
ABSTRACT

Post-Tsunami 2004 reconstruction, local governance and socio-politic stakes in South India

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In the actual processes of privatisation and decentralization of public programmes management due in part to the liberal politics progressively implemented in India since the middle of the 1980s, NGO's and local governments are considered by State Governments and by the International Financial Institutions as the more appropriate actors for local development management.

However, if its tendency of subcontracted public responsibilities to voluntary organisations is in progress within the framework of Public-Private Partnership institutionalization, few qualitative evaluations of projects implemented in that spirit in Indian villages are realized.

The purpose of my research aims to contribute to reduce this gap on the basis of a case study dealing with the analysis/evaluation of the effects of the Post-Tsunami reconstruction projects managed by the *South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies* and local authorities in two fishing villages of the Coromandel Coast.

This research, based on fieldwork undertaken in the Taluk of Tarangambadi (District of Nagapattinam) and on a comparative analysis of various reconstruction projects (Tarangambadi and Chinnangudi), will take into account:

- The socio-politic dynamics existing in the village ("clientelism", "favouritism", links of dependence and domination between the powerful groups and the others, relationships between Grama Panchayat and Traditional Panchayat, etc.) that can disturb, disrupt, influence the conception and the final results of the project and potentially reinforce local inequalities and mechanisms of domination taken place in the arena of the village existing before the project.
- The gap existing between the theoretical model of governance planned by the World Bank and the Government of Tamil Nadu to manage the reconstruction projects and the local realities of distribution of role, functions and responsibilities carried out by the main actors at the village level.
- The analysis of the theoretical terms of the SIFFS projects (objectives, strategy, methods, and desired results) and their quantitative and qualitative results three years after in terms of pertinence, coherence, efficiency and durability.

This research will also study the "room for manoeuvre" (Kuper, 1970) that SIFFS can use, in the opened situation of popular voluntary go-between in the area, to modify locally for various reasons the application of norms and models, decided upstream of the project by the Government and the World Bank experts.

This research following the interactionist and actor-oriented approach of socio-anthropology of development and social change mainly applied to African case studies, will take into account the discourses and the representations of the various actors involved in the process such as the Officials of the Nagapattinam District Collectorate Departments (DRDA & Department of Fisheries) the Grama Panchayat, the members of Traditional Panchayat and



local leaders, the land-owners, the agents of SIFFS, and the beneficiaries and naturally their interactions till the achievement of the project.