



**An Anthropological Study on Road Development-based Settlement
Projects and their Impacts on the Community (With Special
Reference to Ihala Karagahamuna-North GN Division, Kadawatha)**

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ABSTRACT

In Sri Lanka, road construction is a key developmental focus, but it leads to significant displacement and relocation issues. Successful transportation projects require careful analysis of their socio-cultural and economic impacts on settlements. However, it can be seen that the government has focused less on this aspect. In this study, the research problem was: What kind of impact do settlement projects have on the community? Research on the impact of settlement projects has often focused on re-settlers and neglected the original settlers (resident people). Therefore, the main objective was to explore the economic, social and cultural impacts of settlement projects on both original settlers and relocated people. To achieve the objectives, 40 families—20 from each group, were selected using the simple random sampling method, based on the resettlement project in Ihala Karagahamuna North, Kadawatha. Data from interviews and questionnaires were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The results showed residents' negative views on a settlement project due to socio-economic issues like property loss and insecurity. Unemployment negatively impacted the economy, but peaceful surroundings had positive social effects on resettled individuals. Finally, this research found that the overall settlement project had both positive and negative impacts. In conclusion, it can be elaborated that the overall settlement project is successful to some extent, and it could be improved by adhering to the following recommendations: listening to the concerns of impacted people, providing additional alternatives, providing sufficient facilities, and conducting post-settlement monitoring procedures.

1. Introduction

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. Moreover, physical and spiritual improvements in every aspect of human life can be defined as development. The term “development” has various meanings to different people and can be explained in different contexts. The term is complex. It is about building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing power structures to reduce barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives (Abuiyada, 2018).

Development has often been confused with economic growth as measured solely in terms of annual increases in pre-capita income or gross national product, regardless of its distribution and the degree of people’s participation in effective growth (Abuiyada, 2018). The main purpose of development is to increase the level and quality of life of the people. Also, the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities without damaging the resources of the environment is another objective.

In particular, promoting sustainable development is essential, as it seeks to enhance the standard of living for people in today’s world while addressing environmental needs and safeguarding resources for future generations (What is Development, 2021). Hence, both quantitative and qualitative development is essential.

Transportation is the movement of goods and persons from place to place and the various means by which such movement is accomplished. The growth of the ability and the need to transport large quantities of goods or numbers of people over long distances at high speeds in comfort and safety

has been an index of civilization and in particular of technological progress (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019). Transport is important because it enables trade, commerce, and communication that establish civilization. It saves money, time, and energy while facilitating the development process by connecting people, businesses, and resources. This means the primary role of transportation is to provide access to different locations for individuals.

A sustainable transportation system can be related with livable and economically strong communities where lands are used efficiently with very less commercialization. The benefits and burdens from transportation projects are equitably distributed among societies (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). Sustainable transport system is governed by five main attributes: accessibility, safety, security, affordability and environmental concerns. Sustainable transportation and development come together. Every country pays attention to the development of transportation in three ways such as national highways, provincial roads and rural roads (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019).

Roads make a crucial contribution to economic development and growth and bring important social benefits such as providing access to employment, social, health and education services. Road network is crucial in fighting against poverty. Thus, provincial roads and rural roads also form the backbone of a country’s growth. Therefore, it is essential to implement these projects according to a formal plan. When these projects are implemented without a formal plan, individuals have to face many practical difficulties. Impacts of road development vary as per location and development plan. The detrimental effect of highway projects is that individuals have to face land use impacts. Highway projects directly affect the amount of land used, and indirectly, the location and design of development (Shrestha & Singh, 2020).

For national roads, the land will be acquired based on GOSL (Government of Sri Lanka) rules and regulations and ADB SPS (Asian Development Bank Safeguard Policy Statement). An entitlement matrix has been included to detail the required compensation and assistance associated with different types of losses. For rural road component, voluntary land donation will be used if additional small strips of private land are required (Asian Development Bank, 2017). Large-scale development or infrastructure projects typically require land, and sometimes very large tracts of land. Governments often invoke the power of eminent domain and implement expropriation procedures instead of building support for a public or private project by negotiating with project affected peoples. It can result in the displacement of individuals.

Displacement of communities is triggered by several factors such as natural disasters, conflict, development etc. Over the past half century, Sri Lanka has witnessed several forms of displacement. Some of the reasons had been the protracted conflict, Colombo centric urbanization, natural disasters and large-scale development projects (Fernando & Punchihewa, 2013).

Relocation or resettlement can be defined as a planned process for the permanent movement of a group of people or community from their original place of residence to a new location within the same country (Nafees, 2005). The World Bank defines relocation as a process whereby a community's housing, assets and public infrastructure are rebuilt in another location (Ferris, 2011). Because of individuals varying vulnerabilities, capacities, positioning and interests, the people being resettled are affected in differing ways (Vanclay, 2017). Some people may benefit from being resettled, or at least from the project triggering the resettlement. Project-induced displacement results in many social and environmental impacts being experienced.

When it comes to displacement and relocation in Sri Lanka, it has gone through several phases of change over the past half a century. Colombo-centric urbanization, ethno-terrorism and tsunami leading to displacement and relocation are the highlights (Fernando & Punchihewa, 2013). Both features and failures of recently implemented relocation projects caused by natural disaster, conflict, urbanization and road development can be seen today.

Before examining the lessons learned from planned relocation, it is important to mention that the experience of communities with planned relocations has been predominantly negative (Ferris, 2011). These settlement projects always have economic, social and cultural impacts on the community. Relocation projects that take place without proper consideration of all segments of the population and families are likely to bring adverse results. When examining the literature on recent relocation projects and development history of Sri Lanka, it is clear that many underlying issues have gone unnoticed or neglected.

Impacts of settlement projects can be divided into three types; Economic impacts of settlement projects, social impacts of settlement projects and Cultural impacts of settlement projects.

Economic impacts of settlement projects can be both positive and negative. Some effects are caused by inequality of access to settlement schemes. Some relocated people perceive their livelihoods a being better after their resettlement. Also, job loss or conversion to less suitable or useful jobs caused by the projects may affect their satisfaction level (Gunawan et al., 2013). As people were involuntarily resettled from their original settlement to unplanned locations, they may experience some economic difficulties including unemployment and missing income generation opportunities (Diniz et al., 2013).

Social impacts are the future social effects of proposed policy, program and project decisions and actions on the wellbeing of people and their businesses, institutions and communities (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). In settlement projects, adjacent neighborhoods, relocated people and communities are directly affected by these effects. Settlement projects cause socio impacts to both relocated people and the resident people. It can be homelessness, climate change, racial inequity, hunger, poverty or any other problem community is facing. In particular, relocated people have to face problems related to their facilities (transportation, health, water, electricity), education system, and social relationships. Additionally, loss of kinship relations and weakness of community bonds are other social problems encountered during resettlement.

Cultural impacts of settlement projects can be both positive and negative. Changes that affect individuals' surroundings due to settlement projects constitute cultural impacts. These changes include aspects such as language, religious beliefs, traditions, customs, lifestyle, behavioral patterns, and dress code. Moreover, cultural change involves shifts in behaviors, ideas, beliefs, attitudes, values, and habits. Furthermore, the phenomenon of cultural change influences how people think, perceive other communities, and adapt to new ways of life. Prejudice with other communities can also be taken into consideration, as resettlement may lead to tensions and misunderstandings between relocated and resident groups, potentially weakening social cohesion and intercultural harmony.

In this study, the researcher mainly focused on the impact of road development projects-based settlement projects to both relocated people and the resident people. Its main focus was on the researcher engaged to find out the most significant information based on three main aspects such as economic, social and cultural aspects.

The main objective of the study is to explore the impacts of road development-based settlement projects on economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the people. The specific objectives are to examine the existing economic activities and how settlement projects have impacted on the economic pattern of relocated people, to identify the facilities and subsidies provided by the government during the settlement project period and post-settlement monitoring process, to explore the perceptions of relocated and original settlers regarding the success or failure of the settlement project, and to identify measures to overcome negative influences and develop positive effects.

2. Materials and Methods

This study adopts a phenomenological, ethnographic, and descriptive research approach. In this research both primary and secondary sources were used. The primary sources were the interviewees (both relocated people and early settled people), and secondary data was gathered from government reports, internet, articles, books, research, journals etc.

The research was conducted in a relocated area which belongs to Ihala Karagahamuna – north G.N. division at Kadawatha. Kadawatha is one of the major cities in Gamapaha District, in the Western province of Sri Lanka.

2.1 Population and Sample

There were a total of 1200 family units in the Ihala Karagahamuna-North G.N. Division. Among them, 35 were relocated family units. Moreover, there were 115 early settler's family units directly affected by the settlement projects. Out of both groups, 40 families were selected using random sampling method. 20 families from each group were selected because the sample size of both groups should be equal to do the comparison.

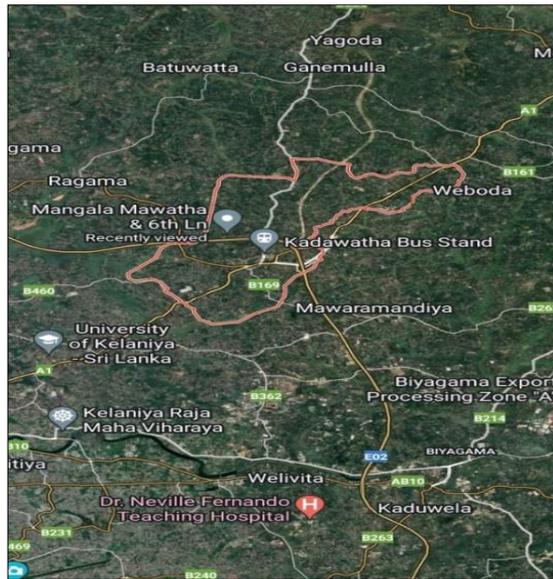


Figure 01. Map of Kadawatha (Study area: Ihala Karagahamuna-North)

Table 1. Sample size

	Total	Random sample
Relocated family units	35	20
Early settler's family units	115	20
Total		40

2.2 Method of Data Collection

This study primarily adopted qualitative methods emphasizing an anthropologic approach that includes direct observation, questionnaires and semi structured interviews. An interview schedule and questionnaire were used for the two types of data respondents. Interview schedule was used for relocating people and the questionnaire was used for residents.

2.3 Methods of Data Analysis

Under quantitative data analysis, age group, income etc. were analyzed by using statistical tables, graphs and diagrams in simple statistical methods by using computer software MS office package,

SPSS. Some data sources could not be analyzed statistically — for example, the perspectives and opinions of early settlers. In such cases, data was presented through sketches, photographs, and models. Qualitative methods were used to analyze the informants' opinions and perspectives.

3. Results and Discussion

This is an integrative review that provides a;

3.1 A brief overview of the settlement project

This settlement project is associated with the development of the Wattala-Kelawarapiyiya outer roundabout on the Colombo-Katunayake expressway. As a result, many

family units had been displaced. Some of the displaced family units have been relocated in the study area (Figure 1).

3.2 Details about domicile

It has been 4-5 years since settlers were relocated. In particular, they have been settled in an area where resident people have been living for a long time. 95% of the resident people (early settlers) of the area are people who have been living more than 15 years ago. Moreover, 5% of the respondents who live in relocated area have settled within one year. These 5% of respondents have bought the lands from the relocated people. A study on a settlement project found that some settlers who had migrated out of the area, as well as those who had moved away voluntarily, later returned to their former settlements for various reasons. (Gunawan et al., 2012). In this study, some respondents noted that certain relocated individuals sold their lands to others and returned to their original areas to avoid problems they encountered after the settlement project, such as difficulties related to employment, children's education, and transportation.

3.3 Prior awareness and response about the settlement project

When comparatively considering the prior awareness about that settlement project, it could be seen that there were two types of awareness between the two parties.

When discussing the experiences of relocated people, it is notable that 100% of them were aware of the settlement project at the initial stage. The process was carried out by government officers, who informed the affected communities to leave the area they lived in immediately, promising financial support in return. However, despite being informed, the relocated people expressed opposition to the project.

The reasons for their opposition can be summarized as follows: their assumption that

they might receive less financial compensation than the actual value of their land, lack of trust in government officials and institutions, and an increasing tendency to spend money due to their daily lifestyle despite having sufficient financial support. Additionally, they were concerned about changes to long-established lifestyles, the high costs associated with relocation, and disruption to children's lives and studies.

Furthermore, the disruption of childcare arrangements, familiar routines, and access to religious institutions heightened their sense of dislocation and cultural loss. The challenges related to maintaining stable employment and preserving social relationships also contributed significantly to their opposition.

All respondents had expressed opposition through various means, forcing the government to agree to provide land and financial compensation.

However, a study related to Saguling Dam in West Java Province in Indonesia found that the government provided a settlement programme to people displaced by the project by offering several schemes;

- A. Transmigration to islands outside Java
- B. Local transmigration
- C. Decisions to be made by the settlers as to where they would like to move (Gunawan et al., 2012).

However, in the current settlement project, these types of additional alternatives were not provided as options by the government. As a result, the relocated people had no choice but to comply with the government's decisions.

When comparing with relocated people, it can be seen that the resident people had less prior awareness about the settlement project due to their extremely busy lifestyle.

Moreover, among the people who were aware of settlement project, only a very few people (33.33%) have expressed their opposition. Carelessness, busyness, lack of understanding of risk, lack of confidence in government decisions and solutions, distance in social relationships and lack of social cohesion were the reasons for the lack of prior awareness of resident people. However, respondents expressed opposition by using protests, informing the responsible institutions and officers of the government and using other measures.

Finally, the government's need has been fulfilled regardless of resident people's opposition.

3.4 Provision of facilities and subsidies by the government

Provision of facilities and subsidies by the government takes place in three key stages: the pre-settlement monitoring process, the settlement process, and the post-settlement monitoring process. During pre-settlement monitoring, respondents were allocated 6 perches of land and received compensation based on the assessed value of their previous homes, while additional costs for materials and utilities were borne by the individuals. However, no compensation was provided for land or house damages. Moreover, both relocated and resident parties did not receive any government facilities or subsidies during the settlement and post-settlement monitoring stages.

3.5 Economic impacts

This section examines the economic impacts of the settlement project, focusing on the changes in occupations and unemployment rates among relocated individuals, economic hardships faced by both relocated and resident communities, and the resulting socio-economic challenges, including shifts in livelihood patterns, increased security concerns, and the economic integration of relocated populations.

3.5.1 Economic impacts on the relocated people

Economic impacts on the relocates should be studied considering the occupations, occupation changes, unemployed rate, recurrent expenditure and investment expenditure.

Before resettlement, the majority of the resettled people (85%) were self-employed, primarily in small-scale economic activities with low income, while 10% worked in the private sector and 5% in the government sector as laborers, all earning low salaries. In contrast, the original residents of the area held more stable and higher-income jobs, with 40% employed in high-ranking government positions, 55% working in the private sector, and 5% running their own businesses, with most of them earning salaries above 50,000 LKR.

As for economic impacts, settlement project has affected the relocated people's way of living. Because people were displaced from their original settlements to unplanned sites, they experienced economic hardships, including changes in employment and income-generating opportunities. 65% of relocated people's occupations changed after the settlement project (Figure 2). Distance, time, competition for jobs, and the cost of transportation have directly contributed to occupation changes. In addition, the study found that the number of unemployed among the settlers had increased markedly. Among relocated people who were directly affected by occupation changes, 46.15% became unemployed (Figure 2).

Moreover, the place where they lived before the settlement project was suitable for business transactions because of overcrowding and transportation facilities. That is the reason for 35% of relocated people to stay in temporary residences in the same area where they lived before, and doing their usual occupations (Figure 2).

Furthermore, unemployment among women has increased after the settlement project. Especially, the relocated people who live

away from their own relatives have to stay at home and look after their children.

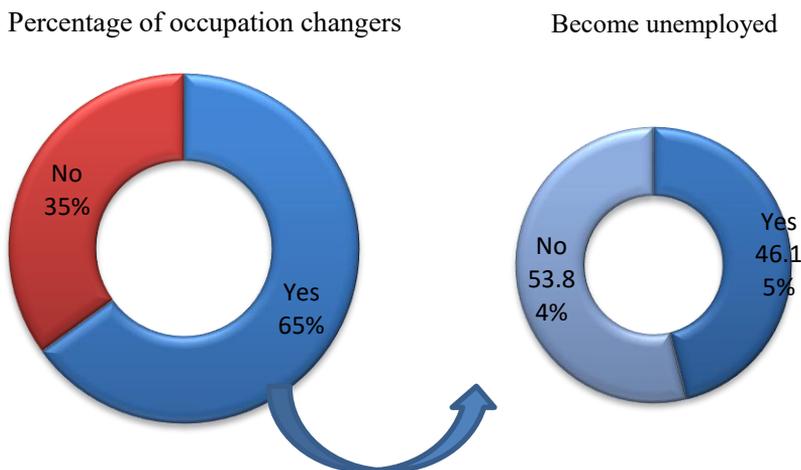


Figure 2. Occupation changers and unemployment rate

Overall, the area where relocated people lived earlier is the most suitable location for their occupations, and they have been facing many economic difficulties after the settlement project. However, all relocated people are optimistic that their children will have better livelihoods compared to them.

3.5.2 Economic impacts on residents

Resident people in settlement areas experience significant negative economic impacts, particularly from increased robberies. Stolen items include cash, jewelry, vehicles, electronics, and tools. Relocated individuals resort to stealing due to inadequate compensation, leading to tensions. Factors like substance abuse, unemployment, and income loss exacerbate the situation. To mitigate risks, residents invest in security measures like CCTV, guard dogs, and alarms, incurring substantial expenses. Nevertheless, they enjoy some benefits such as the cheaper labor provided by the relocated population. Overall, it can be seen that both resident people and relocated

people experience negative economic impacts after the settlement project.

3.6 Social impacts

This section examines the social impacts of the settlement project, with a focus on the adequacy of facilities, educational challenges faced by relocated children, the effects on social relationships between relocated and resident communities, the difficulties encountered by residents during the project, and the new social, environmental, and infrastructural challenges that have arisen during post-settlement period.

3.6.1 Sufficiency of facilities

The key focus of settlement initiatives lies in providing adequate shelter to displaced individuals, with housing projects aiming to meet minimum standards to ensure the comfort and security of residents. However, challenges persist as many relocated individuals reside in incomplete single-story houses constructed on lands typically measuring 6 perches, with roofing materials

often limited to asbestos or concrete due to insufficient compensation (Annex 01). While access to piped water and electricity has significantly improved post-relocation, food procurement remains a concern due to income disparities. Nevertheless, overall satisfaction with the living environment is noted despite these challenges.

In addition to shelter, access to essential services such as water, sanitation, and transportation significantly impacts the wellbeing of relocated communities. The provision of safe sanitation facilities, including drainage systems and toilets, has notably enhanced health outcomes by preventing environmental contamination. Improved transportation infrastructure, including road development and street lighting, has enhanced accessibility and security, particularly for vulnerable groups like children and women. Overall, the resettled population expresses satisfaction with the facilities provided in the post-settlement stage, reflecting a positive impact on their quality of life compared to their previous living conditions.

A study found that one of the positive effects of the settlement project will be the improvement of the physical infrastructure of the settlement area (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). In this settlement project, the deployment of a tractor to carry waste by the municipality, the widening of the road, etc. also had a positive impact on the residents.

3.6.2 Education of relocated children

In Sri Lanka, free access to quality education is recognized by the state as a fundamental right and also guaranteed by the Constitution. With respect to education of relocated children, it can be seen that many changes have occurred after the settlement project. A study related to war, development and tsunami-based displacement and settlement programs found that some parents removed their children from the previous schools and admitted them in schools that are close to the

new relocations soon after completion of settlement programs due to costly transport services (Fernando & Punchihewa, 2013).

The study highlights that 66.7% of students switched schools due to factors like distance, time, and transportation costs, with 33.3% failing to enroll in a new school upon relocation. The rejection of relocated students by schools and differences in learning mediums, particularly the absence of Tamil-medium schools in resettlement areas, negatively impact Tamil children, necessitating a daily 28-kilometer commute. This situation has resulted in significant time and financial burdens on parents.

3.6.3 Impacts on Social relationships

When discussing social relationships, it is evident that there is a significant gap between relocated people and resident communities. Factors such as economic and income inequality, wealth disparity, cultural diversity, behavioral differences, inconsistent social status, and variations in educational levels contribute to the lack of close relationships between the two groups. Moreover, religion, which typically functions to maintain community solidarity, fails to bridge the gap between resident and relocated people, as diverse religious practices and reduced access to communal religious spaces further hinder integration.

A study examining the impacts of an envisaged fast-track road on the traditional community of Khokana settlement revealed that migration related to settlement often disrupts community cohesion (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). The close bonds previously shared within communities may weaken when newcomers arrive, as migration brings diverse backgrounds and lifestyles. However, a different study related to settlements found that, despite the number of stakeholders and complex social dynamics, settlers sometimes succeed in working collectively, even in challenging environments (Galuszka, 2014).

In the context of the current settlement project, it was observed that all relocated people maintained positive relationships with their neighbors, indicating that despite the social gap and challenges in maintaining religious and cultural unity, relocated individuals actively sought to build and sustain good relations within the new community.

3.6.4 Problems that resident people faced during the settlement project

30% of the respondent's lands had been acquired by the government and 5% of respondents faced land and house damages. Moreover, environment pollution, sound pollution, and social conflicts increased. Previous studies pointed out that the establishment of settlement projects in some regions has entailed serious environmental consequences because of the indirect driving forces of deforestation coupled with the lack of state-planning, lack of infrastructure and profile of the settlers (Diniz et al., 2013).

A study related to settlement project found that the natural water sources will be lost because of settlement projects. Also, disruption of views of natural landscape is a negative impact that will rise due to emissions and pollution (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). In this study too, the researcher found that the land used for the settlement project was an ecosystem with coconut and pepper plantations and thickets.

It was destroyed by this settlement project. Further, excessive noise and vibration from the machinery used during the settlement project caused sound pollution as well as damage to houses. Conflicts developed due to conflicting views among various parties regarding the settlement project. Relocated people used to steal raw materials from newly constructed houses and buildings in the area because they received insufficient compensation and subsidies.

3.6.5 Problems that increased in the area after the settlement project

Mostly, when new people migrate, their practices might get mixed up, which will not be accepted by resident people. In this study, issues such as informal job sectors, pollution, substance abuse, heightened crime rates, overpopulation of dogs, vandalism, and security concerns could be observed during post-settlement. Additionally, damaged infrastructure, noise pollution, and uncivilized behavior further exacerbated the residents' discomfort. 45% of respondents personally experienced these adversities.

3.7 Cultural impacts of settlement project

When considering the relationship with religious places, the number of temples in the area increased, fostering positive connections for Buddhists, Catholics, and Christians. However, Hindu Temples and mosques are scarce, requiring Hindu and Muslim followers to travel over 7 kilometers for religious activities.

A small multi-religious place was constructed for convenience (Annex 02). Overall, the connection with religious places diminished after relocation. On the cultural front, relocated individuals maintain good relationships with various cultures. They collectively celebrate cultural functions and rites of passage, using roads for large celebrations due to space constraints. However, there are now fewer celebrations, attributed to reduced social relationships.

Mostly, with these type of commercial activities (road development-based settlement projects), ancient traditional activities will lose their essence (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). However, because this area is an urban society freed from traditionalism, such effects cannot be seen.

Moreover, previous studies pointed out that when other new people migrated, their cultural practices might get mixed up which

will not be accepted by resident people (Shrestha & Singh, 2020). In this study, such issues were not reported due to distant social relationships with resident people.

3.8 Satisfaction about overall settlement project

As indicated above, it was revealed from interviews that the relocated people enjoy the new environment with increased quality of livelihood. Changes in house size and style, connection to the electric grid, availability of drinking water, health facilities and education facilities were among the things that had improved compared to their living condition prior to the settlement project. However, this settlement project did not seem to fulfil their expectations completely. Employment was one of their main concerns. Among relocated people, there was a decrease in satisfaction level with their

present economic status. The type of employment the relocated people received affected the level and stability of income and hence the economic condition. Therefore, a feeling of dissatisfaction with the present job related to the present economic condition could be seen.

When considering the satisfaction of relocated people, majority (60%) of respondents have no clear opinion about satisfaction (Figure 3). According to the respondents, they have got the opportunity to live comfortably in a peaceful and free environment after the settlement project. There are both positive and negative impacts, socially and culturally. Moreover, they indicated that they are not at all satisfied economically. Finally, they directly stated that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the settlement project.

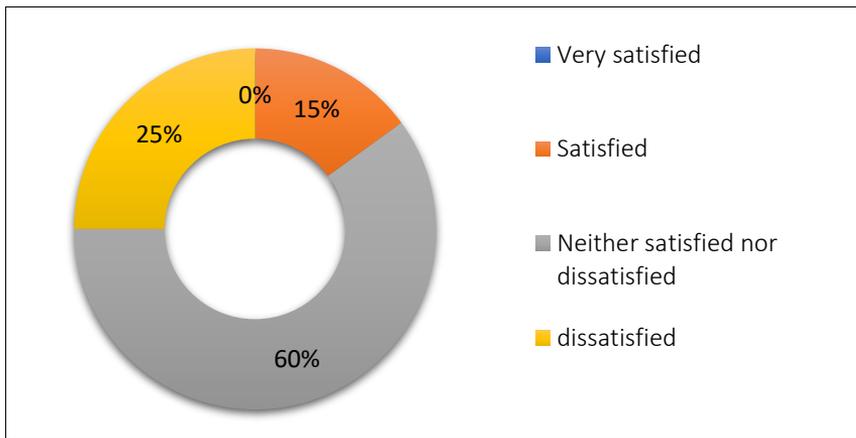


Figure 3. Satisfaction about overall settlement project (Relocated people)

When comparing the satisfaction of resident people both before and after, it can be seen that the dissatisfaction of them has increased greatly after the settlement project. Majority (75%) of respondents are dissatisfied with the settlement project (Figure 4).

According to resident people, they had a very comfortable, peaceful and free environment to live before the settlement project. Finally, they directly stated that they are dissatisfied

with the settlement project due to socio-cultural and economic negative impacts.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

This comparative analysis revealed the impact of road development-based settlement projects on the community. As four years have passed since the

implementation of this settlement project, its impacts can be clearly identified. The study of impacts is based on opinions of both resident people and relocated people. All objectives were identified based on socio, economic and cultural aspects. The conclusions of this study are as follows.

When comparing the social impacts on both parties (relocated people and resident people), both positive and negative impacts could be seen. Relocated people have experienced positive impacts while residents have experienced the negative impacts. Relocated people’s basic needs of shelter (housing conditions), health and sanitary

facilities, access to services (electricity and drinking water), education and social relationships were at a satisfactory level. It can be concluded that the settlement project had positive impacts on their social life because they have had the opportunity to live comfortably in a peaceful and free environment after the settlement project. However, the settlement project had a negative social impact on resident people because it led to the disappearance of their comfortable, peaceful and free environment where they lived before the settlement project and also due to the increase in social problems.

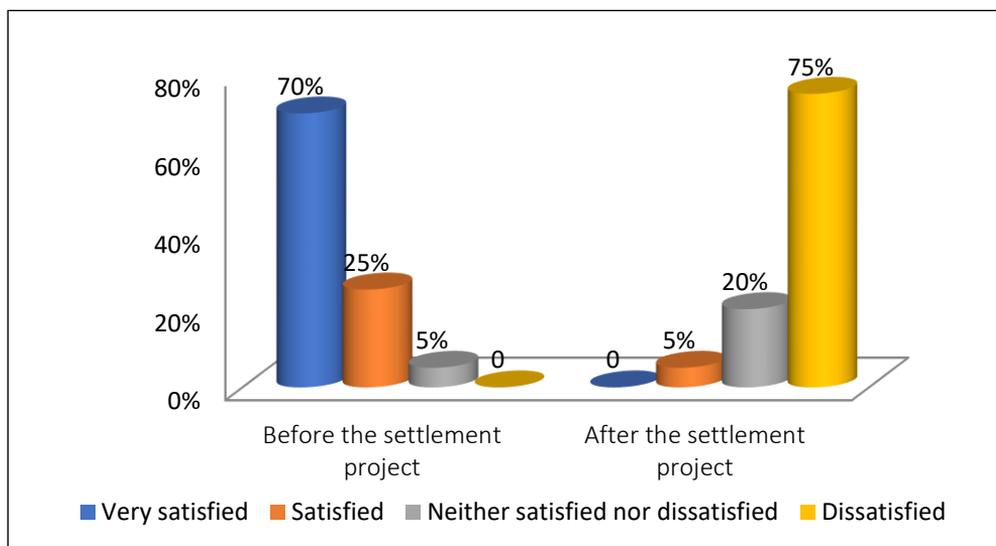


Figure 4. Satisfaction with overall settlement project (Resident people)

When comparing the economic impacts on both parties, changes in occupations, increase in unemployment (both males and females) can be seen as the negative impacts on economic status of relocated people. Resident people also are dissatisfied with the settlement project because of the economic losses they had to face after the settlement project. Therefore, it can be concluded that both parties were negatively impacted by economic consequences. Moreover, when comparing the cultural impacts on both parties, it is clear that the cultural factors of both parties have not had a decisive impact

because of the loss of social relationships. Furthermore, when comparing the overall satisfaction of both parties, majority (75%) of resident people are dissatisfied with the settlement project while majority (60%) of relocated people stated that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the settlement project.

Generally, government projects for poor and marginal communities are implemented through comprehensive and integrated programs as well planning mechanisms, which lead to sustainable economic, social

and cultural development. However, overall, there were more negative impacts than positive impacts. According to the above facts, it can be concluded that various reasons led to those negative social, economic, and cultural impacts: lack of prior awareness of resident people, ignoring the concerns of impacted people, not providing additional alternatives, not providing enough facilities and subsidies, problems of pre-planning, not doing a survey before planning the settlement project, no post-settlement monitoring process, bias in development policies, and neglect of resident people's responses.

Finally, this research found that the overall settlement project had both positive and negative impacts. In conclusion, it can be mentioned that the overall settlement project is successful to some extent and it could be improved by adhering to the following recommendations.

4.2 Recommendations

Most road investment programs mainly consider the engineering aspects by neglecting social, economic and cultural impacts. Therefore, the overall impacts should be considered during the implementation process.

Before planning this type of settlement project, a survey should be conducted and people's opinions should be sought. Additionally, the experts related to the cultural, social and environmental aspects should be consulted.

It is highly recommended that the government should involve the resident participants in the planning process and consider their suggestions and come up with relevant policies to overcome all the identified impacts.

The government should provide more alternatives for the people based on their requirements.

Sufficient compensation, facilities and subsidies should be provided to minimize the adverse impacts. Investments in subsidies and facilities need to be increased and appropriate strategies should be pursued.

Government needs to be cooperative with both relocated and resident people.

Priority should be given to relocated people in job recruitments to minimize the economic impact.

Ownership of relocated people's lands should be transferred to them through deeds. The whole point of relocation is to give a permanent settlement to the people.

Police bike patrol services, crime awareness programs, community-counselling services should be conducted to minimize the social problems that occurred after the settlement project.

It is essential to conduct post-settlement monitoring procedures after this type of settlement projects.

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