

THE IMPACT OF UMA OYA MULTIFUNCTIONAL PROJECT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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Abstract - Implement of development projects are frequent in Sri Lanka at present. Uma Oya can be identified as a heavily attracted project by many. General public of Badulla district has faced a troublesome situation due to this. The problem of the study is how the people's lives and Human rights were influenced by the project. Primary data as well as secondary data were utilized in order to study the above problem. Primary data were collected through questionnaires from randomly selected 100 families in the areas of Weheragalatenna, Makul Ella and Egodagama. Secondary data were collected through internet, reports and newspaper reports published related to this development project. Primary data were analyzed through quantitative analysis and qualitative data were analyzed through qualitative analysis. It was able to explore that the Uma Oya development project has created serious and adverse effects on Human rights.

Keywords— Uma Oya / development projects / human rights

I. INTRODUCTION

Uma Oya multifunctional development project was initiated as an outcome of the bilateral agreement (donation of 450 billion US dollars debt) between former president Mahinda Rajapakse and Iranian government in 2008. The principle objectives were,

- I. To generate 231 mega wt electricity
- II. To expand cultivable fields up to 4500Ht
- III. To fill 14 Reservoirs

The possibility of violating Human rights has grown as a result of the above project which initiated in order to fulfill above objectives. A group of people has displaced due to this. Many water wells in the areas of Badulla and Bandarawela has completely dried up. Fulfilling the necessity of drinking water as well as supply of water for cultivates has adversely impacted by this. Therefore it is

important to study the public attitudes, opinions of those aggrieved people under such a situation. As well as it is important to study the influence diverted on public and Human rights of theirs.

II. RESEARCH PROBLEM

The research problem of the study is how the influence of Uma Oya project effected on lives and Human rights of people.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of the research is to study the human rights violations related to Uma Oya multi-functional development project.

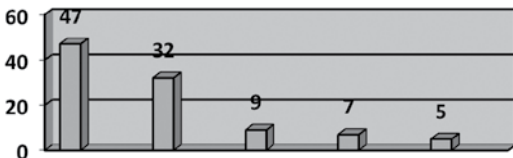
IV. RESEARCH METHOD

Primary and secondary data were used for the study and primary data were collected through a questionnaire from randomly selected 100 families in the areas of Weheragalatenna, Makul Ella and Egodagama. Secondary data were collected through internet, reports and newspaper reports published related to above project. Primary data were subjected to quantitative analysis and qualitative data were subjected to qualitative analysis within the data analysis process.

A. The Influence employed on respondent's occupation

It can be recognized that livelihood of most has been the agriculture during investigate of the influence by Uma Oya project on the rights of people. The research proves that an adverse effect by the project has been employed on the rights of people who were engaged in occupations associated to agriculture. The attitudes of the respondents on the impact on their occupations can show as follows.

Graph no 1: The attitudes of respondents on their occupation



Source: - Field research, 2017.

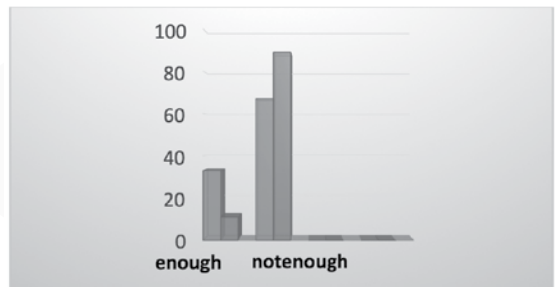
47% has stated that a very potent influence has employed on their occupations when examining manner of expressed attitudes of the respondents on the influence on their occupation. 32% has stated that a serious influence has employed on their occupations. Their livelihood has disintegrated due to loss of their fields and properties. When inquiring the influence employed on occupations, one of a respondent stated that, “we lived close to the river. We cultivated Kankun beside the river as a secondary income. Below the home. We earned about 18000 thousands rupees per a month. We almost lost all those livelihoods. We had to be debtors. Never wanted to borrow afore. So, none of good has received from the project except displacements. Many people had to face difficulties Like this as they disintegrated their livelihood due to loss of their cultivate lands. Most of the respondents have lost their occupations at present. The major reasons for this has been that they have not received cultivate lands hitherto even the government has promised to confer new properties. 5 respondents have stated that none of an influence as on cultivations. 9% has stated that only a medium influence has employed. 7% has responded that none of a serious impact has employed. Business people have well enough impacted.

Additionally, some people has joined with driving jobs at present but, they are not well enough for their prevalence as they expressed. The major reason for that is they are having subjective job only twice for a week. it seems to be that Their rights have violated Though there is an established right to do a legal profession, employment, enterprise or an industry alone or with another. People’s income has affected with the change of their existed occupations.

B. The Influence employed on infra-structure facilities by Uma Oya development project

Infra-structure facilities can be identified as an organ which has subjected to both adverse and favourable affects. The effects employed on respondent” water, Health, transport and electricity facilities can be analysed as follows.

Graph No 2:- influence on respondents water facilities

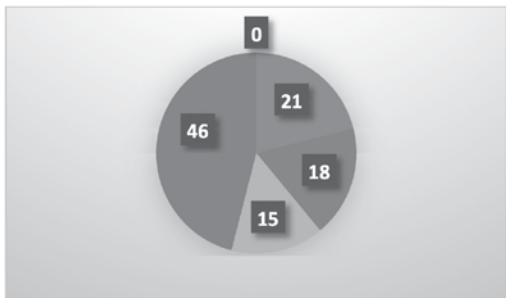


Source: - field research, 2017

no 02 shows that the situation respondents have faced on water supply. 33% has indicated that water supply is enough and 67% has indicated that water supply is not enough. Most has indicated that water supply is not enough for their cultivation activities and percentage of it is 89%. The opinion of the people who has indicated that the water supply is enough was, “we just grow around the home and use tube well water.” Drinking water was well enough” was the response when the respondents were questioned on water facilities that they had in their inceptive residence. Their criticism on the present situation was, We have to buy water now. We never bought water before. Water was taken from wells and springs. The problem is that those people had to supply drinking water from tubes within a background of well enough water they supplied from streams and channels. During dry seasons government has supplied water from bowsers. Study find outs that a water crisis has occurred compare to their inceptive occupations.

C. Influence employed on respondent's education facilities

Graph No 03: Influence employed on respondent's education facilities

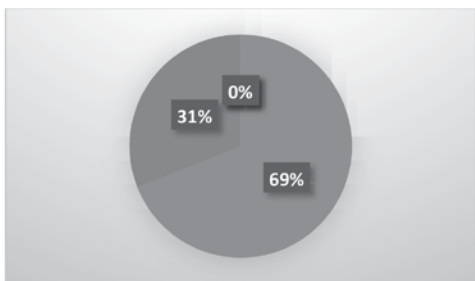


Source: - field research, 2017

Less has expressed that a huge influence has employed on education facilities. 21% has indicated that a huge influence has employed on education facilities. The distance for the schools that children have to travel in those families have changed due to resettlements. Most in Moragahawatta have affected by this issue. Most students are educating from Welimada national school and those children's travelling distance has changed due to this. One mother expressed that her child traveled alone to school earlier and now she has to take her child to school and take back. Some children have to travel by school service vehicles. But most expressed that they are difficult to spend. This proves that their right to education has impacted by this.

D. Influence employed on respondent's electricity facilities

Graph No 04: Influence employed on respondent's electricity facilities



Source: - field research, 2017

Study proves that it has not been a problem for the supply of electricity. 69% has indicated that they did not face any problem related to supply of electricity. Simply, none of influence has impacted on electricity facility.

any influence has not impacted on transport. The reason was that the resettlements were done close to the road. One of an officer mentioned that there are more facilities in new villages related to roads. Furthermore they said that Census were done walking on muddy roads and Compare to those periods that road are in a developed status. Both adverse and favourable effects has occurred due to UmaOya development project According to people's opinion.

V. CONCLUSION

It was able to explore that Uma Oya development project had heavily and adversely impacted on Human Rights.

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