

**THE LIVELIHOOD IMPACT OF RESETTLED FAMILIES
DUE TO SOUTHERN TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY.**

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ABSTRACT

Southern Transport Development Project (STDP) is a first expressway project implemented in Sri Lanka. A total of 5,683 persons on 951 hectares have been affected due to the construction of this project. The affected families have been compensated by the government by granting money and lands. The Problem 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 Research is to carry out a comprehensive study on livelihood improvement of project affected people as a result of resettlement programme. Other objectives are identify the condition of their means of livelihood before and after the resettlement and to identify the mediation of the government and Non-Governmental Organizations to uplift the livelihood of the resettled people due to STDP. 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.

According to the Study, the means of livelihood of resettled families are not so satisfactory. The level of income and expenses has also not been different so much in relation to the time. It was observed that many had tried to build houses with more facilities with the compensatory funds and the number who had made investments was low. The loss of lands and their cultivations had directly affected

the family income. And also the network of business relationships of those engaged in self-employments had been disrupted and they have not been able to re-establish that relationships again after the resettlement. So their income had dropped. Poultry was not so popular in that area. The rate of borrowing was high and the majority of them had obtained loans to build houses and not for investments. Resettled people were 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.

INTRODUCTION

The transport system is an important component in the development of a country and its infrastructure. It is an essential part of the economy and directly affects all areas of the country. Also, transport is a factor directly connected with development of mankind with a rising demand. When this concept is considered in simple terms, transport means moving a human being and or animal from one place to another, firstly at the lowest cost. This concept expands with the beginning of producing goods and services other than for consumption, targeting the market etc. This concept must have gradually evolved with the growth of civilizations in every society. More attention might have been drawn towards the transport systems from ancient times for the sake of convenience of administrative purposes and for the advancement of commerce and trade on par with the beginning of human

settlements. This is a wide concept and covers several spheres. Transport includes inland, air, and maritime modes and it is the inland transport system which is the most important to civil society. When discussing the land transport system, the main responsibility of the political authority is to construct the road systems.

Accordingly the transportation which is an essential part of a country directly influenced each section of the economy. It is an important fact for human development and it has a continuous increase in demand. So, any country of the world pays more attention on the transportation system for the development of the country. Southern Transport Development Project (STDP) is a first expressway project implemented in Sri Lanka and it is a large scale project during the recent past which consists with 126 km from Kottawa to Matara, Godagama. It affected 64 Grama Niladari division (GN) and 21 Divisional Secretariats (DS) division within four districts. 951.2 hectares of lands and 5683 people were affected and lost their lands and houses. The affected people of this project were resettled. This is the second largest project of resettlement in Sri Lanka and attention has been paid on the affected number of 5683 people living on 951 hectares. Resettlement Implementation Plan (RIP) was implemented in parallel to the STDP by Road Development Authority (RDA) with the mediation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA/JBIC).

The project has focused for developing the country. Resettlements needs to be carried out due to the projects implemented for development. This means that the people living in affected areas lose their habitations due to project constructions. In such situations, providing them with the facilities to resettle in a place they prefer or re-locating the persons directly affected by the impacts of the project in a government selected place, takes place. During such occasions, generally the government or the parties investing on the relevant projects provide suitable compensations or the matching facilities and assets. Due to the construction work of the Southern Expressway, people lost their traditional lands and properties and habitations as well. For them, according to the post-assessments carried out in collaboration with the government and relevant parties, payment of necessary

compensation or resettling them in government proposed areas, after having provided housing and other infrastructure, also took place.

The people lost their traditional lands and properties due to resettlements. They lost their existing livelihoods within their familiar habitats. The rural network of relative-based relationships built up was distanced. The long established connections between the school, the temple, various societies and associations etc. too were disrupted and or distanced. Though these are the dysfunctional impacts, there are many functional impacts as well. This is due to the fact that the main purpose of initiating the Southern Express way was to enhance the community life of the Southern people. Therefore, the project was implemented, while minimizing its level of impact on the people. However, some issues surfaced at certain occasions as well. Accordingly, the problem of this research was on **how does the livelihood of project affected people improve as a result of the resettlement programme implemented by the STDP?**

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this Research is to carry out a comprehensive study on livelihood improvement of project affected people as a result of resettlement programme implemented by the Southern Transport Development Project. In addition to that there are sub objectives too. They are, to identify their means of livelihood, identify the condition of their means of livelihood before and after the resettlement and to identify the mediation of the government and Non-Governmental Organizations to uplift the livelihood of the resettled people due to STDP.

METHODOLOGY

Basically, survey method was used for this study. Through the survey method, a clear understanding of the respondent's social economic background, their views on the project and the impact of the project could be easily gained. In addition comparative method and functional method were also used. Through the functional

method, the functional and dysfunctional impact of the projects launched for transport and road development can be assessed. Comparative method has played a significant role in comparing the condition of livelihood improvements before and after resettlement. Questionnaire method, interviews and method of observation were used as techniques of collecting data. Books, newspapers, magazines and internet were used for secondary data and in that case, study reports, performance report relating to Road Development, resettlement and STDP were utilized. The methods of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and Excel were used to analyze data.

The Galle District was selected as the research field for this research. Many of the sites of this project are located in the Galle district. The resettlement sites have been established in 10 DSDs in Galle. The JBIC and ADB were the responsible institute of the resettlement of the STDP. All the ADB responsible sites are located within the Galle district itself and only two sites belonging to the JBIC are located at Bentota and Elpitiya within the same district. Accordingly, 22 out of 32 resettled sites are located in the Galle district within 10 Divisional Secretariats. According to that the Galle district was chosen as the research field of this research. 100 resettled family units belonging to five Divisional Secretariats were chosen in Galle district, according to the Simple Random Sampling. . Between that 5 DS Division out of 10 DS Division were used for the study. Two sites out of four from Baddegama DS Division, 1 out of 5 from Welivita Divithura DS division, 2 from Karandeniya DS division, 2 out of 3 from Imaduwa and 2 out of 3 from Akmeemana were used for the study. There are 9 sites relevant to these 5 divisional secretariats. Accordingly, data of 100 family units were collected.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study finds out the conditions of the livelihoods of those families which were resettled due to the affected STDP. So, details on background, livelihood and its condition, social information of the said families were collected thereby. Various conclusions can be reached on the STDP, resettlements carried out relating to the

above project and the condition of livelihoods of those families by analyzing the collected data on the matters stated.

According to this study it was possible to identify that there is no a vast distance between the resettled place and the earlier settlement and it has led to minimize the effect on social relationships after the resettlement. 73% of resettled families are nuclear families and the householder of 80% families is male. When examining the condition of houses after the resettlement it was found that most houses are permanent and with the facilities required for a house. It was also revealed that the level of infrastructure and sanitary facilities are high. But, more emphasize was given in this study to find out the livelihood of resettled families. Accordingly,

- i. When considering the temporary change of income of the resettled families, it cannot be identified but loss of previous source of income can be seen.

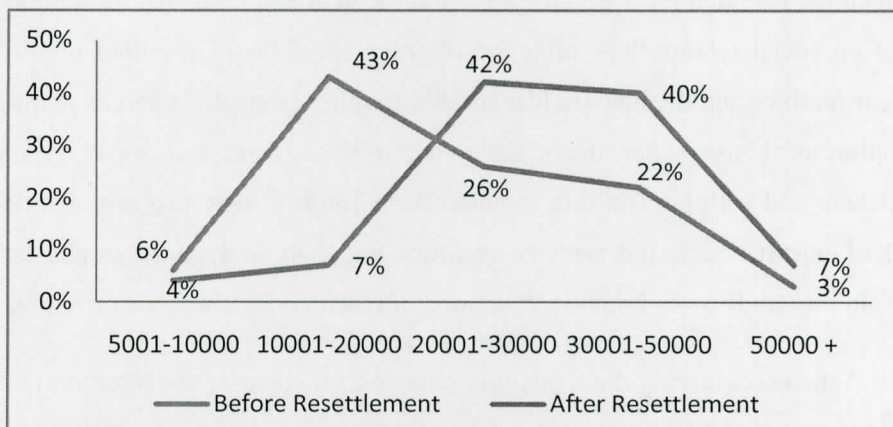
The monthly income of 43% is between Rs. 10001 -20000, 26% 20001 - 30000, 22% 30001 ñ 50000. The monthly income between Rs.20001 ñ 30000 is 42% and 30001 ñ 50000 is 40% after the resettlement.

They have mentioned the time period of resettlement as 2002 ñ 2005. Level of income has changed in relatively to 10 years. Accordingly, a conclusion can be made that the level of income of the resettled families has not changed so much after the resettlement.

When looking at the monthly expenses of families before and after the resettlement in relatively to the time period of ten years, has also not been changed so much.

Chart 1: Income Rate of the Resettled Families before and After Resettlement

(Source: Field data, 2016)



The most expenditure gap before the resettlement was in between Rs. 10000 ñ 20000, expenditure between 20001 ñ 30000 is 33%. So, the expenditure gap between 71% families is 10001 ñ 30000. The expenditure gap of 82% families after the resettlement is Rs. 20001 ñ 50000. When considering the above facts there is not much difference in expenditure gap in relatively to the time period.

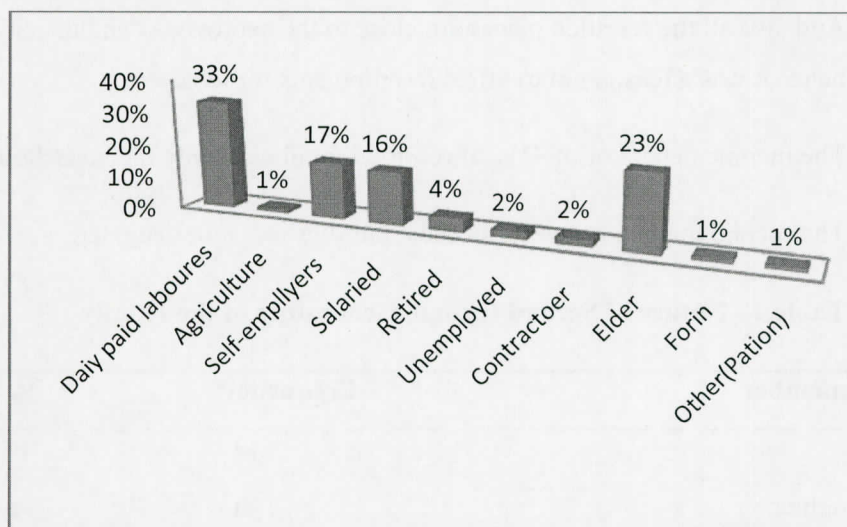
- ii. Income has greatly dropped at the resettlement in urban areas relative to the resettlements in rural areas.

According to the information in the sample relating to the resettled people at Wilson Wijethunge site belongs to the Karandeniya Divisional Secretariat, can be identified town area. As well as it is clear that their businesses have been disrupted after the resettlement.

Even though they were given lands by the side of old Batapola road, after the construction of the expressway the road was closed. So the business activities of those eight families have been greatly affected and their income has been low. This has not influenced the rural community as most of them are labourers.

- iii. When considering the nature of occupation of the householders of resettled families, 85% of them have no a permanent monthly income.

Chart 2: Nature of Occupation



(Source: Field data, 2016)

Accordingly, 33% of daily paid laborers, 1% Agriculture, 18% self-employed, 15% wage receivers, 4% pensioners and 2% contractors were identified and 23% elders were also identified. One Householder has found a foreign job; one patient and an unemployed Householder were also among them. Wage receivers are employed at government, private and semi-government institutions and out of them 6% government employees, 8% private sector and 1% semi-government institution were identified in the sample.

iv. Resettlements have not affected job holders.

The number of employed at government, private sectors or semi-government institutions are 15% and resettlements have not affected them i.e. their work place has not been affected so much.

The study revealed that the distance between residences is below 10kms and DS and GN divisions have also not been changed so much. Further, the study showed that they have been resettled in a way to minimizing the changes of locality.

And also all the resettled places are close to the expressway and the city and hence it was a reason not to affect resettlements for jobs.

v. The income generator of 41% of resettled families is only the householder.

vi. The second income generator of most families is son or daughter.

Table 1 - Nature of Second Income Generators of the Family

Family member	Frequency	%
Wife	14	14
Son/ Daughter	34	34
Son in law/ Daughter in law	8	8
<i>Grand Children</i>	3	3
N/A	41	41
Total	100	100

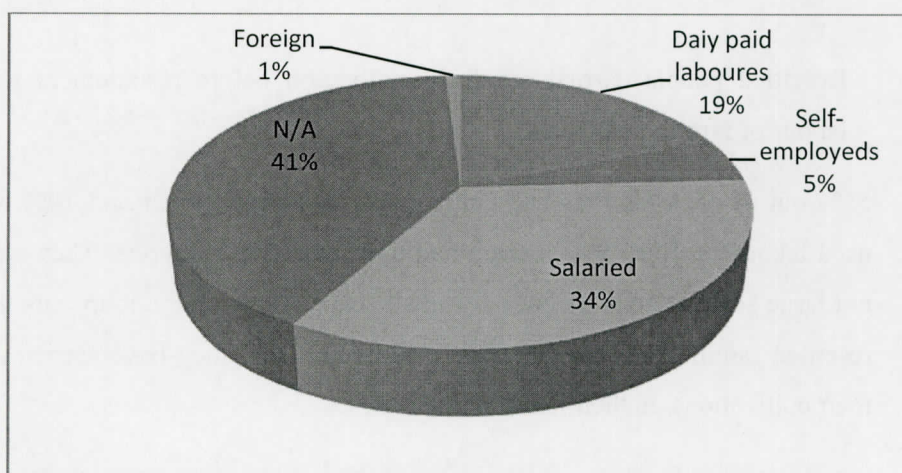
(Source: Field data, 2016)

According to the study there are 59% families with second income generators and 34% of those the incomes are earned by son or daughter. The age gap of householders of these families, 59% are between 50 -75, 7% are over 75. Hence 66% of householders are over 50 years of age. There is a

relation between these two factors and this is the transit period of second generation of the family to bear its responsibility in the Sri Lankan tradition. That is the reason why son or daughter becomes the second income generator of the family.

- vii. Most of the second income earners have engaged in an occupation that brings a monthly fixed salary.

Chart 3: Nature of Occupation of Second Income Generators



(Source: Field data, 2016)

Accordingly, 34% out of 59% families stated above as second income generators of the family are engaging in an occupation that receives a monthly salary which is an important factor. It is very helpful to maintain a stable family income and to uplift the standard of life of resettled families. Therefore, it is clear from this point that most second income generators of families have turned towards the service section.

- viii. Loss of lands has affected to in breaking down future plans of the family.

A person who has been living in a place for a longtime is self-confident and it is very important for his development. He expands it with the existing

network of relationships. However, with the loss of lands they breakdown mentally and it affects their future plans as well.

ix. Loss of lands directly affected the family income

65% who had lost lands had cultivated their lands and 38% out of 65% had cultivated commercial crops such as tea and cinnamon. 26% had cultivated mixed crops and 1% only a flower bed. 27% of them earned a monthly income below Rs. 5000 while all the other 38% earned over Rs.5000 per month from their lands. Hence, it has caused a huge impact on their income.

x. Resettled people carried out their cultivation before resettlement with labour of family members.

55% out of 65% families had cultivated with family labour and 10% had used labourers. Even 9% of them had used only two labourers. They were not large scale cultivators but only small scale. Accordingly, it appears that resettled families are not large scale cultivators and they have carried out their cultivations on their lands on their own.

xi. Loss of lands has affected the mental health of the elders of the family.

It was revealed through the interviews held relating to the sample that most elders are worried about the loss of their lands.

It here were crops such as coconut, and pepper in my land and also it provided us vegetables and leaves. I thought of cultivating my land after my retirement. But unfortunately I lost it. (A dweller, male, 72 years, 2016)

Sri Lankans mostly used to cultivate their home garden. Majority of persons relating to the sample are over 50 years of age and they are systematically getting away from income earning sources. So they are turning to cultivate their home garden for mental satisfaction. It is far better for the physical

and mental health of elders. But with the loss of lands after the resettlement that opportunity is lost for them.

They have lost this opportunity after the resettlement because the lands they are given are smaller and some lands are not suitable for cultivation. For example, soil of the lands at Baddegama, Welivitawatta and Karandeniya Pathiraja Uyana are mixed with sand and not suitable for cultivation.

- xii. Majority of resettled families were accustomed to cultivate commercial crops and therefore they have not concentrated on poultry.

The resettled families are more interested in cultivation rather than poultry. Therefore, the percentage of those who engaged in poultry is very low. Hence, it is clear that they are not interested in poultry. Therefore, it can be concluded that the majority of families relating to the sample are used to cultivate commercial crops and so they are unable to spend time on poultry.

- xiii. Persons who engaged in self-employment have lost their market after the resettlement.

Market is very vital for self-employment. Since these persons are small scale entrepreneurs, they do not get publicity by spending money. They attract customers with time and on the faith that has been built over a long time. When their business places are transferred from one place to another, they lose their network of business relationships. Then they have to find new customers which takes a longer time period. This is the main problem faced by those who engaged in selfó employments after the resettlements. According to this sample 8% had been engaged in maintaining groceries before the resettlement and it has dropped to 2% after the resettlement. What they state is that when moved to a new place it is very difficult to carry out the previous business. Because, a

few groceries can be there at some occasions. Such few occasions were identified within this sample.

- xiv. With the drop in family income after the resettlement, it is found that women have also turned to finding jobs at some instances. On the one hand it is a good sign to increase women's engagement in jobs and on the other it is an obstacle to the socialization process of children of the family.

Mother and father both engaging in professions is commonly seen in present society. But after the resettlement, with the drop of family income women who did not engage in jobs early also turned to work as estate labourers. Even though women's employment increased thereby, the socialization process of children and the daily routine of the family were affected. When mother engage with any other job it directly affected child socialization and personality development. Child may be isolated and he/she will be addicted deviant behavior. Accordingly, the role of the primary socialization of the family has been neglected by this factor.

- xv. Majority of self-employed resettled families do it as their chief source of income.

After the resettlement 26% of self-employed families were identified and 18% of them carry it out as their chief source of income and the other 8% engaged in it as their second source of income. Hence, this proved that majority of self-employed families engaged in it as the chief means of income.

- xvi. The self-employed number has decreased after the resettlement.

It was found that 28% of families had been engaged in self-employments before the resettlement and that number has been reduced

to 26% after the resettlement. 11% who engaged in self-employment before the resettlement have left it after the resettlement. 9% have commenced new self-employments. So, a reduction in the number of the self-employed can be seen.

- xvii. The savings of resettled families have been reduced and accordingly the level of investment has also dropped.

Savings directly affected investments. The savings of resettled families are low and it directly influences the drop of investment. So, it is obvious that the future economy of the family is at risk with the drop of investment.

- xviii. The degree of obtaining loans by resettled families is high.

55% of resettled families stated that they have obtained loans to construct houses. They stated that they had to seek loans since the paid compensations were not sufficient to construct houses.

- xix. Person engaged in informal financial activities such as lots and money lending before the resettlement has given them up after the resettlement.

One of the informal financial activities is *lots* it takes place on trust on each other. But after the resettlement such activities have faded away due to parting of trusted persons.

Normally, rural people buy equipment needed for their houses through the income gained through informal financial activities such as *lots* and money lending. So, it is clear that resettlement has affected such sources of income and means of savings as well.

- xx. The active mediation of the government and non-governmental organizations is poor to develop the livelihood of the people after the resettlement and counseling programmes are not enough to uplift the

livelihood. And also according to the study the implemented programmes for the development of livelihood by the government and non-governmental organizations are not satisfactory.

- xxi. They had concentrated more on houses and its facilities with the money received as compensations for the loss of lands and houses and no investment has been made for livelihood after the resettlement. This has been the reason for the breakdown of livelihood of resettled people.
- xxii. The conclusion can be reached by considering commonly is that they are not happy with the means of livelihood after the resettlement.

Due to resettlement people lost their land and as a result they lost cultivations and future plans. Not only that but their self-employments and network of business relationships were also affected. So they are not happy with their means of livelihood after the resettlement.

- xxiii. When turning back to the history of resettlement, a problem regarding land is faced from third generation onwards. This situation could emerge for the resettlements relating to the STDP because they have been allocated only 20 perches of land. If there are three children in a family, they have to divide this land among them. Therefore, the problem of land will have to be faced from second generation onwards for those who underwent for STDP resettlements.
- xxiv. The network of a social relationship of a person breaks down at a resettlement. The social standard of those resettled families due to STDP was investigated into through this study. Accordingly, Face to face contacts are lost during a resettlement. Even though there are advanced means of communication, they are not as strong as face to face contacts. It directly influence the health of children and elders. Even the interviews held relating to the study revealed that matter. The resettlements relevant to the STDP have been carried out by minimizing the distance between resettled areas. However, neighbor relationships are more important for

children and elders. But resettled people are happy with their religious relationships, education facilities of the area. According to the study they are happy with the safety and social environment that exists in the resettled areas.

SUGGESTIONS

The most problematic area of resettled people is the means of livelihood. They had used the money received as compensations to build houses with facilities and had not invested on livelihoods. Therefore, issues relating to livelihood have emerged. And also they will have to face a problem of division of lands. Although, this is a minor problem for the first generation of the resettled families, the second and third generations of the said families will have to face this problem. If steps are taken to settle this issue, the affect that will occur at a resettlement can be minimized.

- i. Roughly taken, ten years have passed after the resettlement and their livelihoods have not been developed and are yet problematic. Therefore, a long term intervention of the government and Non-Governmental Organizations is essential. As revealed by the study the government and Non-Governmental Organizations have intervened only to implement counseling programmes. But it is not sufficient to uplift the livelihood of resettled people and a long term active programme is required for that. An Officer who is responsible regionally or a few areas should be appointed to look after the livelihoods of the resettled people. Monthly performance reports should be obtained from these officers and it is helpful to bring the family income to a considerable level. And also suitable market coordination is required for those who produce different items as self-employment and for this purpose an officer level support is essential.
- ii. A professional training should be given to those members who are selected from each resettled family, on r resettlement and to produce things that have a demand in the market to minimize problems of

livelihood after the resettlement. This can be done more effectively at a resettlement due to development project than a natural disaster or displacement of war. So it is more worthwhile to train them on the field of masonry, carpentry, dairy products, tailoring, beauty culture etc to carry them out as a self-employment in the future.

Further, it is possible to strengthen the income earning of the second generation of the family and future of the family by giving a professional training to eligible members selected from the resettled families.

- iii. The network of social relationship of those who were engaged in self-employment and businesses has been severely affected due to the resettlement. If they start them again after the resettlement. They have to make new relationships and it takes time which delays the speed of development of the business.

Accordingly, it is proposed that granting compensation to the businessmen by assessing the time taken to build new contacts and decreased daily income of the business is worthwhile.

- iv. The resettled people should be made aware to manage the received money as compensation to invest some amount on their livelihood too. Counseling programmes on financial management will be more beneficial for this purpose.
- v. A problem of land ownership will have to be faced by the second generation of the resettled families relating to STDP. It is worthwhile to allocate separate lands to minimize that situation and it will be a solution to the issue that would take place in the future.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the Study, the means of livelihood of resettled families are not so satisfactory. The level of income and expenses has also not been different so much

in relation to the time. It was observed that many had tried to build houses with more facilities with the compensatory funds and the number who had made investments was low. Majority of second income earners of the resettled families were son/daughter and most of them had engaged in permanent jobs which carry monthly wages. The loss of lands and their cultivations had directly affected the family income. And also the network of business relationships of those engaged in self-employments had been disrupted and they have not been able to re-establish that relationships again after the resettlement. So their income had dropped. Poultry was not so popular in that area. The rate of borrowing was high and the majority of them had obtained loans to build houses and not for investments. The rate of saving was low and the informal financial activities such as *ilotsi* carried out before the resettlement have ceased after the resettlement. The government had intervened to uplift livelihood and in that juncture, RDA and the Ministry of Economic Development had implemented various programmes. But many of those programmes were counseling and the resettled people were not happy over that. Further, resettled people maintain good relationships with religious and education institutions and they are happy over them. But they are not happy with the political institution. However, they are happy with the social safety of the resettled area. According to the conclusions arrived at the study, the resettled people of STDP have a good social environment in the case of facilities but their family income is in poor condition due to weak livelihoods.

A systematic programme should be launched with the direct mediation of the government and Non-Governmental Organizations to make them engage in those means of livelihoods. It should be implemented with the intervention of officers in long term basis. And also a financial value should be given to the losing business contacts at resettlements, and the business risk that exists until the said businesses reached a stable position after the resettlement, can be minimized.

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