

CONTRIBUTION OF IRRIGATORS' ORGANIZATIONS IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY AMONG POOR FAMILIES IN TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT

The study presents findings of assessing the contribution of irrigators' organizations in promoting availability of food and nutrition among poor families in Tanzania. The study focuses on a case study of Mkindo Irrigation scheme in Mvomero District. Functionalist theory, system theory and empirical study illustrate the basis and origin of the problem situation. The study used qualitative approach through conventional data collection techniques. The small holder irrigation scheme in the country are mainly managed by irrigators organizations who are in most cases preoccupied with blanket organisation style and set up that does not consider or take into account the presence of the vulnerable families or household (elderly and single parents). These families end up not benefitting or ripping the fruits of irrigation scheme like other families run by able-bodied farmers. The underlying challenges facing the' irrigators' organizations in smallholders irrigation schema includes inadequate education among local farmers inadequate funds to carry out the irrigation farming and climatic change. Education on irrigation farming seems to be hindrance for most Irrigators Organisation and many rural dwellers. Thus the}' indeed need to be empowered so as increase production, food storage and income. Lack of food and nutrition in the country has now become a public health issue which needs research and immediate implementation to reduce malnutrition among children. Social work is still not well known in Agriculture and Irrigation sector however there is a lot of social work issues in the sector. The inclusion of vulnerable groups is not well addressed in these sectors. The government of Tanzania should review the agricultural and irrigation policies. The revised policies should indicate how vulnerable groups will be involved in Irrigation development in Tanzania.