CHAPTER - III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter summarizes the methodology adopted in this empirical research study. The data were collected from five villages. Case study and Participatory Rural Appraisal methods were applied to collect data from four major category divided according to their economic status and educational status. They are wealthy farmers, share croppers, labour and shepherd. First objective was to understand the views on building peace in Afghanistan. Second objective was to narrate the constraints in securing sustainable livelihood to the vulnerable communities in the rural Afghanistan. The third objective was to analyze the effect of one rehabilitation project implemented in the villages. The researcher worked one year to collect the data and after collecting the data they were analyzed with qualitative indices to arrive at the main findings. The sustainable livelihood frame work is applied to trace out various factors that play vital role in the Afghan rural life.

UNIVERSE AND THE SAMPLE

Afghanistan is considered as universe and five villages where the researcher collected data were taken as samples. Convenient sampling is followed in this research study. The villages are chosen according to the researchers convenience due to the reason of high insecurity situation prevails all over Afghanistan. The researcher chose the villages where the researcher became familiar and working
with the village communities for a project titled, ‘Rural recovery through community based irrigation rehabilitation’ implemented by MRRD (Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Department) and funded by Asian Development Bank.

Afghanistan has 34 provinces. The researcher collected data in five villages of three provinces namely Jawzan, Sarepul and Faryab of north Afghanistan. The provinces of Afghanistan are divided into eight geographical regions. They are as follows.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No. 5</th>
<th>Regions in Afghanistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the Provinces</strong></td>
<td><strong>Name of the Region</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabul, Kapisa, Panjshir, Parwan</td>
<td>Central Kabul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Urozgan</td>
<td>South Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika</td>
<td>South Eastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badghis, Heart, Farah, Nimroz</td>
<td>Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkh, Samangan, Jawzan, Saripul, Faryab</td>
<td>North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wardak, Logar, Ghor, Bamiyan, Day Kundi</td>
<td>Central Hazarajat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz</td>
<td>North West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above quoted table clearly portrays the provinces according to their region. The empirical research study took place in the provinces lie in the north eastern region namely Jawzan, sarepul and Faryab.

**TABLE.NO. 6**  
**VILLAGE PROFILE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the province</th>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>Name of the village</th>
<th>Ethnic tribe</th>
<th>Total Number of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jawzan</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Hasan tabin</td>
<td>Pasthoon</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawzan</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Nawabad Arabia</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawzan</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Babhadhekhan</td>
<td>Pasthoon</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarepul</td>
<td>Sancharak</td>
<td>Fershuankalan</td>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faryab</td>
<td>Faryab</td>
<td>Pasthoonkoot</td>
<td>Uzbek</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above is the statistics of the villages selected for the study as samples. The Government of Afghanistan does not have population statistics and this above said population data was collected from the villagers during the participatory rural Appraisal exercises. Each household has approximately ten to fifteen members.
The total potential of the water resources in Afghanistan is about 75 billion M³ out of this 55 billion M³ is the surfaces water and the rest 20 billion M³ is the underground water.²

From the above statistics sources it is found that the villages where the empirical research study took place lies in the north river basin which has the least water storage capacity next to western river basin. So the villages have no perennial water source. If it is a drought...
year the farmers cannot cultivate in summer, autumn and winter crop. So during the drought the farmers cannot grow wheat in winter. It is important to note that there was severe drought from 2004 to 2007 which coincided with the civil war. So Afghans households face severe livelihood constrains both due to violence and due to natural disaster.

Lack of water is often a problem in Afghanistan. As Louis Urpee puts it Problem is not insufficient water for enough exists to increase productivity of current acreage. Control not amount is the difficulty. Most of the millions of acre feet of water which seasonally pour down from the mountains disappear in to the deserts or is pirated away by many uncoordinated irrigation intakes lining the rivers tributaries.

DESIGN

In this research study the researcher applied Participatory Exploratory design. This is also called formulative research design. This design aims at formulating a problem for more precise idea or hypothesis. Based on this the subsequent stages of research could be planned. While applying this design the survey of related literature, conducting empirical study and analysis of the information are applied.³

Only qualitative data were used for the empirical analysis of enhancing building peace and livelihood in the lives of rural Afghans. Participatory approaches of focus group discussion and in depth interviews were followed to collect data on the study of peace building and enhancing livelihood.
Being an explorative design the study probed in to the factors relating to the dimensions of social/financial/human capital/ and physical capital of the Afghans. It also explored the reasons for the factors and for the elements to be focus on more in future for peace building and enhancing livelihood.

FRAME WORK APPLIED FOR THE ANALYSIS

The livelihoods framework is a tool to improve our understanding of livelihoods particularly the livelihoods of the poor. It was developed over a period of several months by the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Advisory Committee, building on earlier work by the Institute of Development Studies. The researchers however has followed the guidelines of the institute of development studies for the analysis of the present study.4

FIGURE : NO. 6
LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK


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SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK

The livelihoods framework is a tool to improve our understanding of livelihoods, particularly the livelihoods of the poor. It was developed over a period of several months by the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Advisory Committee, building on earlier work by the Institute of Development Studies. This section of the Guidance Sheets provides an introduction to the framework itself. The individual components of the framework are described in more detail in the subsequent sheets in this section.

The sustainable livelihood framework is used to analyze the situation in the villages of these forty one villages in Javzan and Sare Pul provinces. The sustainable livelihood is used for the analyses because it is relevant to the Afghanistan livelihood which is prone to war and natural threat. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future while not undermining the natural resource base. The stress and shocks refer to the concurrent war and seasonal threats like severe long snowy and cold winter and dry and hot summer. Since the country has met concurrently with drought and war the basic infrastructure in the villages are in the processes of rebuilding.
The following tools are used for the purpose of data collection.

Adopting participatory tools require personal rapport with the communities since it brings direct contact with the researcher. The researcher spent first three months visiting the communities and created rapport. The researcher waited till the communities felt easy and became close to him and all fears and prejudices were gone from their minds. It is evident from the statistical report that only 28 per cent of the populations are able to read and write and so careful tool construction was done so that the communities could be able to grasp the meaning and respond.

For the case study one rehabilitation project rural recovery through community based irrigation rehabilitation implemented by Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Department and funded by Asian Development Bank was taken as a case. The pre assessment and post assessment data were analyzed for deriving main findings.

For focus group interviews and in depth interviews a guidance sheet containing questions were prepared and it was unstructured. This guidance sheet was used during the focus group discussion and in the in depth interview. It took two hours to complete one focus group discussion and in depth interviews. From the inferences the researcher was able to check and cross check the information spelt out in the group discussion. The questions pertaining to ethnic
identity are very sensitive and so the researcher took a lot of efforts to put it in a convenient way than asking directly about ethnic issues.

Among the villagers there is class division. The farmers who own land, orchard and animals belong to the wealthy category. The share croppers are those who own agriculture hard wares and share the harvest with the land owner are in the second wealthier groups. The third are the landless labours who work in the agriculture farms for wage that is given in kinds (one seventh of the harvest) at the end of the harvest. Fourth is the shepherd who grazes the sheep, goats, cows and camel of the farmers and are paid one tenth of the animals he graze. These above said population cannot be interviewed individually and so group discussions and in depth interviews were taken as tools for data collection.

CASE STUDY

The case study explains the presumed causal links in real life interventions that are too complex for the survey or experimental strategies, describes an intervention and the real-life context in which it occurred, illustrates certain topics within an evaluation, again in a descriptive mode, explores those situations in which the intervention being evaluated has no clear, single set of outcomes and provides a meta-evaluation - a study of an evaluative study.

Good case study research will start out with no pre-ordained set objectives or a theory to formulate. For good case study it is important for the researcher to allow the true situation to arise, without
coercion, leading or pressure. This reduces the chance of bias and will create richer, more accurate data, with greater insight and truth. In choosing a sample the researcher would usually chose a case that allows abnormalities, specific situations, extremities, polarities, distinctive or unusual situations to come to the surface.5

Empirical research is provided to elaborate specific incidences of vulnerabilities due to war. Through analysis of the factors of exclusion to the programme, as well as adverse incorporation, the case studies were used to assist the conclusion of whether the community based irrigation for relief and rehabilitation has addressed the problems of all the categories and whether these projects could be replicated. The researcher has selected five villages where the project titled “Rural Recovery through Community based Irrigation Rehabilitation” that have specifically tried to target the communities affected by war and also to create sustainable employment opportunities for all.

PRA TOOLS

To conduct the Case studies the PRA tools named focus group discussions and in depth interviews were used so that the researcher could get sufficient qualitative and quantitative data.

PRA originated in East Africa and India as Participatory Rural Appraisal. It has been described as a family of approaches, behaviors and methods for enabling people to do their own appraisal, analysis and planning, take their own action, and do their own monitoring and evaluation. It often involves people in groups developing their own visuals such as diagrams and maps, drawing on the ground with
sticks or on paper with pens, and using counters like beans, seeds or stones. Following the lead of Pakistan, the letters PRA have increasingly been taken to stand for Participatory Reflection and Action. Other practitioners describe what they do as Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) to stress inclusive methodological pluralism. PRA/PLA has spread too many countries and from South to North, with applications in many domains. The Researcher imbibed all the qualities required for conducting the PRA methods. Behavior required for PRA / PLA are derived from fieldwork. It states that the Facilitators should show respect, establish rapport, abandon preconceptions, hand over the stick, watch, listen, learn from mistakes, be self-critical and self-aware, be flexible, support, share and be honest.\textsuperscript{6}

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

In depth interview is one of the method of People’s Participatory exercises to unravel the information about the living conditions. This method is used to collect information from the vulnerable sections living in the rural labor who do not own any assets like land or orchard and cattle and also the shepherd communities who spend long hours in the valleys of the desert and spend the nights in the open space along with their flock. The labor work in the agricultural, farm as share croppers or mere labour and often migrate to the nearby cities or neighboring countries as wage labor as a coping strategy during when there is no agricultural work. In depth in
interviews are held to know the livelihood of the vulnerable communities,

These two categories fall under vulnerable since their upward mobility is ruled out due to their poor economic conditions. Though women did not participate in this in depth interviews the livelihood of women are learnt from this tool. In depth interviews were conducted with one share cropper, four shepherd and four labour.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Focus group discussion is one of the tools used in the Participatory rural appraisal to collect information and enable them to participate and act in their own way to set their destiny. Focus group discussion was used as a tool to collect information on the adverse effect of war and their present constraints in the livelihood. Later the same focus group discussion was conducted in the same villages after the implementation of the project named rural recovery through community based irrigation rehabilitation to understand the effect of the project the livelihood of the rural communities. The focus group discussion was conducted in the five villages of the three provinces.

PARTICIPANTS OF FOCUS GROUP

The elected members in the community Development council who are previous land lords, traditional leaders, the wealthy farmers, share croppers and the unskilled labor took part in the focus group discussions. These discussions helped to obtain data on the agriculture and the farm products and to measure the effect of the rehabilitation project.
In all the focus group discussions the participants spelt out the demography of the village, impact of war, the economic structure or the category of people living in the village, the causes of effect of prolonged war in the livelihood, the effect of the irrigation project implemented in their village. The participants showed great interest. After summarizing the information the researcher cross checked the data and if any data is not correlating the Researcher arranged for another focus group discussion. The village community leaders own mobile phones and it was easy for communicating about the meeting and remind them twice before the meeting.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data obtained for the analysis were qualitative in nature. The analysis of the data obtained enabled the researcher to arrive out at main findings which would prove or disprove the hypothesis. The researcher coded the data and used Microsoft excel program to find out correlations within various variables and factors. After the analysis the main findings were arrived with suggestions on the basis of the research findings.

DURATION

The researcher spent one year in data collection spread over six months in two years (2008 and 2009) in five villages since the researcher had to skip the winter which is not a convenient time for the study. Winter is too cold and Afghans stop working and remain most of the time at home and obviously the shepherd who drive their
cattle in summer, spring and autumn in the green valleys retire to their native villages along with their cattle. The first six month, the Researcher collected the present situation and the next six month the Researcher collected data on how for the project created impact in their lives along with a interview schedule for understanding the perceptions on peace and how they want to rebuild.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Afghanistan in 2008 (2008) Published by Asia Foundation, Kabul


5. Ruth Gamston (2009), A Study on Micro Credits Relevance to Chronic Poverty Class, Bradford University, UK.