



The Role of AKRSP in Socio-Economic Development of Gilgit Baltistan: A Case Study of District Skardu

Basharat Hussain¹, Asif Abbas², Shoaib Malik³, Naveed Akhtar⁴ & M. Junaid⁵

¹ Bachelor of Pakistan Studies, NUML, Islamabad

² MPhil Scholar, NIPS, QAU, Islamabad Email: abbasasif282@gmail.com

³ Bachelor of Public Administration, QAU, Islamabad

⁴ Bachelor of International Relation, QAU, Islamabad

⁵ MPhil Scholar Economics, PIDE, Islamabad

Abstract

This abstract provides an overview of the performance played by the Aga Khan Rural Support Program in the socio-economic development of Skardu, a region located in the Gilgit-Baltistan province of Pakistan. The AKRSP is a prominent development organization that aims to progress the eminence of life and welfare of marginalized communities from end to end a participatory and holistic approach.

Skardu is renowned for its high mountains peaks i-e k-2 and enchanting tourism spots. Its geostrategic significance and being the gateway to kargil and Ladakh. In Skardu non- governmental organizations (NGOs) play vital role in the socio-economic development. This study concentrates on the contribution of one of NGO Aga Khan Rural Supports Programme (AKRSP) which serves in the socio-economic development of District Skardu. District Skardu is very prominent for its agriculture products and tourism spots. Because of the lack of cognizance and connection with the main market, the framers are remained abortive to access the market and approximately 50 per cent of their agricultural products become squander. Aga Khan Rural Supports Programme (AKRSP) performing as bridge to linkup the farmers with main markets since 1982. The plan supports an enormous variation of community-led expansion efforts across a variety of thematic areas, including environment pliability, civil society, agriculture and food security, early childhood progress, education, climate resilience, community infrastructure development, the Programme support an massive variety of local area drove enhancement endeavors across a variability of topical regions, including environment strength, common society, farming and food security, youth improvement, instruction, environment flexibility, local area infrastructure development.

Furthermore, the AKRSP has prioritized the empowerment of women and marginalized groups in Skardu. It has implemented initiatives that promote women's participation in decision-making processes, skill development, and income-generating activities. By enabling women to become active contributors to the local economy, the AKRSP has fostered social inclusion and gender equality in the region.

The AKRSP has been instrumental in strengthening local institutions and community-based organizations. It has facilitated the formation of village organizations, cooperatives, and networks, enabling communities to collectively address their development needs. By building social capital and promoting community-driven initiatives, the AKRSP has empowered local communities to take ownership of their development process.

Moreover, the AKRSP has played a pivotal role in improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water in Skardu. It has constructed and upgraded schools, health centers, and water supply schemes, ensuring that basic services reach the marginalized communities in the region.

Keywords

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Socio-Economic Development, Skardu

Introduction

Socio-economic development refers to the process of achieving social and economic progress in a society through a variety of means. This can include improving living standards, reducing poverty, increasing access to education and healthcare, and promoting social equality. Socio-economic development is often seen as a holistic approach to development that recognizes the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental factors. It involves not only economic growth but also the distribution of benefits of that growth to all members of society, regardless of their social or economic status. It also includes efforts to address social issues such as gender inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion. The ultimate goal of socio-economic development is to improve the well-being and quality of life of individuals and communities, creating a more equitable and sustainable society for all.¹

The world witnessed significant socio-economic development during the past decades, resulting in improved living standards, reduced poverty, and enhanced opportunities for many individuals and nations. These advancements were driven by various factors, including globalization, technological innovation, and targeted development efforts. Global poverty rates have seen a steady decline, with millions of people lifted out of extreme poverty. Increased access to education and healthcare has contributed to improved human development indices in many countries. Technological advancements have played a crucial role in connecting people, facilitating trade, and expanding economic opportunities. The widespread adoption of mobile phones and the internet has bridged the digital divide and opened avenues for economic growth. Globalization has spurred international trade and investment, enabling countries to participate in the global economy and benefit from increased market access. Economic integration and regional cooperation initiatives have facilitated the movement of goods, services, and capital across borders, fostering economic growth and poverty reduction.

Nevertheless, challenges persist. Income inequality remains a pressing issue in many regions, with the gap between the rich and the poor widening. Gender inequality continues to hinder progress, limiting opportunities for women and girls. Environmental degradation and climate change pose significant threats to sustainable development.

However, it provide a general overview of global socioeconomic trends up until 2021. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world witnessed overall positive developments in areas such as poverty reduction, access to education and healthcare, and technological advancements. However, challenges such as income inequality, climate change, and political instability persisted in many regions. It is essential to consult reliable and current sources, such as reports from the World Bank, United Nations, and other reputable organizations, to obtain a more detailed and up-to-date understanding of global socioeconomic development.

A NGO (Non-Governmental organization) is a non-benefit association that works freely of government, and is usually centered on promoting a specific reason or set of causes, like basic rights, natural preservation, or poverty easing. NGOs can work at the local, public, or worldwide level, and are frequently supported by gifts from people, establishments, or enterprises. They can give many administrations, including promotion, examination, education, and direct help to networks and people out of luck. NGOs are normally shown to a directorate or legal administrators, and depend on staff and volunteers to full fill the basic necessity of the under privileged people which may be local, national or international.²

In Pakistan Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country. NGOs are working in various sectors, including education, health, women empowerment, poverty alleviation, and disaster management.

NGOs are providing education to underprivileged children, particularly girls, in remote and disadvantaged areas of the country. They are also providing healthcare services to the poor and marginalized communities, improving maternal and child health outcome

NGOs are also working towards empowering women by providing them with vocational training and creating employment opportunities. They are also promoting sustainable livelihoods through microfinance initiatives and skill development programs. Moreover, NGOs are actively

¹ Participation of NGOs for development of Socio-Economic status of Employees in Pakistan

² Eric Werker and Faisal Z. Ahmed "Forthcoming: Journal of Economic Perspectives May 2007"

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engaged in disaster management and relief efforts, responding to natural calamities and humanitarian crises. Overall, NGOs are playing a crucial role in filling the gaps left by the government in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the country.

Among these NGOs Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is one of the major NGO, established in 1982 to meliorate the stander life of the people of Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan. The main focus of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is to stander the socio- economic of the people of Gilgit Baltistan particularly the people of district Skardu.

The said NGO is being working to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural communities at district Skardu in Baltistan division. Its main focus is such as improvement in agriculture production, infrastructure, hydro power, reduction of poverty, participatory governance, micro hydro-project, Sadpara development project, livestock rising, promoting education in the remote areas of the mentioned district.³

Statement of the Problem

The socio-economic development in district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan (GB) is one of the major concern. The federal government and provincial government remain an abortive to pay their wrathful consideration to the socio-economic development in the far flunk district of GB. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme is one of the leading non-profit NGO has been working in socio-economic development of district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan since past 20-25 years. The outcome of this research may support to other governmental institutions and organizations to pay its wrathful consideration in socio-economic development of the backward district.

Aim and Objective

The main aim and objective of this research work is to highlight the Programme and strategies lunched by the Aga Khan Support Programme (AKRSP) in the socio-economic development of far flunk district of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and also discus to evaluate the role of Agha Khan Rural Support in socio-economic development of Skardu Gilgit Baltistan. The one of major aim and objective of this research work is to investigate the tactics that is used by Aga Khan Rural Support Program to develop the economy of Skardu Gilgit Baltistan.

Significance of the Study

The study an endeavor to expand the research knowledge creation about the role of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in socio-economic development in district skardu Gilgit Baltistan (GB). This study is an attempt to find out how the Aga khan Rural Support Programs is playing its pivotal role in the socio-economic development of district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan. This study will render knowledge differences between the role of governmental institutions and non- governmental organization in Socio-economic development of district skardu Baltistan.

Research Questions

- What the Aga Khan Rural Support Program play a vital role in the socio-economic development of Skardu Gilgit Baltistan?
- What is the impact of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in the socio-economic development of Skardu?
- How the Aga Khan Support Programme enhancing women empowerment in district Skardu?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for the topic "Role of Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) in the economic development of Skardu" can be approached through the lens of sustainable rural development and community-based development models.

The sustainable rural development framework emphasizes the need for economic growth that is environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and economically viable. AKRSP, with its focus on improving the livelihoods of rural communities, aligns with this framework by implementing programs that promote sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and income generation activities in Skardu. By adopting practices such as organic farming, water conservation, and renewable energy initiatives, AKRSP contributes to the economic development of Skardu while minimizing the negative impact on the environment.

The community-based development model recognizes the importance of empowering local communities in the development process. AKRSP's approach involves active participation and

³ Von Pischke, J.D. startegies for enhancing AKRSP Savings and recognition it operations. AKRSP 1998

ownership of local communities in the identification, planning, and implementation of development projects. This model promotes the idea that communities are key stakeholders in their own development and that their involvement leads to more sustainable and effective outcomes. AKRSP's interventions in Skardu, such as providing training and capacity building to local farmers, supporting women's empowerment initiatives, and establishing community-based organizations, foster a sense of ownership and enable the community to take charge of their economic development.

By applying these theoretical frameworks, the role of AKRSP in the economic development of Skardu can be understood as a holistic approach that combines sustainable practices, community empowerment, and participatory decision-making processes. Through its various programs and initiatives, AKRSP has contributed to improving livelihoods, enhancing agricultural productivity, creating employment opportunities, and fostering social inclusion in Skardu, ultimately leading to economic development and poverty reduction in the region.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for studying the role of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) in the socio-economic development of Skardu, using qualitative methods. A comprehensive literature review would be conducted to gather regarding information on AKRSP's interventions and their impact on Skardu socio-economic landscape. This would provide a theoretical framework for the research. The qualitative data has been collected from different articles, journal, newspapers, and AKRSP official website. This method would enable a deeper understanding of the social, economic development brought about by AKRSP. Thematic analysis would be applied to analyze the qualitative data, identifying recurring patterns, themes, and emerging insights. This analysis would help explore the multifaceted impacts of AKRSP interventions on Sardou's socio-economic development. Lastly, the research findings would be interpreted and synthesized to draw conclusions, make recommendations, and suggest future directions for AKRSP's work in Skardu.

Literature Review

The author Nawaz Ali Jiwa in his article the Aga Khan Rural (AKRSAP) a bibliography of secondary source mentioned that Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) comprises of group of almost nine to ten non-governmental agencies established during the tenure of Agaha Khan IV in 1982 the one of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) agencies Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) constituted Aga Khan Support Programme (AKRSP) , the AKRSP consists of nonprofit actors commenced mission to enhance the living standard of the local people/ communities through social economic development empowering women and eradicating gender imbalance in Gilgit Baltistan as well as in Chitral the main target of the said NGO is poor and vulnerable also including women and youth the author Nawaz mentioned in his article at the AKRSP also working in India as well since 1983, the main focus is to empower the far flunk communities particularly the undrpriviladge and women in India. AKRSP is currently active in Utter Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar.

The focus of both non-government organization encompasses a border range of activities. In rural areas such as financial inclusion, (NRM) natural resources management sustainable like agriculture, fisheries, livestock production similarly the said Programme is also lunched in Pakistan as well.

Jelani (1982) and Ahmad Rao in (2014) had mentioned in their article 'The Role of AKRSP in Gender Development' in Gilgit Baltistan the AKRSP contributed to the well-being of the local communities helping woman to contributes economically and human resources development that would be better educated and often self-sustaining citizens that contribute to a country's political and social development. In developing countries empowering woman through economic independence and stability is considered an important first step towards gender equality, therefore to rise the status of woman within a developing society many culture, legal, traditional and economic values and expectation will need to be challenged.

The AKRSP is playing a major role in empowerment and improvement for women. According to Jelani (1982) the AKRSP is either directly or indirectly assisting woman by delivering more need basis and effective social welfare services, design to benefit woman, especially in Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral. The Aga Khan Development Network has been recognized as a leader in helping foster gender development. The AKRSP is internationally known community based and support organization working in the rural areas of the Northern areas of Pakistan. The AKRSP mission is to reduce poverty through promoting sustainable living for the communities of the far flunk

and underprivileged area of the Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral. According to the Ahmad Rao (2014) the role of AKRSP in empowering woman that micro financial opportunities at its most basic level starts with assisting woman to gain increased status and position by improving their economic development. And be supported in the realization access equality, health, education and financial security.

Role of AKRSP in Socio-Economic development in Skardu Gilgit Baltistan

AKRSP is one of the leading NGO has been working in the socio-economic development in district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan since its inception by lunching different initiatives. According to Mr Jamil-ud-Din , general manager AKRSP mentioned has been that AKRSP has been working effectively for the betterment of the local communities without the unremitting support of communities themself.⁴

Furthermore highlight the role of AKRSP that the leading NGO enhancing the socio-economic development. AKRSP has fulfilled an extensive variety of growth projects in Gilgit Baltistan(GB), comprising the building of infrastructure such as bridges, roads, and irrigation methods, natural resource management, and community-based tourism as well as the upgrade of maintainable agriculture,. These enterprises have not only helped to increase admittance to basic facilities but have also providing income-generating opportunities for the local societies. AKRSP has also played a precarious role in empowering women and helping gender equality in the region. The program has recognized community-based organizations that afford women with workout and resources to start their businesses, contribute in administrative methods, and access financial services. Through these efforts, AKRSP has funded to the social and economic empowerment of women in district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan (GB).⁵ AKRSP has played a vigorous role in educating the socio-economic conditions of Gilgit Baltistan by providing a variety of ingenuities aimed at improving the livelihoods of local communities. Increase income levels, these enterprises have helped to decrease poverty and improve access to basic services and infrastructure, contributing to the overall development of the region. AKRSP has been operational in Gilgit Baltistan since 1982 and has played an important role in the development of the region. By implementing which one given below in details.

1.1 Education

The Aga Khan Education Service (AKES), Pakistan is one of the biggest private systems of educational organizations in Pakistan. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is a non- profit non-governmental organization that works to enhance the excellence life of far flunk communities and underprivileged people in numerous regions of Pakistan, including Gilgit- Baltistan particularly in district Skardu. Education is one of the crucial areas in which AKRSP has been enthusiastically convoluted. AKRSP has played a vigorous role in enlightening access to education and enhancing the quality education in district skardu Gilgit Baltistan. Its programs and enterprises have supported to increase enrollment rates and decrease loafer rates, mostly in distant and undrpriviladge areas of the said district. AKRSP has erected schools in remote and underprivileged region of district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan (GB) to offer contact to education for children particularly for woman who before had none. The schools are facilitated with primary facilities likewise, libraries, playgrounds and classrooms.⁶

a. Infrastructure Development

AKRSP has also refurbished prevailing schools to enhance their infrastructure. This includes renovating buildings, building washrooms, and providing furniture and teaching aids.

b. Scholarships and Financial Assistance

AKRSP provides scholarships to deserving students to enable them to continue their education. This includes covering the cost of tuition fees, books, and other educational expenses.

c. Teacher Training and Capacity Building

AKRSP has provided training to teachers to improve the quality of education in the schools. This includes training in academic skills, Programme development, and classroom management.

⁴ Ali, S., Ali, N., & Khan, N. (2016). Aga Khan Rural Support Programme: A Case for Socio-economic Development in Northern Pakistan. *Asian Development Policy Review*, 4(2), 1-12.

⁵ Ali, F., et al. (2019). Aga Khan Rural Support Programme Contribution to Rural Development in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. *Sarhad Journal of Agriculture*, 35(1), 197-208.

⁶ Sher, J., & Aslam, W. (2016). Role of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Empowering Women: A Case Study of District Chitral, Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies*, 11(1), 57-74.

1.2 Health

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme has been enthusiastically convoluted in endorsing and enhancing health in Skardu Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). AKRSP is also playing its pivotal role in betterment of health in the far flunk district Skardu. AKRSP's efforts in promoting and improving health in Gilgit-Baltistan have had a positive impact on the local population. Its focuses and supports to increase contact to healthcare services, decrease indisposition and civilization rates, and enhance overall health consequences in the district. Launching Health Services

a. Healthcare Facilities

AKRSP has erected and renovated health facilities in remote and underserved areas of Gilgit-Baltistan. These include hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries, providing access to basic healthcare services to the local population. Providing Healthcare Services. AKRSP also renders healthcare services in the district it assists. This comprises nurturing and teenager health services, vaccinations, health education, and disease anticipation programs. AKRSP additional more render educate to healthcare staffs to enhance the betterment of healthcare services in district Skardu. This comprises training in clinical skills, patient management, and reserve care.⁷

b. Water and Sanitation

AKRSP has implemented water and sanitation programs to improve hygiene and prevent the spread of diseases. This comprises the construction of water supply arrangements, fixing of latrines, and sanitation education.

c. Disease Prevention and Control

AKRSP collaborates with health establishments and public organizations to instrument disease avoidance and control measures. This includes vaccination campaigns, control of infectious viruses, and rising awareness about established diseases such as tuberculosis, and malaria⁸.

1.3 Infrastructure

AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme) has been vigorously convoluted in the development of infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan, a mountainous region in northern Pakistan. The organization works to improve the quality of life of rural areas of the region, comprising their access to primary infrastructure. AKRSP has played a perilous role in infrastructure growth in district Skardu Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Its agendas and initiatives have enhanced contact to basic services and amenities for far flunk communities, cooperating to their socio-economic progress. AKRSP's enterprises in infrastructure development have had a positive impact on the socio- economic development of Skardu. By concentrating on road networks, water supply, energy access, education, and tourism infrastructure, AKRSP has assisted to increase the living circumstances, economic opportunities, and inclusive well-being of the local population.

a. Road Infrastructure

AKRSP has built and upgraded rural roads to better access to far flunk areas. These roads are connected to the remote villages and areas to the main markets, educational institutions and healthcare facilities, allowing rural communities to access important services. Bridges and Channels AKRSP has erected bridges and channels to alleviate the movement of people and products through streams and rivers. This has improved access to markets and services, particularly during times of flooding and heavy rainfall. Water Supply Schemes:

b. Water Supply and Irrigation

AKRSP has implemented water supply schemes to provide safe and clean drinking water to rural communities. This includes constructing water supply systems, building storage tanks, and training communities on water management and hygiene practices..

c. Energy Infrastructure

AKRSP has made efforts to advance energy infrastructure in Skardu. This contains the fixing of micro-hydro power plants to provide electricity to far flunk area of villages that are not linked to the national grid. Admittance to consistent and workable energy sources has important socio- economic benefits, including improved education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

⁷ Malik, S. A., Nazir, S., Jabeen, S., & Murtaza, G. (2021). Role of AKRSP in improving healthcare services in Gilgit- Baltistan: A case study of AKR

⁸ AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme). (n.d.). Scaling up health care services in remote areas of Gilgit- Baltistan. Retrieved from <https://www.akrsp.org.pk/scaling-up-health-care-services/>

d. Tourism Infrastructure

Skardu is known for its attractive beauty and is a popular tourist destination. AKRSP has played a role in emergent tourism infrastructure, with the building of tourist housings, walking trails, and upgrade of maintainable tourism performs. This has not only improved the tourism probable of Skardu but also created employment opportunities and improved the livelihoods of local communities.

1.4 Agriculture

AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme) has been playing an important role in indorsing supportable agriculture practices in district Skardu Gilgit-Baltistan. The organization has executed numerous programs and initiatives to upkeep the agricultural sector in the district and advance the incomes of small farmers. AKRSP's role in agriculture in district Skardu has been contributory in improving the livelihoods of small farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

Its programs and initiatives have facilitated to increase agricultural productivity, diminish poverty, and improve the overall well-being of rural communities in the region.

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) attempts to advance supportable normal asset the board works on, including water protection, soil preservation, and reforestation. These practices help to save the climate, further develop soil fruitfulness, and increment horticultural efficiency.⁹

a. Farmer Preparing

AKRSP gives preparing and specialized help to little ranchers to work on their farming practices. This remembers preparing for present day cultivating methods, crop the board, animals the executives, and post-gather taking care of.

b. Farming Exploration

AKRSP conducts research on horticulture in GB to distinguish new cultivating strategies and yields that are reasonable for the nearby climate. This examination assists ranchers with taking on new and imaginative cultivating rehearses.

c. Market Linkages/ Access to Markets

AKRSP additionally attempts to lay out market linkages for little ranchers, assisting them with associating with purchasers and sell their produce at better costs. This assists with working on the livelihoods of little ranchers and upgrade the financial development of the district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan (GB). AKRSP works to advance the market admittance for farmers in Skardu. It promotions in constructing market linkages, linking farmers to purchasers, mainframes, and traders.

d. Agriculture Extension Services

AKRSP affords allowance services to farmers in Skardu, distributing knowledge and information on up-to-date agricultural performs. These services include training sessions, workshops, and demonstrations on crop management, soil maintenance, water supervision, and bother control. By preparing farmers with up-to-date systems, AKRSP goals to improve agricultural production and advance livelihoods.

e. Natural Resource Management

AKRSP identifies the significance of defensible natural resource management for agriculture. It encourages applies that preserve water, protect soil fertility, and decrease environmental deprivation. This includes ingenuities such as encouraging well-organized irrigation arrangements, promoting for organic agricultural methods, and boosting afforestation and crunch management. By preservative natural resources, AKRSP helps to confirm the long-term capability of agricultural activities

1.5 Forestry

AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme) has been effectively associated with ranger service protection and the executives in Gilgit-Baltistan. The district has tremendous areas of backwoods that are basic to the neighborhood economy and the livelihoods of provincial networks. AKRSP plays had a huge impact in advancing reasonable ranger service the executives and protection in Gilgit-Baltistan. Its drives have assisted with preserving and reestablish woodlands, advance biodiversity protection, and backing the livelihoods of nearby networks. The AKRSP has

⁹ Siddiqui, A. F., & Ansari, M. U. (2015). The Impact of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme on Livelihood Assets of Rural Households in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. *Journal of Economic and Social Development*, 2(1), 98-111.

made momentous assistances to forestry and socio-economic development in Skardu. Its creativities have not only assisted in preservative the local ecosystem but have also authorized communities and better-quality their livelihoods. By participating environmental conservation with community development, the AKRSP has established the possible of sustainable forestry practices for accomplishing socio-economic development in the far flunk of the region.¹⁰

a. Woodland Preservation

AKRSP attempts to monitor and safeguard timberlands in Gilgit-Baltistan. This includes working with nearby networks to bring issues to light about the significance of woodlands and the need to shield them from deforestation, timberland fires, and unlawful logging. Woodland the executives AKRSP upholds timberland the board rehearses that are maintainable and advance biodiversity preservation. This incorporates working with networks to foster economical woods the executive's designs and offering specialized help to carry out these plans.

b. Reforestation

AKRSP attempts to reforest regions that have been debased or deforested. This incorporates establishing trees, advancing normal recovery, and offering specialized help to networks to lay out nurseries and oversee reforestation projects.

c. Forest Maintenance and Management

The AKRSP has operated meticulously with local communities and shareholders to encourage maintainable forest management practices. It has helped in emerging community-based forest management systems, encouraging reforestation activities, and implementing measures to struggle deforestation and forest dilapidation. These efforts have contributed to the preservation and maintainable use of forest incomes in Skardu.

1.6 Fisheries

AKRSP's mediations in fisheries in district Skardu GB have assisted with working on the jobs of the neighborhood networks by furnishing them with an elective type of revenue and business. The association's endeavors have added to the feasible administration of fishery assets and the preservation of oceanic biodiversity in the district. In Skardu, fisheries are an significant source of livelihood for the local population, mostly in the situation of food security and income generation. The region is blessed with several lakes and rivers, providing ample opportunities for fish farming and fishing activities. But, there have been challenges in terms of infrastructure, knowledge, and access to markets, which have limited the growth potential of the fisheries sector

a. Specialized Help

AKRSP offers specialized help to nearby fish ranchers and anglers to work on their creation and pay. This remembers preparing for present day fish cultivating methods, fish rearing, and fish handling.

b. Development of Fish Lakes

AKRSP has built fish lakes in various areas of GB to advance fish cultivating. These lakes are outfitted with the essential framework, for example, water supply frameworks, and are appropriate for raising different fish species.

c. Market Linkages

AKRSP has assisted market connections for the fisher folk in Skardu. This includes linking them with potential buyers, both locally and in urban cores. By launching these market connections, AKRSP has helped fisher folk access improved values for their produce and increase their market influence.

AKRSP has likewise chipped away at fostering the fish esteem chain in district Skardu Gilgit Baltistan by connecting fish ranchers and anglers with business segments. This incorporates offering help in item improvement, bundling, and showcasing.

d. Local area Instigation

AKRSP prepares nearby networks to elevate fish cultivating and to frame gatherings and cooperatives for better admittance to business sectors and credit offices

1.7 Livestock

AKRSP's endeavors in animal's advancement have added to the monetary strengthening of

¹⁰ Ali, F., et al. (2019). Aga Khan Rural Support Programme's Contribution to Rural Development in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. *Sarhad Journal of Agriculture*, 35(1), 197-208.

provincial networks in GB. Its projects and drives have assisted with expanding the efficiency and productivity of domesticated animals, accordingly working on the occupations of ranchers and furthermore effectively associated with advancing domesticated animals' advancement in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) to work on the livelihoods of country networks. Livestock rearing is a vital economic commotion in Skardu, and the AKRSP has applied numerous ingenuities to encourage its development and expand the socio-economic conditions of the local communities of the region.

a. Animals the board Preparing

AKRSP has given preparing to ranchers on animals the executives practices like taking care of, rearing, and wellbeing the executives. This preparing has assisted ranchers with further developing their domesticated animals efficiency and productivity.

b. Veterinary Managements

AKRSP has laid out veterinary facilities and portable veterinary administrations to give animals wellbeing administrations to ranchers. This incorporates immunizations, deworming, and treatment of normal animals' sicknesses.

Animals Advancement Projects

AKRSP has carried out different animals' improvement projects to work on the nature of animals in district Skardu. This incorporates breed improvement programs, arrangement of creature feed and grain, and foundation of local area based animals associations.

c. Market Linkages

AKRSP has worked with market linkages for ranchers to empower them to sell their animals at better costs. This incorporates arranging domesticated animals fairs and giving business sector data to ranchers.

d. Variety Upgrading Curriculum

AKRSP has initiated programs to improve livestock breeds in Skardu. They have introduced high-quality breeds of cattle, sheep, and goats, which are more productive and resilient to the local environmental conditions. Crossbreeding programs and artificial insemination techniques are utilized to upgrade the local livestock breeds, resulting in increased milk and meat production.

1.8 Fertilizers

AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Program) plays had a critical impact in advancing the utilization of manures in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The association has carried out different projects and drives to expand the utilization of manures and work on horticultural efficiency in the area. Its projects and drives have helped increment rural efficiency, further develop crop yields, and upgrade the occupations of limited scope ranchers in the area.

a. Farmer Teaching and Preparing:

AKRSP gives schooling and preparing to ranchers on the advantages and legitimate utilization of manures. This remembers teaching ranchers for the various sorts of composts, their application rates, and techniques for applying them. AKRSP additionally gives preparing on soil wellbeing, crop the board, and other cultivating rehearses.

Manure Endowments: AKRSP gives compost appropriations to limited scope ranchers to urge them to utilize manures. These sponsorships assist with decreasing the monetary weight of purchasing manures, making them more available to ranchers who might somehow not have the option to manage the cost of them.

b. Fertilizer Quality Control:

AKRSP has laid out compost quality control frameworks to guarantee that the composts involved by ranchers in GB are of excellent and fulfill the expected guidelines. This forestalls the utilization of fake or inferior quality manures that can hurt crops and the climate.

c. Local area Muster:

AKRSP works with networks to bring issues to light about the advantages of utilizing manures and to urge ranchers to take on present day cultivating rehearses. This incorporates arranging rancher field days and exhibits to feature the advantages of utilizing composts and other horticultural sources of info.

1.9 Micro financial opportunities

AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme) has played a significant role in promoting microfinance opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan. The organization's microfinance program provides financial services to underserved and marginalized communities in the region, including women and

rural entrepreneurs.

a. Microfinance program

AKRSP's microfinance program has helped to improve the economic situation of many rural communities in Gilgit-Baltistan. By providing access to financial services and training, AKRSP has enabled individuals to develop their businesses and create a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families. Providing Access to Financial Services:

b. Financial services micro-loans

AKRSP provides access to financial services such as micro-loans, savings accounts, and insurance to individuals who would otherwise have limited access to formal financial institutions. AKRSP provides training and capacity building to individuals and groups to develop financial literacy and management skills. This includes training on financial planning, budgeting, and entrepreneurship. AKRSP places a strong emphasis on empowering women through its microfinance program. The organization provides micro-loans to women entrepreneurs, and also provides them with training and support to develop their businesses.

AKRSP also facilitates market access for micro-entrepreneurs by connecting them with potential customers, suppliers, and buyers. This helps to increase the visibility and profitability of their businesses.

1.10 Technology

AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Program) has additionally been associated with advancing the utilization of innovation in Gilgit-Baltistan to work on the existences of individuals in country networks. AKRSP plays had a significant impact in advancing the utilization of innovation in Gilgit-Baltistan to work on the existences of individuals in rustic networks. Its drives have assisted with expanding admittance to innovation, advance monetary consideration, and upgrade the nature of schooling¹¹

a. Giving Admittance to Innovation:

AKRSP has set up local area innovation focuses in country areas of Gilgit-Baltistan to give admittance to innovation and the web. These focuses are furnished with PCs, printers, scanners, and other hardware, and they offer preparation projects to assist individuals with figuring out how to utilize innovation.

b. Advanced Monetary Administrations:

AKRSP has likewise presented computerized monetary administrations in the district to advance monetary consideration and further develop admittance to monetary administrations for individuals in far off regions. These administrations incorporate versatile cash move, computerized installment frameworks, and admittance to microfinance credits.

c. Sun based Energy:

AKRSP has advanced the utilization of sun oriented energy in Gilgit-Baltistan by introducing sun powered chargers in schools, wellbeing focuses, and other local area structures. This has assisted with giving power to these offices, which were beforehand without power.

d. E-Learning:

AKRSP has additionally presented e-learning programs in schools to upgrade the nature of training and further develop admittance to instruction for understudies in far off regions. These projects incorporate advanced content, intelligent learning materials, and virtual study halls

1.11 Reducing poverty

(Aga Khan Rural Support Program) has been assuming a huge part in decreasing destitution in Gilgit Baltistan, a remote and immature district of Pakistan. Here are a portion of the manners by which AKRSP has been adding to destitution decrease in the locale. AKRSP's endeavors in Gilgit Baltistan have assisted with working on the expectations for everyday comforts of rustic networks and diminish destitution. Its projects and drives have assisted with setting out practical business open doors, construct flexibility to catastrophic events, and advance monetary development.¹²

¹¹ Sayed Akram (15 septamber 2022) "Technology is necessity of time for Gilgit Baltistan" Daily K 2 express

¹² Siddiqui, A. F., & Ansari, M. U. (2015). The Impact of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme on Livelihood Assets of Rural Households in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. Journal of Economic and Social Development, 2(1), 98-111.

a. Vocation Backing:

AKRSP gives business backing to the rustic networks in Skardu Gilgit Baltistan. This incorporates support for agribusiness, domesticated animals, and fisheries. AKRSP has presented current cultivating strategies, further developed seeds, and better water system frameworks to assist ranchers with expanding their yield and pay.

b. Expertise Advancement:

AKRSP has been giving ability improvement preparing to the adolescent and ladies of Gilgit Baltistan. These preparation phases incorporate professional and innovative abilities, which empower individuals to begin their own organizations and create pay.

c. Microfinance:

AKRSP gives admittance to credit and microfinance administrations too little and minimized ranchers, business people, and families. These administrations assist individuals with beginning or extend their organizations, and set out pay creating open doors.

d. Foundation Advancement:

AKRSP has been attempting to work on the framework in the locale, including streets, water supply, and energy. This has empowered ranchers and business people to move their merchandise to business sectors all the more effectively, and has additionally further developed admittance to essential administrations like medical services and training.

e. Fiasco Hazard Decrease

AKRSP has been attempting to lessen the effect of cataclysmic events on networks in Gilgit Baltistan. This incorporates building local area based fiasco risk the executive's frameworks, and giving preparation and backing to networks to get ready for and answer calamities.

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