

Department of Development Studies

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Thematic Focus: Culture and Society

Social Viability of Karez Rehabilitation in Balochistan, Pakistan: A Study of Loralai District- Gullalai Jomezai (2012-2014)

This study has been conducted to determine the local interest towards Karez revitalisation among the household using Karez. The study area was Loralai District from which four Karezes were purposively chosen i.e. two functional and two non-functional Karezes. The respondents of the study were 105 households which were randomly selected. The data has been collected through structured questionnaire and eight interviews were also conducted. The findings of the study show that the households of functional Karez area were highly interested as against to non-functional Karez area. The high interest of households of functional Karez area consists of many factors i.e. good leadership, their financial support and motivation whereas, households of non-functional Karez area have been deprived of these facilities.

Key Findings

1. In functional Karez area more than half of the households fulfill their demands from Karez while, in non-functional Karez area the respondents depend on tubewells.
2. The ratio of cultivated land on average is larger in functional Karez region as compared to non-functional Karez region.
3. The respondents of both the areas were agreed on the rehabilitation of Karez and they think that it will lead to the protection of their agricultural activities and maintain the water table from depletion.
4. The respondents of the study were also in the favor of Karez revival that it would bring unity in the community.
5. In both the regions, the study finds that lack of availability of skilled labour is one of the main reasons in deterrent of Karez revival.

Policy Recommendations

1. There is a need of government financial support, availability of modern machinery and provision of training to unskilled households for Karez revival.
2. The government has to take such measure through which this modern machinery can reduce cost and increase crop production by using Karez water efficiently.
3. This study also recommends that there is a need of coherent policies for Karez revitalisation which will be helpful in improving the ground water resources.