



AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY FROM WELIPITIYA DSD OF MATARA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Expressways play a significant role in the economic growth of developing countries. Realizing this importance, special focus has now being given on constructing new expressways in Sri Lanka too. But, constructions of expressways are not a simple task and these projects are often typified by risk and complexities which create a wide range of issues and problems that has to be dealt with utmost care. Thus, this study was undertaken to identify the impact of expressways constructions on community of the study area. There are some effective reasons for the selecting of this area such as number of resettled or cast off houses, land use pattern and distance of the expressway in accordance with DSD or GND. Applying the Random sampling technique, fifty five affected families which was 15% from two GN Divisions out of thirty eight GN Divisions in Welipitiya DSD were selected for the study. A questionnaire survey was employed to identify frequent impact and semi-structured interviews were conducted to collect data regarding the nature and effects of variations. Data were gathered by using primary data sources such as formal discussions, observation and also secondary data such as institutional reports. The findings of this research revealed that there are many impact of southern expressway in the study area which can be illustrated through Economic, Physical, Social, Cultural and other impact. Loss of land properties, dust, dryness, landslides, arisen and loss of occupations, infrastructure facilities, land use pattern what changed within 10 years are examples for the findings. Some people are totally agreed with this development project and others are not. Based on the findings, suitable recommendations were made. Among them, the use of forums that bring together government officials in charge of road constructions, contractors and the road users such as investors and households to iron out issues that may affect the relationships of the users and construction plans.

Keywords: Expressways, Impact, Development projects, Rural Community