

## Resettlements issues in Sri Lanka; with special reference to Yan Oya project

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### Abstract

**Aim:** The 'Yan Oya' Irrigation Project in eastern Sri Lanka was finished in 2019, and this study used data from the displaced persons (DP) who were relocated there. What are the social and economic challenges faced by displaced people? Was the research question put to the test? This research aims to pinpoint the specific factors that need to be considered to lessen the negative effects of socioeconomic factors during the planning stages of a resettlement project.

**Methodology:** The quantitative cross-sectional study used a positivistic methodology. Under the survey design, raw data was gathered via structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. 51 households were drawn from DP due to the 'Yan Oya' development project using a simple random probability sample method.

**Findings:** Their original lands were flooded by the reservoir created by the Yan Oya project. The mud farming and chena cultivation provided for them in the early settlement were abandoned. There is currently no land available for chena cultivation, but land in the resettlement area has been fairly distributed. This forced resettlement resulted in several adverse outcomes, including increased costs associated with day-to-day living, separation from loved ones, fraying social ties, and isolation from neighbors. The community infrastructure crumbled.

**Implications/Novel Contribution:** Their proposed relocation to this area comes straight from the government. However, the benefits and the infrastructure offered to them could be better thought out. There are a lot of unmet social, economic, and emotional requirements. Compared to the positive effects, the negative ones of this resettlement are enormous. They require more help in money, technical know-how, land, market facilities, new job opportunities, and training for jobs in the information and communications technology (ICT), electric, mechanic, and automobile industries. Training, financial aid, and other resources should be available to unemployed women interested in starting their own businesses.

**Keywords:** Resettlement, Sri Lanka, Displaced persons, Socio-economic, Dam projects

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### INTRODUCTION

With a population of over 21 million people, Sri Lanka is classified as a lower-middle-income country. Most Sri Lankans (70%) rely on the agricultural sector for their livelihood, so the government is best understood as a rural community. Although there are some shared features, regional variations in the means of subsistence in the rural sector (Sakalasooriya, 2021). The development process is ongoing and drawn out, encompassing many different angles. To achieve development objectives, there are a variety of well-established viewpoints, theories, models, and methods to choose from (Vitharana, 2014b). Development strategies were put into place to address the social and economic challenges brought on by geographical and environmental diversity. One approach used in development projects is the forcible resettling of residents.

"Anuradhapura and Trincomalee District's agricultural irrigation needs will be met year-round thanks to the progress made on the Yan Oya irrigation project, the largest irrigation project in the North Central Province. This work will also improve drinking water infrastructure in the region and ensure that Trincomalee Town always has access to clean water and irrigation systems. At Pangurugaswewa in the Trincomalee district, a dam is being built across Yan Oya, which drains into the sea from Pulmoddai in the Eastern Province " (<https://lakpura.com/pages/yan-oya>).

"Safe water coverage, wherein people have access to water via piped water systems, protected wells, or rainwater systems, is at nearly 85% on a national scale as of this writing. Piped water is available to 44% (9+

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million people), hand pump tube wells are available to 3% (0.6+ million), 36% of the rural population has access to safe drinking water through protected dug wells, and 1% of the population uses rainwater harvesting systems. On the flip side, it is estimated that more than 3 million people, or 15% of the population, do not have access to safe drinking water within 200 meters of their home " (Bariscil, 2017; Ministry of Finance, 2018).

One of Sri Lanka's leading development focuses is on projects that make use of the country's abundant water resources. The Mahaweli Development Project, initiated in 1970 as part of the multipurpose development scheme, is the most significant in Sri Lanka. The Mahaweli Development and Irrigation Programme were "one of the largest rural integrated development schemes in the world at the time" (Muggah, 2008), having been formally launched in the late 1960s and then accelerated in the late 1970s by a newly elected government. Several countries helped to implement the Mahaweli Development Project, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and Sweden. This was done to accomplish a wide range of goals, including the settling of new areas, the improvement of paddy cultivation, the improvement of agriculture, the production of new jobs, the generation of electricity for the country, and the prevention of floods. The first phase of the Mahaweli development project included the construction of the Lunugamvehera, Gal Oya, Udawalawe, Polgolla, and Bowatenna reservoirs; the second phase included the construction of the Moragahakanda and Victoria reservoirs; and the third phase included the construction of the Kotmale, Randenigala, Uma Oya, and Loggal Oya reservoirs. As one of the more recent development projects, the Yan Oya development project counts as an effort to improve access to water. The Yan Oya development project is a joint effort between the Horowpathana and Gomarankadawala divisional secretariats in Sri Lanka's Anuradhapura district. But when the Mahaweli project finally got where it needed to go, it encountered several unexpected challenges. Some of these problems may be linked to water scarcity and a lack of motivation, knowledge, and organization on the part of farmers (Chang, 2016; Paranage, 2019).

The Ministry of Land and Land Development (2013) report states that the resettlement procedure includes "Land acquisition is becoming more common in development projects. Those whose homes and land are taken away must relocate, often to an area, they know little about. The public tends to view resettlement programs as a source of hardship for the displaced population. People who are displaced due to land acquisition and subsequent resettlement often end up poorer as a result. Resettlement is characterized by high rates of mortality and hunger, a lack of access to common property and public services, and a disruption of the established social order" (Kumpetch, Kumpetch, & Kumpetch, 2020; Ministry of Land and Land Development, 2013).

### **Problem Statement**

A better standard of living for the people of Sri Lanka is a top priority for the government, which plans to invest in infrastructure upgrades like new expressways, railways, water supplies, hydropower plants, and better housing. It has happened before, and it will happen again in the future. However, the realities of resettlement in development projects are unfair. Environment and economic sustainability are the twin goals of any worthwhile development project. Consisting of reasonable land acquisition policies and fair involuntary resettlement policies, livable spaces, social security, safeguard systems, and participatory approaches are necessary. In Sri Lanka, forced relocation efforts have yet to meet with the success that was hoped for. Since moving from the Mahaweli to the Yan Oya project area, residents have faced several problems, particularly those pertaining to their ability to make a living. When planning future initiatives, policymakers can use a consolidated body of knowledge about people's post-resettlement experiences. The results of a new resettlement program are also the subject of this investigation. Who have the displaced people relocated due to the development project, and what are their socioeconomic challenges?

### **Aim and Objectives**

- To identify prevailing practices of resettlement due to development projects.
- Identifying the demographic information of the displaced people.
- Identifying the attitudes of DPs towards resettlement.
- Identifying the problems faced by the displaced.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

There are significant number of researches have been done in multi-dimensional approaches related to resettlements. The conceptual and theoretical sights, trends, different aspects and the knowledge gap were identified through these research works.

Jayasiri, Diyawadana, Samarakoon, Pathmarajah, and Dayawansa (2018) attempted to analyze the responses to resettlement stress factors by gender. The resettlement stress factors under consideration were landlessness, unemployment, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, loss of access to common properties and social disintegration. For the issues of landlessness, unemployment and homelessness, males take longer time to adapt since they tend to secure a permanent livelihood while females find immediate possible solutions for issues such as feeding children and caring for family. Even though both genders are marginalized within the new community, women are more affected due transfer of land ownership completely to men. The traditional reproductive gender roles that females have to play amidst the resettlement stress place tremendous pressure on them. No provisions have been made to meet females practical and strategic needs in the resettled environment. In addition, patriarchal way of land reallocation makes females marginalized within the family itself.

Wanninayake (2016) the article on Making a Home Internal Displacements and Resettlement Processes in Sri Lanka 2002-2006, the study has revealed various factors that have influenced the IDPs decision to return to their original villages or remain in the host communities. One of the main findings is that multiple factors need to be understood in relation to the situation of the return and resettlement of IDPs. To understand the multiple variables and their impact on decisions to return or remain, the study applied a push-and-pull perspective. Overall, the study has explored the process of internal displacement, settlement, return and resettlement in the threatened villages in north and north-central Sri Lanka during the ceasefire period from 2002-2006.

Molle and Renwick (2005) the article on Economics and Politics of Water Resources Development Uda Walawe Irrigation Project; This report examines the history of water resources development and investment decisions for the Uda Walawe Irrigation and Resettlement Project (UWIRP), located in the southern dry zone of Sri Lanka. This plan envisioned bringing 32,780 hectares (81,000 acres) of arid land into highly efficient agricultural production by constructing a reservoir and irrigation facilities, and moving landless farmers to the newly developed lands. The main point coming out of the description of over 50 years of progressive development is the wide range of difficulties that have constantly undermined the efforts made. They range from design failure, shoddy construction and poor maintenance to constraints on agricultural diversification, administrative inertia and political upheavals.

Samarakoon (2018) the article on Moragahakanda development project in Sri Lanka: localization of development projects in rural and effects on communities discussed about the project as establishing dry-zone industrial and drinking water supplying project also with the focus on hydro-electricity generation. Accordingly, the area allocated for the construction of Moragahakanda reservoir (Kulasinghe reservoir) in the district of Matale was an area of rural neighborhood hence, a process was followed to shift the families from their residential locations to lately identified new settlement area. Subsequently, the change of residences from inherited site as well as from the deep-rooted social structure and to be fixed into a new location there had been several impacts on the status of employment, income, social relationships, village based attitudinal values and in principle that aggregated influences affected the rural social structure is visible positively as well as negatively through this Research.

## METHODOLOGY

This study, which was a quantitative, cross-sectional was conducted under the survey method. Structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were utilized as data collecting techniques. Fifty-one families from Urawa and Wahalkada D villages were purposively included in the sample.

Yan Oya Development Project is being implemented in 4 Grama Niladhari Divisions of Horowpathana Divisional Secretariat D1 Wahalkada, Pahala Divulwewa, Maradanmaduwa, Wagollakada and 3 Grama Niladhari Divisions of Pamburugaswawa, Galkadawala, Kandamalawa in Gomarankadawala Divisional Secretariat. This study was carried out within the two resettled villages of Urawa and D6 Wahalkada in the Horowpathanna Divisional Secretariat. Eighty-one basic families with houses in the reservoir area have been excluded and there are 22

sub-families in those houses. Of these, 46 have been relocated to Urawa village and 574 are expected to be resettled in the future. 45 persons have been deployed in Wahalkada D6 village and the number expected to be resettled is 635. Resettlement work is still being done in these villages.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Identify Demographic Information

There are 103 families that have been forced to resettle due to the flooding of the reservoir due to the Yan Oya development project. But at the present situation, only 51 families have been permanently resettled here. The Yan Oya project has decided to resettle 103 DPs in Urawa and Wahalkada D villages. A total number of 103 families were selected as main families and sub-families and the required amount of land was provided to them by the project. However, out of those 103 families, only 51 families have decided to settle permanently in these two villages. There are two types of groups here apart from those permanently resettled persons. First group is persons who have not resettled yet. The second group is the persons who have accepted to resettle here and they have already started to build their houses in this area. Both groups are not settled here currently.

The study was focused on 51 families who settled here permanently. Their age, livelihood or occupation, income, education, school attendance, literacy matters, gender of head of household, household size, primary and secondary sources of household income, needs of elderly persons and disabled persons, sanitation and land ownership matters had been discussed. Matters related to agricultural or horticultural cultivation, business premises issues, income and livelihood matters, lack of wage earnings, access to employment, schools, hospitals, markets, quality water and issues mismatching with life satisfaction were discussed.

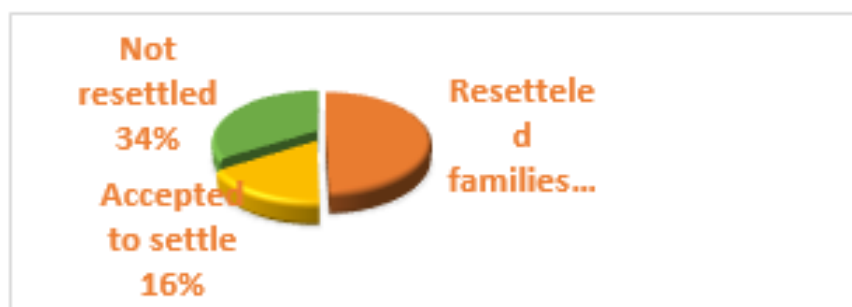


Figure 1. Trend of resettlement

Fifty-one families affected by the Yan Oya project have been permanently resettled. That number is 50%. Out of these 51 families, 36 are nuclear families (live with husband, wife and children). There are about five families who live with mother or particular women. There is a one family with father. There are nine families live with both mother and father. 16% families accepted to resettle here. They have built at least a single room in that land without settling there. But 34% of DP refused the resettlement decision under the Yan Oya project. There is a big bond among the close relatives in traditional rural villagers with their life goals; there are various forms of networks formed for material and emotional support during both displacement and settlement. The decision to move to a certain destination or to stay further is affected by the presence of relatives or friends (Wanninayake, 2019).

Residents who have been permanently housed without refusing resettlement requests are in two places namely, Urawa village and Wahalkada D6 area. Their previous settlements were the village of Puhudivula in the Kapugollawa area and the villages of Mawathawewa and Alapathwewa in the Kabathigollawa area. Accordingly, the original village of Puhudivula was divided into two parts, Urawa village and part Wahalkada D6 village. People who lived in Mawathawewa and Alapathwewa villages have chosen Wahalkada D6 village for resettlement.



Figure 2. Number of families of resettled

Data reveals that most of the displaced have not returned to resettlement. That is to say, the number of persons who have been confirmed for resettlement and those who have not returned for resettlement is more than the number of persons who have been resettled. This is a weak point that can be seen in the resettlement process.

### Gender Composition

In terms of gender representation, it can be found that a higher percentage of women is presented and it is 52%. But 82% household heads are male. 18% household heads are female. A special feature of female-headed households is that 78% of them have lost their husbands. The other 22% are separated from their husbands or divorced.

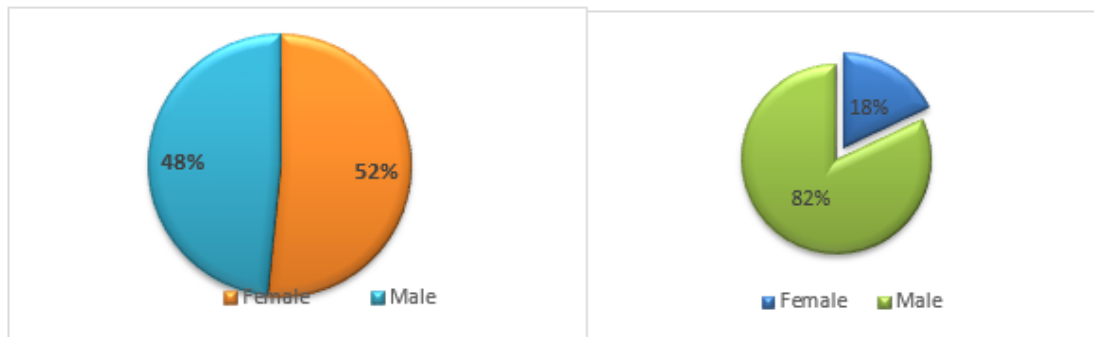


Figure 3. Gender composition

### Age Structure

According to the chart of the total families of 51, 11% are under 5 age group. Another 19% are in the 5-18 age group. 18% are in the 19-30 age group. Also, 17% are between 31-40 years of age. 7% are between 41-50 years of age. The largest group is in the age over 50 and it is comprising 29%. The percentage of senior citizens is significantly high.

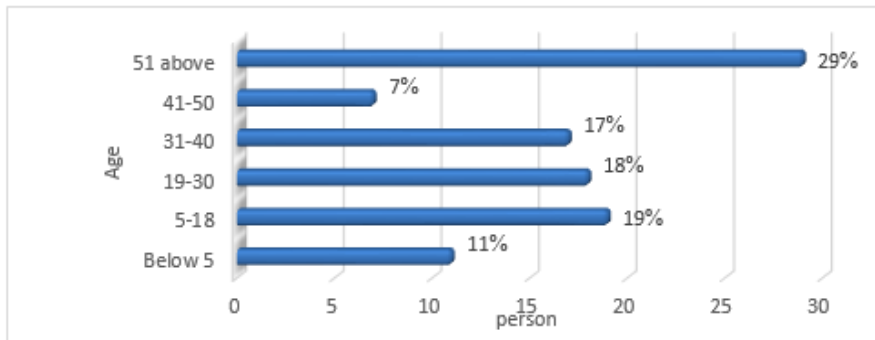


Figure 4. Age composition

The majority of the affected people are senior citizens. This shows that, the elders/senior citizens of the original families have accepted the new settlement. Many of these people were original settlers who lived in these villages from birth. According to the original settlement, their original home was in the area under the Yan Oya. Parents are being alone due to the marriages of their children. Children who get married have shifted to other areas. Therefore, the project addressed to those remained person. They have taken up resettlement as they do not have the physical and mental strength to move to another place. They do not have the energy to leave the environment in which they lived and to start a new life. Villagers bonded with their caste, kinship, property, marriage system, environment, customs, believes and so forth (Ihalagama, 2015; Vitharana, 2014a).

**Economic Activities**

The study was focused on sources of income of DP with two time periods such as earlier economic activities and current engagements. The largest sectors of employment were in the cultivation or farming sector. It was 69%. They worked in paddy fields as well as chena cultivation. There were male and female workers. 6% of household heads worked as wage laborers. 6% of them were unemployed. They depend on donations from relatives. Only 16% of them employed in government sector. When it comes to statistics, there are eight people. Seven of them are in the civil defense service and one was in the Army. 4% of people worked as businessmen. No one worked in the private sector. There is a slightly higher percentage of females in the lower income bands. According to Samarakoon (2018) Specific characteristics noticeable within the structure of employment was that those 67.65% involved in Agriculture centered employments, whereas, a lesser percentage of 8.82% was reported to be employed as the labourers. A conspicuous factor was that no Govt.employees found within the sample revealed it further.

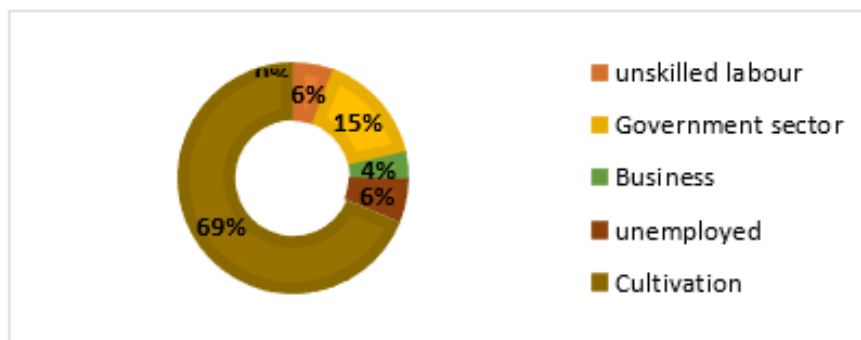


Figure 5. Employment sector of previous residency

There are different types of livelihood and income restoration strategies here. Also, no matter what kind of job they are engaged in, they all have been farming. Affected lands or source of income was the primary source of income of them. It was a land-based livelihood system. 89% of these families engaged in chena farming. They had grown sweet corn, kurakkan, pumpkin and chilies. They had chena lands for that purpose. 11% of those families engaged in the dairy trade by raising a dairy cow as a source of income for their family. The below chart shows the size and the contribution of the population who made farming and animal husbandry in their former livelihood. This is evidence of their early interest of income.

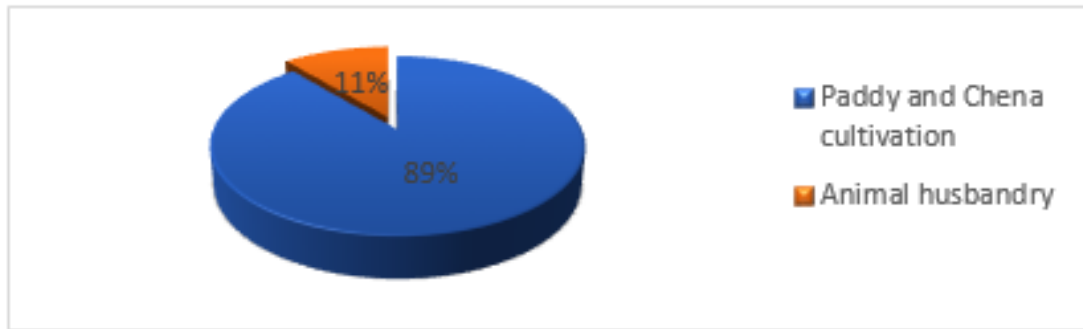


Figure 6. Source of income of affected people in former settlement

Anuradhapura is a well-known district for agriculture in Sri Lanka. Paddy farming is the main livelihood of many families living here. Sometimes they had between 5 to 10 acres of paddy fields per person. They often plant only one season a year, but that yield was sufficient for the whole year.

Displaced people from the Yan Oya project received land to cultivate further as their traditional occupation. The size of those lands was given by the project generally the same among all the affected persons. That is one acre of land has been provided for construction of houses and one and a half acres of mud land/irrigated land for cultivation. Most resettlements have this issue; They have not yet been able to generate income from present gifted land (Kumarasinghe, 1998). Most of resettlement experiences revealed this situation. The people who live in this new settlement are not considering about other skilled jobs as masonry, carpentry, welders so forth. Only a limited number of land recipients have been able to cultivate in their lands (Rathnasiri, 2019).

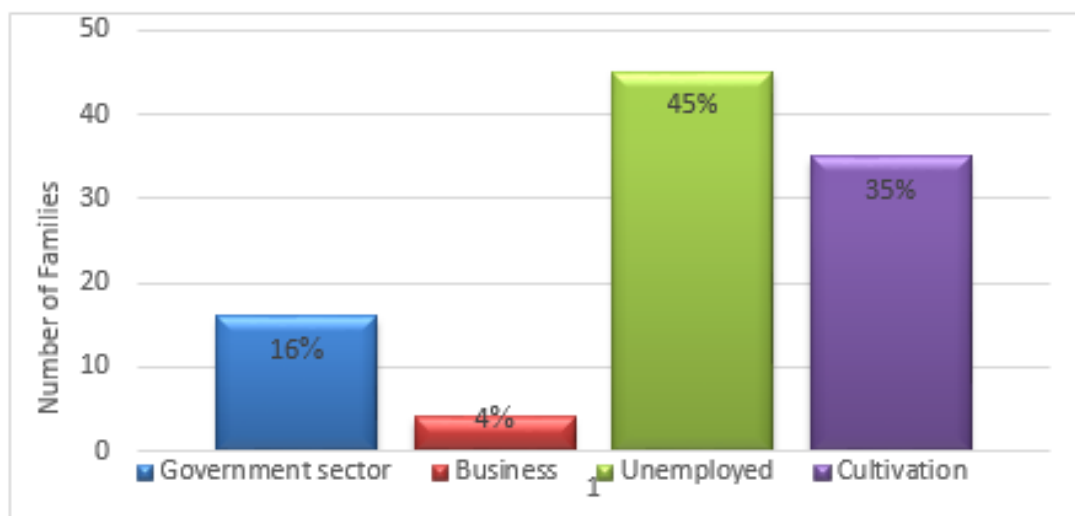


Figure 7. Source of income of displaced people in resettlement



Unemployment has been arisen since resettlement. There has been no change in the people who work in government jobs and trade as earlier. However, the percentage of farming people is reduced to 35% in the resettlement. They have lost their sources of income after resettlement. Unemployment percentage was 6% in the earlier settlement. After resettlement it has been reached up to 45%. Their original sources of income have been completely damaged and they have not yet been received land to cultivate after resettlement.

The Yan Oya project provides a subsistence allowance based on the number of members in a family. A subsistence allowance of Rs. 2000 per member is subjected to a maximum of Rs. 8000/-per month. They no longer receive any of the extra money from the project. In particular, they have lost their income source which they received by short-term crops and permanent crops earlier.

**Housing**

The research looked at the construction of housing for those displaced by the Yan Oya project and their views on it. Architecture of residential structure and facilities available at the present residence and the earlier residence were checked. Specially the number of rooms they have and had in their residence was considered. Types of rooms as living rooms, one bed-room only, two bed-rooms, three bed-rooms and more than four bed-rooms were considered.

A large percentage of the original settlement had more than four-room apartments. 35% of them had such houses. In both situations, earlier and now, there was a one-room house with the lowest percentage. It was 8% in the first settlement and 4% in the resettlement. They had an extra room that is described as a living room.

The majority of residences, 39% have two bed rooms with a living room in present settlement. Also, 25% of with three bed rooms. But in the original settlement, 25% had houses with two bed rooms and 39% had houses with three bed rooms.

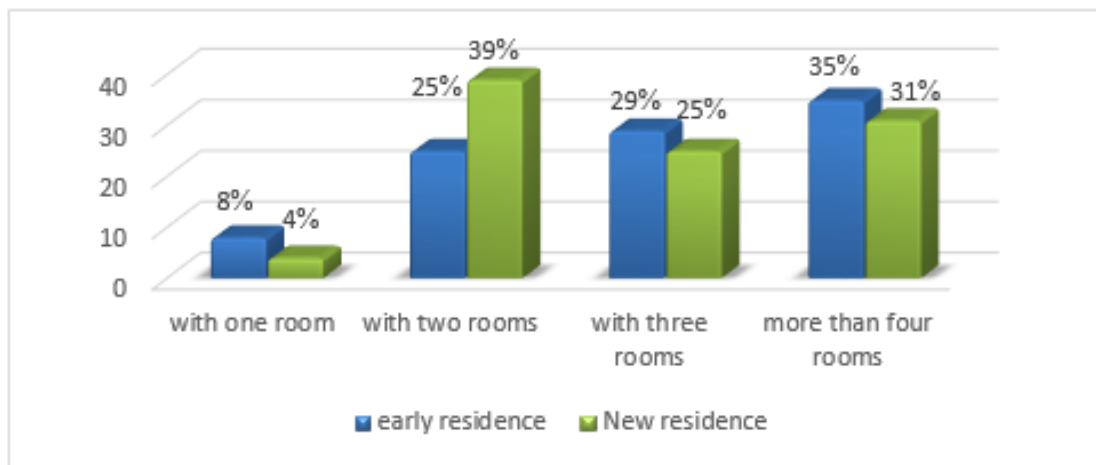


Figure 8. Structure of the affected and resettled houses

Satisfaction and dissatisfaction with their homes varied. This situation will inevitably occur in a resettlement. They love the old habitat even more, especially when they lose the mental satisfaction of getting used to a new way of life. Normally they missed their early place, its home appliance, plants, domestic animals and the holistic environment. They have mis-understanding with their re-establish livelihoods and inhabit. Most of senior citizens reminding their early residence and life pattern and try to compare it with their today life pattern.

**Land Allocation**

The particular importance in the Yan Oya project is the provision of compensation as well as land for the displaced. Every family is given the same opportunity when it comes to land. This situation has led to the prevention of conflicts between the communities during resettlement. This will prevent conflicts between DPs and officials. It has also helped to maintain the co-operation of DPs. Land ownership was granted in two main ways.



The name of the land where the husband of a family lived had been given to him. In other families the land was given to the woman.

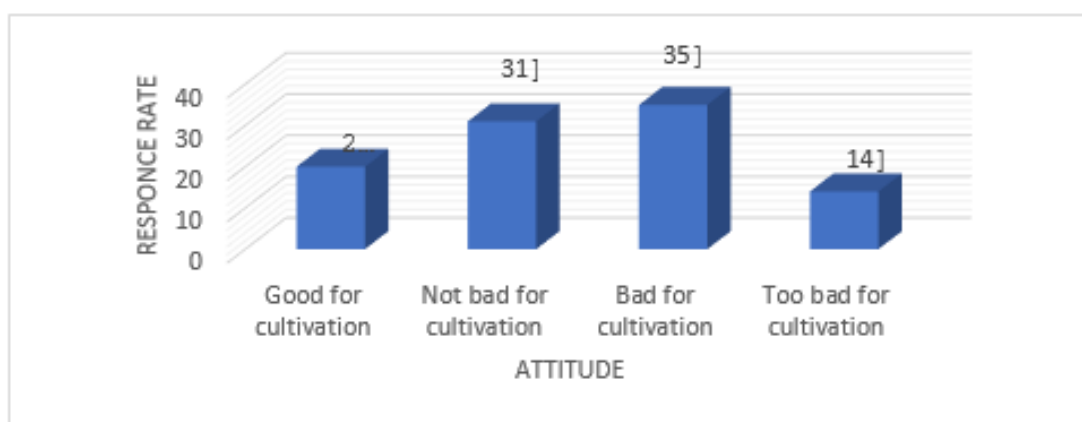


Figure 9. Attitude towards the new land

Most of the DPs are not satisfied with the land they have been given for resettlement. 35% of the people consider the land given by the Yan Oya project as barren lands. About 50% of the population shows that their land is not suitable for cultivation and 31% have a neutral opinion about it.

### **Socio-economic Problems faced by DP during the Resettlement Process**

Currently, DPs from the Yan Oya project have been resettled in two areas. The research looked at the threats and problems that these individuals faced in their post-resettlement lives. The following are the major issues that can be identified in both of these areas.

1. Problems in allocation of lands, construction of houses, payment of compensation and other allowances.
2. Economic difficulties
3. Environmental issues
4. Educational losses and challenges
5. Infrastructure matters
6. Social relationship gaps/less social cohesion

### **Allocation of Lands, Compensation and Other Allowances**

It has been about three years since the Yan Oya project displaced people acquired new lands and settled in houses. But similar to the early stages of resettlement, they are still living with various problems. During the DP period, they faced various difficulties in building their homes. In acquiring the lands, they had to clear the lands themselves. The government at least not facilitated them to clean their lands. The DPs have also set up temporary shelters. An acre of land has been allocated for the construction of houses. It's enough for the first generation, but it's not enough for the second generation of their children. The second generation has to move to the other place due to lack of land and jobs.

Accordingly, they say that, there was some injustice in the amount of compensation paid during the period when the DPs were living in temporary shelters. That is, most of the lands what they had earlier around 5 or 6 acres were considered as government lands and less compensation was paid. For an instance; in Moragahakanda development project "a large majority, that 73.02% of them articulated that they are not satisfied on the scale of recompenses they received" (Samarakoon, 2018).

### **Economic Issues**

Involuntary resettlement programs must think on DPs life standards. According to the studies on resettlements and its planning said that "The first phase was the payment of adequate cash compensation to replace

agricultural land or to restart disrupted livelihoods elsewhere, so that affected households could at least maintain their pre-project living standards. The second phase was project specific assistance targeted at a specific group of affected households to help them restore and improve their income and livelihood" (Perera, Gamaathige, & Weerackody, 2016).

According to the field data, only 15% of the persons work for the government sector in this area. Besides that, others are engaging in farming or wage laboring. As a result of resettlement, they lost the opportunity to cultivate chenas what they had earlier. The income from chena cultivation has been lost. Apart from that, they have lost their source of income by moving away from their original place of residence. Cultivation related problems have risen due to the non-fertility nature of the new lands acquired due to displacement and the lack of water facilities there. In the meantime, they have planted crops that for long-term yields. But they will have to wait a longer time to make a profit from it. They mentioned this economic issue with one voice. Several studies revealed difficulties in continuation of normal life style and difficulties on restoration of family income due to lack of post resettlement assistance (Vijekumara, 2015). The satisfaction of the choice of resettlement has a direct relation with the increase of income levels (Manatunge & Takesada, 2013).

### **Environmental Issues**

The community of Urawa village is experiencing the adverse effects compared to the community of Wahalkada village on the complete clearing of the newly resettled lands. As a result, many people experience physical discomfort in the early stages of resettlement in Urawa. Examples includes such as urinary incontinence, indigestion, and headaches were common to them. But the environment of Wahalkada village is somewhat different from that of Urawa village due to the water filled stream in front of the village. But the frequent felling of trees causes to excessive heat in Wahalkada. They are very sensitive to the environment.

### **Educational Matters**

The children of Urawa village and Wahalkada D6 village were initially sent to Kapugollawa Maha Vidyalaya, Horowpathana Ruwanwella Maha Vidyalaya and as well as Wahalkada D2 schools for studying. The significant factor of regarding this is children who learnt together in the same school in earlier was separated in to two places as Urawa and Wahalkada.

Obviously, they faced to this selection matter; as what they have to select as their schools, is it Urawa or Wahalakada? According to that, child who live in Urawa village tend to select Daluggala school. Wahalkada children selected Hemamali college in Wahalkada. There are more difficulties in both schools related to subjects, teachers, physical objects as well as extracurricular activities. There are no teaching facilities to learn science and technology streams. They have the option to do advanced level in only Art stream. But some of them like to do science and technology streams as well as commerce stream. Therefore, parents have been tended to obtain support from relatives and close friends who live in Horowpathana to send their children for good education. Some of the parents send their children to school by keeping them in rented accommodation. But it is very hard to manage them with their economic conditions. But parents do this hard work to prepare their children for a better future.

But the villagers of Urawa say that they are satisfied with their school. This situation makes them happy. But Wahalkada children do not have such a good background in terms of education. The school situated in Wahalkada is far away from the village. There is a considerable absence of teachers in the school. There are no teachers to teach some compulsory and elective subjects such as English, Tamil and aesthetic subjects. Students have lost the opportunity to learn these subjects. Schools have difficulties with infrastructures such as teachers, buildings, lack of water and other sanitary facilities are common. Management of schools also an issue regarding this (Abeyasinghe, 2020). Due to the lack of transport facilities, teachers transferred back to other schools. Due to this, there is a continuous lack of teachers in these schools. Because of this, children are compelled to attend tuition classes outside of school. The data also reveals that children are being forced to attend to tuitions classes. This is demonstrated by the teachers who have been teaching in these schools for many years. They also pointed out that students who do not attend those tuition classes are subjected to various forms of harassment in the classroom. The lack of a library facility to support children's education is also a problem. There is a need of popular library facilities in the

country (Wanigasooriya, 2013). Sports facilities for students also are at a minimal level. The water and sanitary facilities are not adequate. Specially, lavatory facilities are inadequate. Education is the one of most vital needs of people; "The major factors affecting the choices of resettled people were land ownership and/or the educational opportunities for their children" (Takesada, Manatunge, & Herath, 2008).

There is also a tendency for juvenile marriages to occur in this area. This is happening due to the financial difficulties of the parents. Sometimes; there is trend that, very old men marry younger women. Apart from that, marriages take place without the permission of the parents also. This can also be identified as an area where juvenile marriages are common. Because of this, juvenile motherhood can also be seen here. Divorce among immature marriages is also on the rise.

### **Water Resource**

The Yan Oya development project has a lot of planned infrastructure activities to be implemented in their impact assessment. But officials have not paid their attention on further development activities in resettlement areas. In particular, the lack of water facilities, the construction of roads and the lack of transport facilities are among them. It is a threat to the lives of the displaced. The North Central Province in particular is an area with a high incidence of kidney disease. According to doctors, the water in this area is unfit for drinking. Therefore, the people who live in this area have a practice to buy ground water. The water problem that is seen in North Central province is also seen in the area where the people were resettled. As matter of fact, water issue is more crucial with their survival. According to the villagers point of view on this issue, no one discuss this issue and no one knows about this issue specially officials who are responsible for this case. But villagers raised this issue in various times and requested to do the needful action from officials.

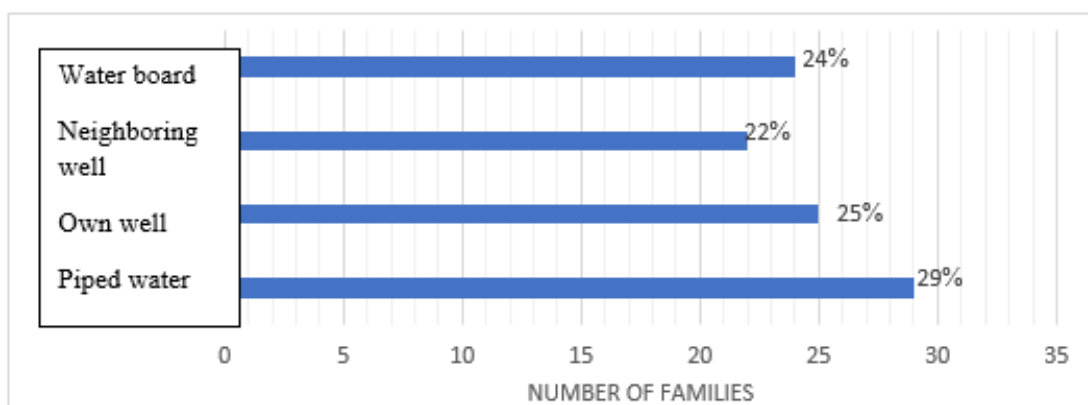


Figure 10. Water resource

Of the 29% households, majority has piped water. Also, the lowest water consumption method is getting water from a neighboring well and it is 22% of consumption. They do not have a well. Water taken from one's own well is 25% households. Of the 24% households has water services supplied by the water board. The water Board provides filtered water to the public. But that facility is not enough for all. Although, wells have been dug on private lands, nevertheless, it is not enough even. They pointed out that, there is no water in any of the wells in the village during the months of July and August months considered as dry seasonal time period.

Lack of adequate transport facilities are also a problem in this area. This situation mostly affects the people of Wahalkada. Their main town that buying and selling is happening in is Kabathigollawa. There are more than 40 kms from Wahalkada to Kabathigollawa. The Yan Oya project has not set up a system to provide transport facilities to the village. The government has deployed only two buses to Wahalkada village. It comes to the village quite a few times a day in turns. Villagers have to pay more for three-wheelers to get to town. There is also no formal road network in the resettled village. There are gravel roads with more holes. The roads are not properly paved. The road deteriorates further occur during the rainy season. The provision of transport facilities is an essential factor for the villagers.

The Yan Oya project has not provided public places such as temples and community welfare centers. The following are the views of the DPs on public facilities. In particular, the lack of a public place to gather people for a public event in the village is a problem. The village also does not have a post office and vocational training center. There are no proper communication facilities. Although there is a Bank of Ceylon branch in Wahalkada village, but there is no any other financial institution. Some other studies revealed that such as "Resettled people are facing numerous difficulties and challenges to access their basic needs from re-established government institutions" (Fazil & Gomez, 2014).

### **Social Cohesion**

Relatives and friends have a special influence towards people's lives. A person makes them as his/her life part through maintaining the proper relationships from birth. The respect, trust and support make it easier for people to live. But the implementing of new colonies forced people to leave their friends and move to another area. Displaced people carry their physical equipment. But their friendly relationships have to be broken. In the Yan Oya project too, Kapugollawa had to be divided into two villages and settled in two villages. But all the families who lived in Puhudivula had the opportunity to move to Urawa village. It was a great relief and joy to the people of Urawa village. But even though the elderly families came, it was a problem as their children live close to the town of Horowpathana. As a result, older parents are left alone. That is why they are helpless. Of the total 51 families studied, only five families with married children moved to the new settlements with their parents.

The villagers criticized that the system of housing and family resettlement introduced by the officials had been failed. The Urawa settlement is done by column settlement system. The people of Wahalkada have been settled in a cluster settlement system. The villagers of Urawa are less likely to meet each other. But the villagers of Wahalkada have the opportunity to develop mutual friendship. Close social inter-relationship makes life easy. Otherwise, they are feeling with alone and stress. According to the different studies on this issue said that "majority of disaster affected communities were not satisfied with resettlements due to various cultural issues related to cultural factors like ethnicity, religion, social environment, natural environment, livelihood and lifestyle" (Siriwardhana, Kulatunga, Samaraweera, & Shanika, 2021).

People in these settlements point out that giving land to sub-families far away from the parent families has created problems with the socialization of children. They have also lost the opportunity to meet groups such as farmers' societies, community societies, welfare societies and youth societies. This is especially evident in the lack of a collective mechanism to assist in the event of a funeral. Fighting has erupted between villagers over compensation and housing. As a result, the previous friendship between the villagers has been broken. Religious cooperation is also broken. It has adversely affected people's collective support as well as psychological satisfaction. Psychological aspect is not being considered in most resettlements (Ratnayake & Disanayake, 2018). Apart from that some studies related to resettlements discussed about sociological attention on resettlement as "the importance of the availability of common building to enable civil community to access one common place for series of services" (Samarakoon, 2018).

### **CONCLUSION**

DP in Urawa and Wahalkada are mostly farmers. They are engaging in different agricultural and cultivation work. They are not interested in other skilled occupations such as carpenter, masonry, sewing and so on. Their lands were lost by the Yan Oya project. The government has proposed them to resettle in this area. But the compensations and infrastructure facilities offered for them are not well planned. There are many shortcomings in social, economic as well as psychological needs. Resettlement is not a just physical or technical work. The study shows, the negative results are immense rather than the positive results of this resettlement. They need further assistance in finance, technical knowledge, land, market facilities, new job opportunities, trainings for jobs such as ICT, electric, mechanic, auto mobile for youth. There a considerable number of jobless women who are interested in self-employment. Trainings, financial supports and other requirement needed to be supplied to them. Its one of the basic needs of them. Resettlement facilities have limited their social relationships. They dont have common places to chat, enjoy, play or demonstrate their customs. They are requesting to take necessary actions for making land favorable and fertile. The following facts also were revealed.

- Most people are engaging in agricultural works.
- They are facing to economic problems due to lack of proper land for farming.
- Due to the lack of land for chena cultivation, they lost its income.
- Home gardening has been stopped due to settlement in barren lands.
- Social relationships are collapsed by the breakdown of the extended family.
- The DPs are dissatisfied with the fact that the DPs are not being replaced in the right way at the right place.
- Recognize that a good follow-up was not happened.

Improvement of Yan Oya resettlement is essential and below mentioned suggestions can be proposed.

- Expansion of economic opportunities.
- Establish community-based organizations.
- Expansion of employment opportunities.
- Infrastructure development.
- Establish systematic landscaping system.
- Increasing the forest density in the restoration area.
- Establish a psychological counseling service.
- Ensure basic access for infrastructures, employment opportunities and livelihood satisfaction need for long-term sustainability in future planning.
- Consider psychological and emotional well-being in future resettlement planning.

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