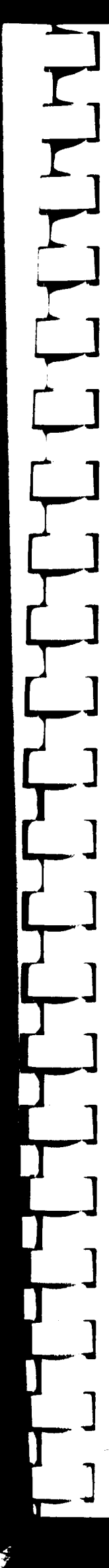


Abstract

This study focuses on the challenges and opportunities facing community-based initiatives towards socio-cultural, economic, and environmental transformation in the northeastern Villages Cluster of the Badiyah, Jordan. Within the geographical boundaries of this Cluster, a new development project has been initiated as an effort to encourage and support the local communities to participate in creating and reshaping their own sustainable futures. The A'naqueed Al-Khair project also seeks to sustain the Cluster's environmental conditions by initiating income generating projects that are coherent with the limitations and possibilities of the area. The central purpose of this study is to assess the success of the A'naqueed Al-Khair development project in meeting its goals for community and environmental development. A complementary purpose of the study is to add to the limited amount of research on the Badu community development in Jordan.

The participatory research methods employed in this study revealed that significant traditional socio-cultural perceptions, values, and practices influence the level and manner of engagement in the development process. Therefore, factors such as formal education, untraditional leadership, age, and gender play a crucial role in the process. In addition, the study emphasises the importance of recreating credibility and reliability in development initiatives to regain the trust of local communities towards development and to endorse participation in the development process.

In terms of the development project itself, this study reveals the importance of adopting and implementing new progressive approaches towards sharing roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities among the multiple stakeholders involved in the process. This Major Paper indicates that the proposed framework for collaboration allows all of the partners to maximize their participation and commitment towards their various roles in achieving socio-economic transformation; this research supports the notion that the local communities are more than willing to assume their obligations towards developing their own futures. In this collaborative approach to development, government, local NGOs, and research institutions assume the function of providing advice, training, and support to these local community-based and lead initiatives.



The research discussed in this Major Paper also contributes to the limited discourse associated with the A'anaqueed Al-Khair development project in the Badiyah – especially with regard to the importance of the local cooperative of A'anaqueed Al-Khair and the critical role of its strategic partner, the Badiyah Research and Development Program, which is transforming from a research based institute to an applied development centre.