

RARE

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (MSSc)

**THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF
PROJECT AFFECTED AND
RESETTLED FAMILIES DUE TO
SOUTHERN TRANSPORT
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

The STDP is the largest among all the development projects that have been implemented in Sri Lanka during the recent past. This directly influences almost all sections of the economy which is an essential factor of the development of a country. This project consists of a stretch of 124kms, starting from Kottawa to Matara and runs through 64 GSD and 21 DSD within four districts. A total of 5,683 persons on 951 hectares have been affected due to the construction of this project. The RIP is implemented by the RDA jointly with the ADB and JBIC. The affected families have been compensated by the government by granting money and lands. This study examines the livelihoods of the affected people of the STDP. The theme of the study is "How has the livelihood of project affected people improved as a result of resettlement by the Southern Transport Development Project". The main objective of this study was to find out the livelihood conditions of the resettled families due to the implementation of the STDP. Apart from that, the sub objectives of the study were to identify the sources of livelihood, to find out the extent of mediation by the government and other organizations to develop these sources of livelihood, and to find out the present socio-economic conditions of the resettled people. Basically, survey method was used for this study while a comparative method too was utilized. A questionnaire technique, interview technique and an observation technique were used to collect data, in addition secondary data have been used.

Analyzing of collected data of the study revealed that the areas of the resettled people have not been changed so much. When their sources of livelihood are considered, it is not so satisfactory and has dropped in with time. Most of them have built comfortable houses by using the compensatory funds. However, the resettlement has directly affected in disrupting the business relationships of the self-employed businessmen. Obtaining loans by resettled families is high and most of them have obtained loans to build houses and not for investments. The RDA has intervened to upgrade their livelihoods. However, it has given priority only to counseling rather than practical programmes. The members of resettled families are happy with the existing education and religious relations. But they are not satisfied with the political institute. When taken as a whole, they are happy with the existing social security of the area. A systematic programme is required to upgrade the status of these people with the mediation of the government and Non-Governmental Organizations by focusing special attention on Second Income Generators and self-employees. And also it should be emphasized that the government should prepare a plan to resolve the problems of land ownership and any problems that could be faced by the second generation in the future. In addition, the condition of the sources of livelihood of the resettled families could be upgraded by creating a suitable environment which would be helpful in creating positive attitudes among the resettled families.

Key words: Transport, Development, Resettlement, Southern Transport Development Project.