based on literature survey following conceptual framework was developed. This conceptual framework will show the factors effect on poverty alleviation Programmes.

Source: Researcher’s Work

4. Research Problem

The government has implemented several poverty alleviation programmes such as Samurdhi, Divineguma, Housing Schemes, etc. However, these programmes were unable to achieve its purpose. Hence, these programmes were not eliminating the poverty in the district. Consequently, the researcher found that it is a problem on the part of the implementing agency by observing the functions in the project offices (Divisional Secretariat) in Trincomalee District.

Accordingly, families live under the income of 1000/= in the Muthur divisional secretariat 9725 where most of the people are doing farming and labor works. One of the main reason for the poverty is people has faced many problems in the war period. On the other hand, Town & gravel and Kinniya have 2449 and 2327 families respectively. Moreover, In all divisional secretariat most of the families live under the income rate of 1000 - 5000 while the whole district 25971 families get the income of above 15000/=. More than 50% of the families get below 10000/= as a monthly income. This is also not enough to live in the current situation. Nowadays all the price for goods and service are very high compare with the past years. Therefore, it has become very difficult to live under low income.

5. Objectives of the Study

The overall aim of this research is to examine the factors for the failure of poverty alleviation programmes in the Trincomalee district.

The specifically with in the factors the objective of this study is:

- To determine the level success in poverty alleviation programmes in Trincomalee district
- To determine the relationship between the factors and failure of poverty alleviation programmes in Trincomalee district
- To provide recommendations to make poverty alleviation programmes more successful manner
6. Methodology

The study uses questionnaire survey to collect the primary data. The questionnaire consists of questions regarding the poverty alleviation and factors affecting poverty alleviation in Likert scale format. In addition, there are questions to collect the information regarding the demographic background of each respondent in a format of Multiple choice. It is necessary to determine the reliability and validity of measurement tools to ensure its accuracy. Thus, reliability and validity of questionnaire has established for this study. Reliability is the measure of getting similar results over time. The study is focusing on Divisional secretariats staffs who are directly involved in the poverty alleviation programmes (Grama niladari, Samurdhi managers, Samurdhi development officers, Economic development officers, Technical officers) are will consider for this research in the Trincomalee district.

There are 11 divisional secretariat in the district. Therefore, 400 questionnaires issued to those division. They are select by the random sampling method. Simple random sample advantages include ease of use and accuracy of representation. In this study, the researcher used correlation analysis and regression analysis are used to analyze the data. However, the used. The study utilizes MS Office package and SPSS as the data analysis tools. For the data analysis techniques researcher has utilized correlation analysis, collective regression analysis, and descriptive statistics.

7. Result and Discussions

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

|                                | Mean   | Z Std. Deviation |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| PovertyAlleviation Programmes  | 3.35812| .880570          |
| Political factors              | 3.38500| .876039          |
| Involvement                    | 3.47875| .754385          |
| Communication                  | 3.26000| .728854          |
| Knowledge                      | 3.04375| .597582          |

The table 1 mentioned in above demonstrates the descriptive analysis in variable wise. It can be perceived that involvement has the maximum mean value = 3.47875 where the respondents given the opinion in neutral aspect. On the other hand, knowledge has the minimum mean value = 3.04375 which is the lowest among other variables. However, respondents have given their opinion neutral involvement and communication as well as poverty alleviation.

Table 2: Correlation analysis between poverty alleviation programmes and political factors

|                              | Poverty Alleviation Programmes | Political factors |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pearson Correlation          | 1                              | .962**            |
| Sig. (2-tailed)              |                                | .000              |
| N                            | 400                            | 400               |

The table 2 indicates the correlation analysis between the poverty alleviation programmes and political factors. The analysis shows that there is a very strong positive relationship between political factors and poverty alleviation programmes with a value of 0.962. Furthermore, the analysis shows the significant (2 tailed) = 0.000 which is lower than the standard value 0.05. Consequently, the analysis shows that the hypothesis “H1a: There is a relationship between political factors and poverty alleviation programmes” is accepted.
Table 3: Correlation analysis between poverty alleviation programmes and involvement

| Poverty Alleviation Programmes | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N | Involvement | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|
|                                |                     |                 |   |             | .616**              |                 |   |

The table 3 indicates the correlation analysis between the poverty alleviation programmes and involvement. The analysis shows that there is a strong positive relationship between involvement and poverty alleviation programmes with a value of 0.616. Furthermore, the analysis shows the significant (2 tailed) = 0.000 which is lower than the standard value 0.05. Consequently, the analysis shows that the hypothesis “H$_2$: There is a relationship between involvement and poverty alleviation programmes” is accepted.

Table 4: Correlation analysis between poverty alleviation programmes and communication

| Poverty Alleviation Programmes | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N | Communication | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|
|                                |                     |                 |   |               | .683**              |                 |   |

The table 4 indicates the correlation analysis between the poverty alleviation programmes and communication. The analysis shows that there is a strong positive relationship between communication and poverty alleviation programmes with a value of 0.683. Furthermore, the analysis shows the significant (2 tailed) = 0.000 which is lower than the standard value 0.05. Consequently, the analysis shows that the hypothesis “H$_3$: There is a relationship between communication and poverty alleviation programmes” is accepted.

Table 5: Correlation analysis between poverty alleviation programmes and knowledge

| Poverty Alleviation Programmes | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N | Knowledge | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---|
|                                |                     |                 |   |           | -.143               |                 |   |

The table 5 indicates the correlation analysis between the poverty alleviation programmes and knowledge. The analysis shows that there is a weak negative positive relationship between knowledge and poverty alleviation programmes with a value of -0.143. Furthermore, the analysis shows the significant (2 tailed) = 0.400 which is lower than the standard value 0.05. Consequently, the analysis shows that the hypothesis “H$_4$: There is a relationship between knowledge and poverty alleviation programmes” is accepted.
higher than the standard value 0.05. Consequently, the analysis shows that the hypothesis “H₂b: There is no relationship between knowledge and poverty alleviation programmes” is accepted.

Table 6: Model Summary

| Model | R     | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|-------|-------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1     | .963a | .927     | .927              | .238491                   |

The table 6 indicates the regression summary of the study. Accordingly, R = simple correlation which is 0.963 in the study. It defines that there is a correlation in higher level. On the other hand, the R square highlights the total contribution political factors, involvement, communication and knowledge towards the job satisfaction. The analysis further shows R square = 0.927 (92.7%) which has a strong contribution level.

8. Conclusion

The study was to study failures in poverty alleviation programmes by giving special reference to Trincomalee district in Sri Lanka. The main objective is to determine the level success in poverty alleviation programmes in Trincomalee district. On the other hand, the researcher is aiming to determine the relationship between the factors and failures of poverty alleviation programmes in Trincomalee district and to provide recommendation to make poverty alleviation programmes more successful manner.

The first specific objective of this study is to determine the level of success in poverty alleviation programs in Trincomalee district. The statistics of frequency analysis shows that the majority of the respondent opinion for the questionnaire is on the neutral to strongly agree while there are few respondents has given the answers to the strongly disagree and disagree options. Therefore, the respondents show that level of success in the poverty alleviation is in satisfactory level. Obviously, the majority of the respondents have confirmed that each independent variables has an impact on effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes. The second specific objective of the study is To determine the relationship between the factors and failure of poverty alleviation programmes in Trincomalee district. It shows that political factors has a very strong correlation while communication and involvement has strong correlation. Moreover knowledge has a negative correlation.

9. Recommendation

- Government needs to make more reforms that will make the economy more market oriented with the exception of Agriculture where we call for direct and full government participation. With forces of demand and supply in place, there will be competition and more goods and services will be in the market.
- There should be provision of social infrastructures in the rural areas such as roads, water, light etc. With these social amenities, in place, this will make people to stay in rural areas where they could embark on farming.
- In view of the heterogeneity of the economic categories, concerted efforts by the government for poverty alleviation are indispensable in Sri Lankan context. Economic growth per se will be inadequate to reach the poorest of the poor who are weakly linked to the typical economic activities. Efforts by the government in addition to income growth are necessary to achieve the desired result. Thus, government interventions in form of poverty alleviation schemes are recommended.
- Civil society must be accorded a role in debating the efficacy of various macro-economic policies and instruments – this must occur during, as opposed to after, negotiations between recipient governments and IFIs are concluded.
- The rhetoric around institutional strengthening, good governance and reduced corruption must be supported by good practice on the part of donors themselves. In country, offices of donors and IFIs should support civil society tracking of donor money and government spending, and should support civil society demands for more transparent budgeting.
- National poverty measurements should be constructed not simply on the basis of income poverty but should also incorporate the multi-dimensional nature of poverty.
- Poverty assessments must be thorough, in-depth and must examine the effects of social exclusion on different sectors of the population.
• Disaggregation of data, not only spatially (across regions and provinces, or urban and rural areas), but also on the basis of ethnicity, religion, language, age and gender, must be introduced for all statistical information relevant to poverty reduction, including in national censuses.

• For national development programmes, at all stages of design, implementation and monitoring, the full, effective and meaningful participation of minorities and indigenous peoples, including men and women, should be ensured.

• The role of civil society in holding governments to account and in ensuring transparency of planning and implementation of poverty reduction strategies should be acknowledged and encouraged by governments, and regulations on NGOs must not impact on these organizations’ ability to carry out such monitoring.

• In enhancing favourable attitudes towards the programme it can give them the more responsibility by making them aware on how important them in achieving the success of the implementation.

• In selecting officials to the programme to implement educated, trained, and well-experienced officials should be given priority. Then, they will require minimal supervision, which, ultimately save money and reaches, targets on time.

• A broader scope of poverty-alleviation projects to ensure that participants become more aware of the wider socio-political and economic context. Poverty-alleviation projects should address immediate material relief, while at the same time ensuring that people understand the wider context in which they live. They should also serve as an entry point for awareness-raising and social mobilization of communities in addressing the problem of poverty. An empowered, knowledgeable, and active society is needed to challenge poverty.

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