

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Social Sector Development Project in Amazon Area and Social Sector Development Project in Sierra Area

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Relevance

Reduction of poverty and the improvement of education, third millennium goals, are hard to be accomplished in Andean countries and mainly in Peru, the most complex country in the region regarding historical heritage and with half of the population being ancestral languages speakers.

ODA Project comes to Peru as a salvation for Sustainable Development, because of this it has a unique relevance. There have been four governments and five different national policies until now. Fujimori's government had two stages: 1991-1995, terrorism and financial stability was the urgent thing. Fujimori's government adopted emergency policies for the poor people, which led to make FONCODES and PETT (Registration and Titles granting for Communities) 1992.

In his second period 1995-2000, economy improvement should have moved to poor people and people in extreme poverty in the rural communities in the highland (5961) and native communities in the jungle (1303), and the small villages with 80% of farmer population. The ODA Project was still a little invisible but began to be seen and produced synergy inside different Financial Organizations and NGOs. During 2000 and 2001 there was a transitional government with a fiscal crisis at the beginning of President Toledo government in 2001. Afterwards the government was more focused in mega projects to raise sustained economy improvement which stopped in part the ODA Project. In 2006 at the time of the government transition, the seed sown in part by the project has consolidated a social training and qualification, based on Core Executor groups of the beneficiaries, inspired by ancestral customs of reciprocity and communal work, is a more important social change in many years. Beneficiaries absolute participation in synergies and strategic alliances with local governments and related institutions, empower the ODA Project, which will be able to be increased since it won't be affected by political changes: - the road is already built.

In 2006 the Garcia government will transfer investment, elementary education, and projects to decentralized governments, offering efficiency in expenses, with preference in the highlands and the jungle. This will find the base of better prepared Social organizations than the ODA Project when it began.

Impact

A better quality of life in the beneficiaries shows the positive impact of ODA Project. Core executor groups' labour and Management boards (JASS) are recognized; 60,000 prepared technicians have achieved capacities which should be used for strategic alliances for works and to maintain what have been done.

Expectations rise from the bottom to the top, different than at the beginning, beneficiaries know what they want. For instance short roads and small bridges have had an over 400% demand. Spreading the culture of clean hands can be achieved only by the use of potable water, decreasing dramatically illnesses and epidemics is also a success.

There is a lot of demand for Latrines in the Amazon region. However my investigation showed that a significant percentage of those constructed failed to function properly. This problem can be rectified through better education in the methods of construction and maintenance of the latrines for the people involved in the project.

Electricity is one of the services with a high impact among people; who can get new knowledge (TV, radio, communication) and use it for bilingual education for distance development. This also could be used for productive installations. In conclusion ODA Project has caused an impact in a positive way. Now there is more interest in financial contribution: specialized NGOs and communities' manpower are available and ready to work in those places where the project was carried out.

Possible new beneficiaries know their children will have a better quality of life so they want to collaborate and those who were assisted by the project are planning productive activities to improve their income.