Life Two Years After Relocation:

"Status quo of Natural Hazard Induced Displacements and Resettlements in Sri Lanka"

Having been ranked at 63 in the World Risk Report 2017 on natural hazard risk driven vulnerability, Sri Lanka is undoubtedly one of such top countries which are disaster prone. Having a look at the statistics of recent years, during the period of 1st January to 31st December 2017, a total of 135,000 people was displaced due to natural hazards (International Disasplacement Monitoring Center- Sri Lanka, 2017). 49,364 families and 188,328 individuals have been affected by flooding and landslides during the year of 2018. (According to the National Disaster Relief Service Centre, 2018). Given the extent of property and human damages these hazards caused, relocation has been recognised as one of the options in the aftermath. However, research studies have shown that resettlement efforts following a natural hazard are often uncoordinated, inefficiently managed, poorly planned, and inadequately financed turning these projects into "Development Disasters". Therefore, an evaluation of existing post-disaster resettlement strategies is a timely requirement which will enable the identification and implementation of a much more effective and efficient resettlement mechanism.

In Sri Lanka, Kegalle can be identified as a key disaster prone area, which hasn't been adequately researched on disaster induced displacement and resettlement despite been affected on frequent basis. One such incident is the Aranayake-Samarakanda land slide occurred in 2016 resulting in displacement, deaths and various other socio-economic impact on the victims. The present study revolves around the relocation resettlement in Kegalle which was initiated post the said land slide in 2016.
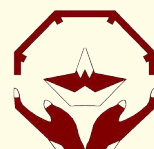
Aim of the proposed research

To understand the impact of the disaster induced relocation on the affected people in the Kegalle district, post Aranayake Landslide in 2016.

Associated objectives

- To investigate the social and economic impacts of the disaster induced relocation
- To understand the impact of the institutional framework on the project
- To understand the overall attitude towards the project by the residents (e.g. on issues such as physical layout of the) building on the residents

Planned outputs

1. Two scientific, peer reviewed research papers
2. Detailed state of the art report to be submitted to the National Building Research Organisation
3. Briefing paper highlighting the key findings

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