

## THE IMPACT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF URBAN RESIDENTS

**Wahumpurage Sithara Sampath**

Sri Lanka Law Collage, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka.  
*sithsampath@gmail.com*

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### **Introduction**

Since more than three quarters of the world's population live in countries which carried out major urban development activities, the issue of Human Right violation due to development projects has been increased. Sri Lanka has started to accelerate its economic growth after the end of civil war in 2009. Development of infrastructure including roads, highways, tourist recreational areas and urban areas are in top point of government development policies. This study attempts to shed light on violation of Human Right due to urban development projects with special emphasis on Colombo development project called "LassanaKolamba" (Beautiful Colombo) under the concept of "AsiayweAshcharya" (Miracle of the Asia). Moreover it seeks to identify the right violations and consequences of them on the residents of Colombo area. The study consists of a literature survey with the purpose of contextualizing the research and empirical analysis of the right violation and remedies or solutions provided by competent authorities in Colombo area. This study focuses on Sri Jayawardhanapura Municipal Council

area for its investigations comprising the road development programmes including road widening, reconstructions of roads that make heavy physical impact on residents in the area. As a result of Human Right violations have demonstrated in this area affected urban residents have become economically and socially backward due to deprivations.

### **Methodology**

This study was conducted in order to assess the human right violations of urban dwellers by the urban development programmes and practices in Sri Jayawardhanapura Municipal Council area with regards to road development projects in the area. To be able to gather necessary data, the researcher utilized the descriptive method, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Herein, the chosen respondents were randomly selected from two road development projects in SJMC area.

The survey methods were the research instruments used for the data gathering. Directly and indirectly affected people of road development projects who have been chosen in this study accomplished

a survey questionnaire to evaluate the human right violations in the SJMC area. The results of the survey were then processed by computing the weighted mean of each survey item. The computed values were used to data interpretation. Relevant literatures were used to support the gathered findings

### **Experimental Results**

There are nine Human Rights which are inalienable to citizen has been identified as affected by this road development project. Landlessness resulted with violation of Right to have immovable property corresponding with homelessness which affect to freedom of movement and residence are major identified direct infringements from this development project.

The risk of losing wage employment is recognized as considerably high in in the area since it is characterized as urban area with large number of informal petty traders and businesses are taken place. Deprivations of right of everyone to gain living by work is consequence with this circumstance.

Marginalization has occurred when families lose economic power and spiral on a "downward mobility" path. It often accompanied by economic, social and psychological marginalization. The Right to equality has threatened under the marginalization of affected people.

The physical wellbeing of affected people is characterized with food insecurity and decrease of health condition. Temporary undernourishment owing to not having proper places to prepare their foods and unsafe hygienic conditions of new

improvised residence are occasioned with adverse effect to their right to have healthy and clean environment as well as right to life.

Violation of Right to have adequate standard of living has interconnected with loss of access to usual common property such as common wells, school, playgrounds, religious places due to dislocation of their original living places. Social disintegration accompanied with force eviction has been associated with violation of enjoyment of their social, cultural rights.

The eligibility to receive reasonable compensation for deprivation was different among people with same circumstances. More than one third of affected people were not satisfied with the compensations. The right to properly compensated for losses has marginalized right owing to this scenario.

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