

Role of Local Elected Leaders in Community Development

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Abstract

This research focuses on the role of local elected leaders in community development at union council Katti Garhi, District Mardan. To collect the relevant data the researcher selected 60 community members and 12 elected union council members including Nazim and Niab Nazim of the area through purposive sampling basis. Questionnaire was used for the educated while interview schedule was used for un-educated respondents for data collection. The study indicates the role of local elected leaders in establishment of community organizations, mobilization of the community for community development, monitoring program for community development, provision of social services, sanitation, street pavements, streetlights, health facilities, education facilities (Free books, uniform and scholarships etc.), adult education, provision of technical skill and vocational training center in the area. Community members mentioned that they are in need of public parks, playgrounds, public latrines, fire brigade, and waiting rooms for the passengers, pavement of roadsides and improvement in drinking and irrigation water.

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is a process through which a member of the group (its leader) influences other group members towards the attainment of specific group goals (Hollender, 1998). Local leaders are those leaders who are elected by the local people of the union council through election under local Government ordinance. Local Government is that form of Government that serves only a small area and exercises only delegated power. They are not sovereign, as are the governments of the independent national states. Local Government as that part of the Government of or state which deals mainly with sub matters as concern the inhabitants and particular district or places, together with those matters which the national parliament has delegated it to administer (Alam, 2004).

Local Government in Rural Area

The lowest division for rural areas is union council consists on 1000 to 1900 population. UC provides public ways, water, sanitation, health, gardens, play grounds, plantation, flood relief, libraries, reading rooms, village industries, livestock, fishery and adoption of measures to increased food production, judicial functions and Night patrol.

The upper body of the district Govt. is district council. It is the most important tier under the present system. Members of the district council, choose a Chairman/Nazim and a vice chairman / Naib Nazim from among themselves. The major functions of district council are; provision /

maintenance of infrastructure, prevention /care of infection diseases, hospitals, maternity centers, schools, scholarships to poor students, adult education, agricultural facilities, cottage industries and coordinate the activities of all local councils and municipal committee (Alam, 2004)

Local Government In Urban Area

Municipal Committee is established for an urban area having a population of 50,000 or more, but not exceeding 5 lack in Municipal Committee the number of members has been fixed according to the ratio of population such as: 15 members if the Population is one lack, 25 members if the population is 2 to 3 lack, 30 members if the population is 3 to 5 lack and 35 members if the population is up to 5 lack. The major functions of municipal committee include; public health, water supply, drainage, quality food and drink, education, Public Safety, and town planning.

A Town Committee is established for an urban area having a population of 10,000 or more. But not exceeding 20,000. (Alam, 2004)

A Municipal Corporation established in all the capital cities of the four provincial and in all these cities the population of which is more than 10 lacks. The member of members depends upon the ratio of population such as: 50 members if population is 10 lacks, 75 members if population is 10 to 20 lacks, 100 members if population is 20 lacks or more. A mayor and a deputy mayor head Municipal Corporation. Municipal Corporation performs the same function as are entrusted to a Municipal Corporation under the provision local Government ordinance (Alam, 2004).

District Government Structure

It consists upon the district Nazim, District Naib Nazim, and District Officer.

Responsibilities of District Government

Running all governments departments in district, Every order will be given by district government and decentralized power usage and responsible to central government.

District Council

It consists upon all union Nazim and specific elected councilors, 33% women Councilors, 5% Peasants Councilors and 5% Minority Councilors.

There is a separate secretariat of district council. It will be headed by district Naib Nazim, and there will be separate budget for it. (Alam, 2004)

The major functions of district council include; Rules, regulation, taxes, annual budget approval, monitoring of works, justice moral development, sports, agricultural production / marketing, welfare of orphans, handicaps, widows, food relief planning and suggestions to district Government for better performance and planning.

Tehsil local Government Structure

In each Tehsil there will be a Tehsil Government which will consists upon Tehsil Nazim, Tehsil Naib Nazim Officers, local council service chief officer and their subordinates.

The major functions of tehsil local Govt. are; Planning for land use, health care, peace, budget, checking on licenses / permits, street lighting, parks, public, playgrounds, plantations, roads, streets, sewerage and drains system purification, cleanliness and developments.

Union Government Structures

In each union, there will be a union Government. It will consists upon union Nazim, Union Naib Nazim, 3 Union Secretary and sub-ordinates establishments.

Union Nazim is the head of union Government, In the absence of union Nazim, union Naib Nazim will work as care taker union Nazim, Union Secretary, under the super vision of union Nazim, will organize community development, union committee, municipal services.

Functions of Union Government

Conduction of survey for socio-economic development, libraries, cultural festivals, sports, games, live stock marketing, streetlights, cooperation with the welfare associations, facilities to handicapped, management of organizing places, development and completion of annual planes. (Alam, 2004)

Union Council Structure

In each council there will be a Union council, which will be consists upon 21 members; 12 Muslims councilors (4 women C), 6 peasant councilors (2 women C), 1 minorities councilor, 1 union Nazim and 1 union Naib Nazim.

Functions of Union councils

Approval of annual plans, budget, service fee, city community board, Ihtesab committee, Chukidars, welfare organization related to economic development and poverty alleviation, community organization and Motivation for cleanliness of streets, drains, canals, and public plans. (Anwar Alam: 2004:p.154)

Community Development

Any action taken by any agency and primarily designed to benefit to the community. (T.B. Bothen 1957) Community development is an evolution process of change from the traditional way of life to propulsive way of life. According to Sander, there are four elements of community development program; As a process start from the lower point and reach to the higher, a method / way of working to achieve some specific goals, as a program puts emphasizes of the activities to achieve a wide variety of specific improvements in the community and as a movement stand for the progress and welfare of the people in general and of the under privileged communities in Particular. (Alam, 2004)

Elected local leaders role in community development

- i. Elected local leaders provide social services to their local communities including; street lights, cleanliness of drains, play grounds, sport tournaments, water supply, street pavements and peace / settlement of disputes.
- ii. Local leaders mobilize the local community for their local resources.
- iii. Local leaders organize the community for community developments.
- iv. Local leaders providing the basic health facilities to the local community for their better health.
- v. Local leaders works to provide better education to the community, for this purpose they provide the scholarship to the poor students, free books, uniform and the other facilities.
- vi. Local leaders arrange different skill develop centers to the local community members. (Alam, 2004)

Historical review of local government

The British government introduced local Government of their own in April 1862, Lord Elgin, Lord Mayo, Lord Ripon, Lord Hardinge and Montagu Chelmsford brought various changes in local government system by passing resolutions on local self Government. In 1919, The Montagu Chelmsford proposal ultimately took the shape of the government of India Act 1919. The government of India Act was passed in 1935. The most distinctive feature of this act was the introduction of provincial autonomy. The local government became a provincial subject while the cantonment local government became the responsibility of central government the decentralization brought the government closer to the people. Thus the British tried their best to restore the power of the village but all their activities had the effect of depressing it. Indian National congress and Muslim leagues during 1940s kept away the local bodies representative from their main municipal function and made them active participants in the National Politics. Pakistan came into being on 14th August 1947. The System of local government inherited by Pak was thus a product of a series of British efforts, which they made from time to time through reform laws and commissions (K. M Bhatti, 1990).

Evolution of the Local Government in Pakistan

A village AID (village Agricultural and industrial development Program) was initiated in 1953. Village AID merged into basic democracies in 1960 (Mohammad Afzal, 1985).

On 27 October 1959 president Ayub Khan established the system of basic democracies for the purpose to assist the people of Pakistan in developing their ability to deal with their own problems (K.M. Bhatti, 1988).

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto introduced the concept of people's local government in 1970s. It provided for the constitution of Dehi Council for villages, Municipal Committee for all towns and Municipal Corporations for the big cities (Govt. of Pakistan, 1960).

In 1977, Zia-ul-Haq declared the policy of revitalizing local government new government law was drafted with the objectives of meaningful integration of rural development, improvement of rural infrastructure and ensuring community participation. For the fulfillment of these objectives new local government law was drafted for each province, Federal areas Northern areas and Azad Kashmir. According to the new laws, the union council was constituted for each union and did not provide for the constitution of the union committee. A Zila council was also setup for each Zila. Municipal Corporations were single tier in structure. In cantonments the local government continued to be the responsibility of cantonment Boards that were governed by the cantonment boards Act. 1924. The system of the local government introduced in September 1979 seems most representative since independence for the first time in the history of Pakistan. Election to all local councils in the rural and urban areas were held on the basis of adult franchise. Some of the salient features of the system are:

1. The problems and the federating administrates areas have been allowed to frame their own local government laws.
2. All local councils have elected chairman for the first time. No nominations on local councils have been local councils can approve their budgets and made taxation proposals.

3. Election to local councils is not held on political basis. The term of office of local councils was four year. Elaborate machinery had been set up to settle election disputes promptly.

In 1979 the new system of local government, which is fully representative in character, was introduced and comprises 71737 local councilors and 4637 local councils. The system has made notable progress in the development coordinative, administrative and financial matters. But the myth was that the elected people are not able to perform efficiently as public servants and only they (civil servants) are the best people to run the affairs of the Government (Govt. of Pakistan, 1960).

Five points program (1985-86)

In order to make the development functions more effective, the government of Prime Minister, Muhammad Khan Jonejo gave financial Grants to the members of the provincial Assemblies. National Assemblies, Senators and the Ministers. It was announced on 31st December 1985. This is known as “Prime Minister’s Five Points Program” the five points were:

- Islamic Democracy
- Educational Advancement
- Provision of Quick Justice
- Economic and Social Development
- Strong Nation Defence (Bhatti Local Govt, 1982).

Under the Economic and S. Development, the prime minister’s program specifically covered rural development. Comprising education health, Water Supply and sewerage, roads, electrification, housing and anti-water-logging and salinity. A total allocation of Rs. 11735 crores had been earmarked for implementation of social and economic development program during 1986-87. This program was, however, wound up in December 1988. When Prime Minister Binazir Bhutto of Pakistan peoples party started an integrated Rural development program.

The framework of this program is as below:

1. Improvement and up-gradation of physical and social infrastructure.
2. Mobilization and motivation of local resources and people for productive efforts.
3. Welfare of women, disabled and aged people improvement in unemployment opportunities. (Minhaj-ud-din Khan. Peshawar (PARD): (1988), P. 23).

The program couldn’t succeed as president Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the government of Pakistan people’s party in 1990.

Tamir-I-Watan program (1991-93)

This program was started in 1991 by the Islami Jamhoori Ittihad (IJI) Government, under prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, who provided funds to the MPAs, MNAs and legislators for community uplift programs in their regions.

New Local government / Khoshal Pakistan Program / Poverty Reduction Strategy

Present local government system proposed by Chief Executive general Musharaf on 23rd March 2000 announced broad features of a framework envisaging extensive devolution of administrative and legislative powers to local bodies at the grass roots level. (Alam, 2004)

Theories Of Leadership

The great man / Trait Theory

According to a reputed historian and philosopher *Horns calyces*. The history of the world is actually the history of leaders. According to this theory specific person become leaders because they posses crucial personality traits. Certain personal characteristics of leaders has been mentioned which discriminate them from other people in group and which prove them as successive leader in various situation.

Environmental Theory

According to environmental theory. The leader is not born, rather he is created by the environment, occasion and circumstances of the time and place. The leadership qualities and leader characteristics are also product of the environments and are not instinct.

Transaction Theory

According to this theory leadership is a complex, social transaction between the leaders and the followers. In this transaction both the leaders and followers affects one another. According to transactional theory the successful leaders take into account the attitudes, tendencies, ideas, wishes, or value and aspiration of their follower. (Alam, 1999)

Role of Local Elected Leaders in Community Development in Pakistan

Local Leaders / elected union council leaders are performing various roles for the community development. The detail of these roles is in general term leadership is a function, which endeavors to achieve, maintain, and strength and the particular group/organization or community.

In Pakistan the local leaders especially the union council elected leaders performing the main roles as a an executive to run the affairs of the community, as a planer, policy maker, expert, group representative, reward and punishment, ideologist and play the role of scapegoat to sacrifice for the community. All the time a local elected leader is involved in community development activities. The local leader is providing all social services to the community and brings development in their life (Alam, 2006)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the Role of Local Leadership in Organizing and mobilizing community toward development.
- To see the role of Local Leadership in water supply, sanitation, street pavements and streetlight.
- To a certain the Role of Local Leadership in better strengthen the Health and Education in the area.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

All of the 12 elected members of union Council (Kati Gari Mardan) both male and female and 60 community members were selected on purposive sampling basis. Data was collected through questionnaire from educated respondents and interview schedule was used as the tool of data collection for illiterate respondents.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Figure-I indicates the role of local elected leaders in establishment of community organization in the area. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and 55 being 91.7% community members were in favour of it, while 5 being 6.3% community members were against of it.

Figure-II highlights the role of community organizations in mobilization of the community for community development. Out of the total 12 leaders, 11 being 91.6% leaders and 26 being 43.3% community members were in favour of it, while 1 being 8.4% leaders and 34 being 56.7% community members were against of it.

Figure-III indicates local leaders monitoring program for community development. Out of the total 12 leaders, 10 being 83.3% leaders and 43 being 71.7% community members were in favour of it, while 2 being 16.7% leaders and 17 being 28.3% community members were against of it.

Figure-IV shows the role of local elected leaders in provision of social services in the area. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and all of the 60 being 100% community members were of the view that local leaders have tremendous role in provision of social services in the area.

Figure-V indicates the role of local elected leaders in sanitation. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and 46 being 76.7% community members were in favour of it, while 14 being 23.3% community members were against of it.

Figure-VI highlights the role of local elected leaders in street pavements in the area. Out of the total 12 leaders, 8 being 66.7% replied positively, while 4 being 33.3% replied negatively in this regard. Out of total 60 community members, 46 being 76.7% were in favour of it, while 14 being 23.3% community members were against of it.

Figure-VII indicates the role of local elected leaders in provision of streetlights in the area. Out of all 12 leaders, 11 being 91.11% replied positively, while 1 being 8.3% replied negatively in this regard. Among 60 community members, 58 being 96.7% were in favour of it, while 2 being 3.3% were against of it.

Figure-VIII depicts the role of local elected leaders in health sector. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and 55 being 91.7% community members were in favour of it, while 5 being 6.3% community members were against of it.

Figure-IX indicates the role of local elected leaders in family planning program in the area. Out of all 12 leaders, 9 being 75% replied positively, while 3 being 25% replied negatively in this regard. Out of the total 60 community members, 34 being 56.7% were in favour of it, while 26 being 43.3% community members were against of it.

Figure-X shows the role of local elected leaders in education sector (Free books, uniform and scholarships etc.) in the area. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and 54 being 90% community members were in favour of it, while 6 being 10% community members were against of it.

Figure-XI indicates the role of local elected leaders in adult education program in the area. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and 51 being 85% community members were in favour of it, while 9 being 15% community members were against of it.

Figure-XII highlights the role of local elected leaders in technical skill and vocational training center in the area. All of the 12 being 100% leaders and 53 being 88.3% community members were in favour of it, while 7 being 11.7% community members were against of it.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The study was confined to union council 'Katti Gharhi' in District Madran. The elected local leaders of union council Katti Gharhi are performing numerous functions. The most notable are street pavements, provision of pure drinking water, cleaning of streets and drains, provision of street lights, technical training for the community members, establishment and mobilizing community organization, monitoring committees for the check on the community works, coordination among the community organizations for development, social services; sanitation, provide dispensary in community, adult education program, arrange the hujjra gathering, sports events for the community members. The study indicates that all of the local elected leaders and majority of the community members specified for the role of local elected leaders in establishment of community organization in the area. All of the local elected leaders and majority of the community members specified for the role of community organizations in mobilization of the community for community development. Majority of the leaders and community members specified for local leaders monitoring program for community development. All of the local elected leaders and majority of the community members specified for the role of local elected leaders in provision of social services in the area. All of the leaders and majority of the community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in sanitation. Majority of the local elected leaders and community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in street pavements in the area. Majority of the elected leaders and community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in provision of streetlights in the area. All of the local elected leaders and majority of the community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in health sector. Majority of the leaders and community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in family planning program in the area. All of the leaders and majority of the community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in education sector (Free books, uniform and scholarships etc.) in the area. All of the leaders and majority of community members were in favour of the role of local elected leaders in adult education program in the area. All of the leaders and majority of community members were in favour of role of local elected leaders in technical skill and vocational training center in the area. Community members mentioned that they are in need of public parks, playgrounds, public latrines, fire brigade, and waiting rooms for the passengers, pavement of roadsides and improvement in irrigation system. It was personally observed by the researcher that in most areas within the union council deficiency in sewerage line, materials used in street pavements, drinking water streetlights were not available in all the areas. Sweepers are also not coming regularly for cleanliness of drains and streets in the area.

SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of study findings and conclusion the following suggestions are given for the betterment of the role played by the local leaders for community development.

- i. Local elected leaders should establish monitoring committees to check the progress of works under construction and process.
- ii. Local elected leaders should arrange workshops and seminars for the awareness of community members about community development.
- iii. The local elected leaders should establish sports grounds for the recreation of local community members.

- iv. The local elected leaders should establish libraries and reading rooms in the area.
- v. The local elected leaders should arrange different kind of training about agriculture sector; i.e. information and use of improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Livestock and poultry related problems and their solution.
- vi. It is suggest that local elected leaders should improve water supply in the area. Some areas are deprived of this facility and in some area there is scarcity of water.
- vii. The local elected leaders should arrange workshops and seminars to aware the people about the importance birth and death registration. They should ensure registration of birth and death in the area.
- viii. The local elected leaders should arrange monthly meeting with community members of the union council, so that the local leaders know about their problems and make plan for their solution.
- ix. The union council leaders should priorities the works according to the needs and requirements of the community.
- x. In some areas this facility was not given. So it is suggested that all of the areas should be given priority and this facility should be given to all community members.
- xi. Some of the areas in the union council were deprived of this facility. It is suggested that this facility should also be provided to all community members.
- xii. For better atmosphere and environment tree plantation is necessary. Therefore it is suggest that the local leaders should encourage community for plantation in the area.
- xiii. The local leaders should improve the skill formation facility to community members within union council. More numbers of vocational and technical training centers should be established. In the existing centers qualified staff and required equipments should be provided.
- xiv. Social services include library, streetlights, fire brigade, provision of graveyard etc. so local leaders should take measure for the improvement of these social services. The local leaders should also check the quality and price of food items in the market.

DATA

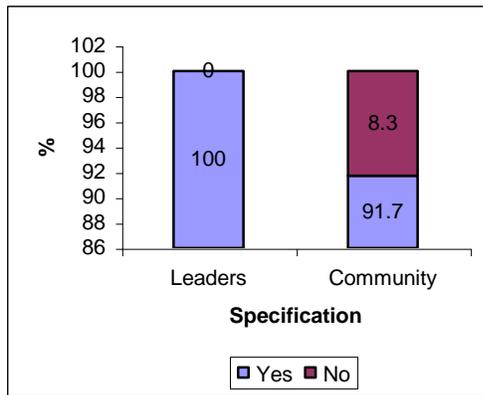


Fig. I Role of local leader in c.o. formation

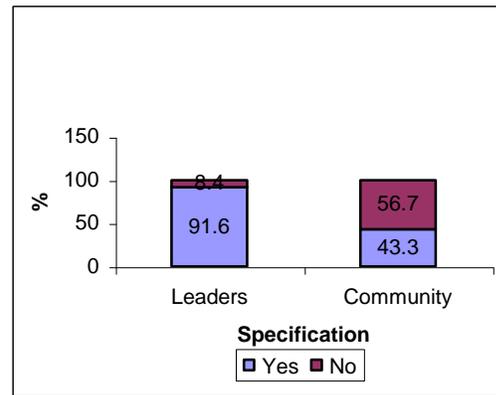


Fig. II Role of c.o. for community mobilization

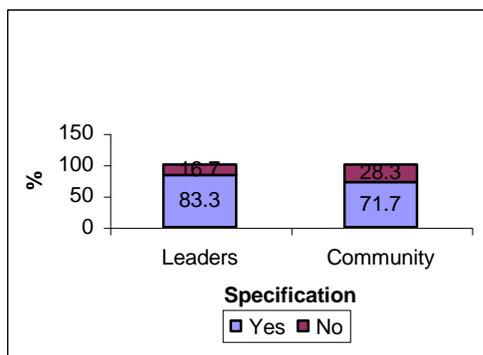


Fig. III Local Leaders Monitoring Program for CD

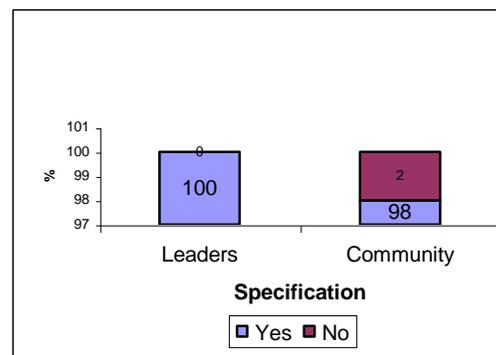


Fig. IV Role of Local Leaders in Provision of Social Services

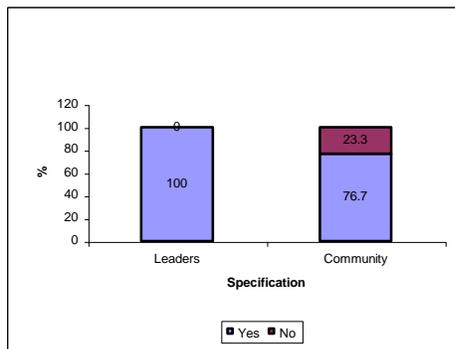


Fig. V Role of local leader in sanitation

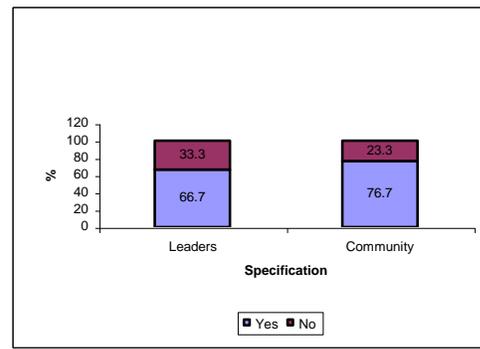


Fig. VI Role of local elected leaders in street pavement

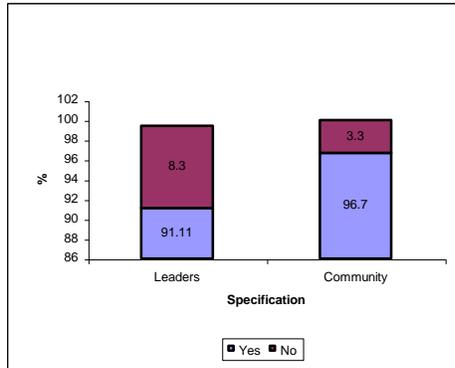


Fig. VII Role of local leader in provision of street lights

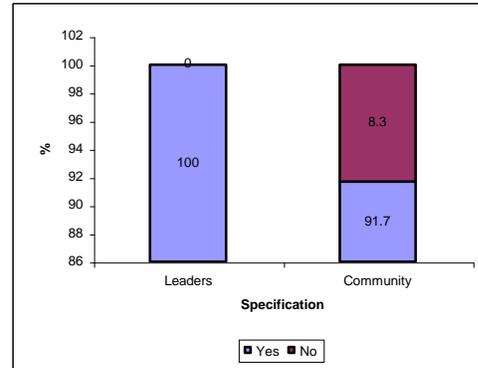


Fig. VIII Role of local elected leaders in health

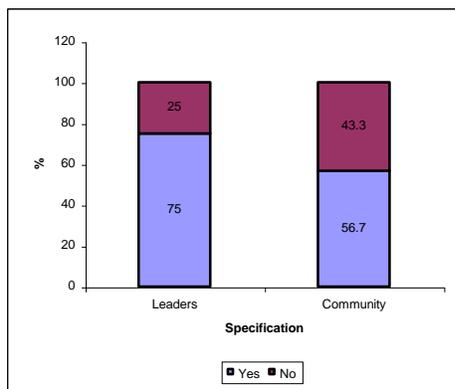


Fig. IX Role of local leader in family planning

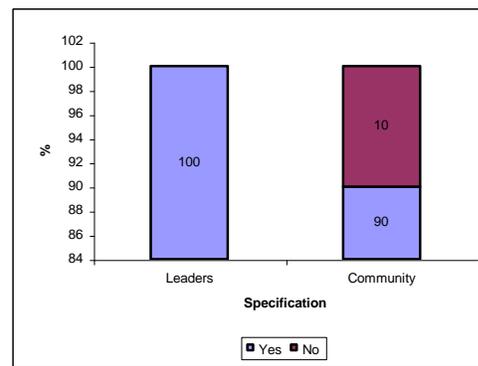


Fig. X Role of local leaders in education

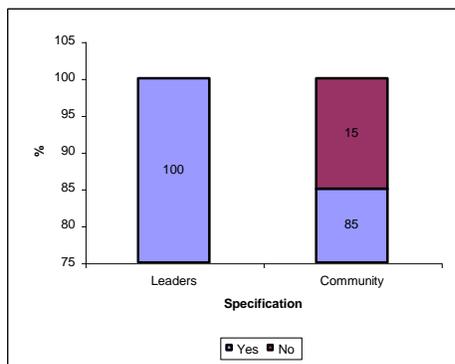


Fig. XI Role of local leader in adult education

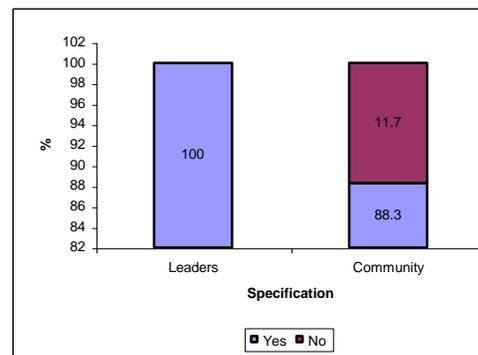


Fig. XII Role of local leaders in technical education

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