

Impact Assessment on Living Standards of Low Income Families Relocated under Urban Resettlement Schemes: A Case Study in Dematagoda Resettlement Housing Scheme in Colombo

N. W. W. R. P. Wicramasinghe¹ and P. P. Lalanie²

**¹Urban Development Authority; ²University of Sri Jayewardenapura
*randompsp@gmail.com & lalaniepp@yahoo.com***

Urbanization in and around the Colombo city leads to the informal settlements of low income families (LIF) and created adverse consequences on the urban economy and thereby for the development of the city of Colombo.

Therefore, these LIFs had to be resettled for the development of Colombo based on the government policies and planning guidelines. The institutions involved in these programs have expressed their views to provide shelters to LIF for a better future. However, no comprehensive study has been carried out to evaluate the impact of resettlement schemes on the living standards (LS) of such LIF. The current study aims to fill this gap felt as a long term need to study and research in Sri Lankan context.

The resettlement housing scheme of Dematagoda under Beira Lake restoration project launched by Urban Development Authority in year 2008 and completed in year 2010 to resettle 320 families in a railway reservations near Beira Lake, was selected for the study.

Main objective of the study is to examine LS of LIF resettled under this project. The assets based approach on LS is selected as the method for measuring LS due to high applicability to the sample selected. The LS Index is constructed by using Multiple Correspondence Analysis to quantify the changes in LS. The LS table is extracted and expressed whole LS changes with reference to LIF and the measuring all the changes in one figure.

Descriptive analysis revealed that LS of more than 90% of the families have been improved by relocation and some criteria of LS only have degraded among few families under the resettlement scheme. The LS index values of all families have increased more than 100% in year 2011, when compared with the value in 2008. Therefore, resettlement has more positive impact on the families resettled under the resettlement schemes.

Key words: *Living Standards, Low Income Families, Resettlement, Assets Based Approach*