

Impact of Development Projects on Displaced Residents: A Case Study of Mwomboshi Dam in Chisamba District, Zambia.

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Abstract- This study aimed at exploring and examining the extent to which the Mwomboshi Dam Project impacted on the displaced residents' livelihood. It utilized a case study approach which incorporated a qualitative paradigm. Using purposive sampling technique, a total of fifty (50) participants out of the 402 displaced persons representing 72 homes were selected for the study to constitute a representative sample. Data were collected through semi-structured interview guides and subjected to content analysis in which recurrent themes and categories of information were identified and analysed. Three major themes were analysed and these were the actual effects of the displacement scheme on the residents, form of compensation given to the displaced residents, and whether government took interest in monitoring the welfare of the residents post their displacement. Firstly, results showed that displacement of the people resulted into their homelessness due to loss of land, inadequate land for cultivation, increased poverty due to cut off in their daily activities such as gardening, children drop out of school due to long distances from school. Secondly, it was also ascertained that the major form of compensation for the displaced persons was in monetary form and according to the participants, the amounts were not adequate to guarantee quality livelihood. Finally, findings further established that government officials responsible for resettlement schemes had never visited the displaced community since the inception of the project - not even through representatives. Therefore, based on these findings, the study recommended that before any such development project is implemented, people must be informed in advance so that sustainable alternatives devoid of excruciating impact can be sought. Government together with project owners must compensate victims adequately so as not to interfere with their daily livelihood and the form of compensation must be equal to the land lost. Government must also make sure that the condition of these people is closely monitored after the displacement has taken place as a hallmark of any meaningful development initiative.

Index Terms- Development Project, Displaced Residents, Impact, Mwomboshi Dam.

I. INTRODUCTION

Socio economic development is the primary pre-occupation of any nation globally in trying to enhance human welfare through various econometric strategies, techniques and measures in order to guarantee the provision and accessibility to basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, clean and safe drinking water, among others. It should, however, be stressed that development projects as being among many other strategies for attaining meaningful livelihoods for the citizens of nations through job creation, poverty reduction and inequality minimization come with inherent challenges which in some cases have ended up worsening socio economic situations of intended beneficiaries. Development projects often involve the introduction of direct control by a developer over land previously occupied by another group. Natural resource extraction, urban renewal or development programs, industrial parks, and infrastructure projects (such as highways, bridges, irrigation canals, and dams) all require land, often in large quantity. One common consequence of such projects is the upheaval and displacement of communities. Scholars and activists consider development displacees to be those persons who are forced to move as a result of losing their homes to development projects. However, wider considerations of 'project-impacted persons' have been advocated. Scudder (1996;1999;1996) suggests that our conception of project-impacted persons should include not only those directly displaced by loss of home, but also the host population that takes in displacees; all others who are neither directly displaced, nor hosts, yet who live in the vicinity of the project; and project immigrants. The latter group includes those tasked with planning, designing, and implementing the project, as well as those who later move to the region to take advantage of project-related opportunities, these, Scudder notes, are often beneficiaries of the project, whereas the two former groups are often adversely affected by projects.

Development projects often involve the introduction of direct control by a developer over land previously occupied by another group. In the aftermath of colonial rule in Zambia, development became synonymous with economic growth and industrialization (Lawson, 1982). Development categories included large dams, irrigation projects, urban infrastructure, transportation, power plants, mining, parks and forest reserves, agricultural expansion

and population redistribution schemes. While these categories may be beneficial in the broad development paradigm, it has resulted in fostering social and economic inequalities, serving the interests of narrow elite, destroying the environment, displacing and impoverishing people dependent on land.

While it may have as many meanings as people who invoke its name, development generally has positive, though perhaps ambiguous, connotations. Uneven development is a bad thing and sustainable development is a good thing but, for the most part, under-developed countries and communities seek to become more developed, whether that is through improving health and livelihoods, expanding educational opportunities, or building infrastructure. Nevertheless, as the citations above suggest, development does not benefit everyone equally and for millions of people around the world, development has cost them their homes, their livelihoods, their health, and even their very lives. The suffering of those displaced by development projects can be as severe, and the numbers as large, as those displaced either internally or internationally by conflict and violence. Most large dams are built to provide power or water to people other than those who have to make the sacrifices necessary for the dams to be built. The people who lose their land and perhaps their homes, their communities, their jobs, the graves of their ancestors, and the abodes of their spirits seldom enjoy the benefits, and suffer many of the inconveniences, of these projects. The resettlement and compensation of the losers have generally been regarded by the responsible authorities as an awkward necessity, to be undertaken at the lowest possible cost. The water harnessed by these dams, and the land occupied by the project, are often, under the law, considered to be national resources to which the local residents have only secondary rights. For political and economic reasons, large dam projects are often regarded by their proponents and by governments to be in the national interest and therefore to take precedence over any local interests. It is, therefore, against this background that this study seeks to establish the impact of development projects on the victims as regards to the Zambian context (Lawson, 1982) by focusing on the often-overlooked phenomenon of development-induced displacement, consequences, challenges of the community and the efficacy of government mechanisms to guarantee quality sustainable livelihood of displacees (Phiri, 2009) (emphasis supplied).

1.1. Problem Statement

The involuntary resettlement of established rural populations to make way for a macro development project is usually disastrous for at least some of the people concerned, hardly less painful and disruptive than war or flood. According to UN (2004) report, attempts to soften the blow of forced removals by resettling whole communities, with a view to providing mutual support in re-establishing the normal activities and relationships of the rural families, have seldom worked. Resettlement is usually the occasion for a dispersal of traditionally cohesive communities. The very poor, the elderly, and the disadvantaged mostly cannot or do not wish to make a new life in the place designated by the planners for them. On the other hand, the strong, the wealthy, and the enterprising may actually welcome the opportunity provided by compensation payments and resettlement entitlements to move out of an economic backwater and seek their fortunes elsewhere, free of the encumbrance of dependent relatives. Even this positive

outcome may have its darker side, as neighbours and kin who cannot follow them are deprived of their energy, ideas, and enterprise. The idea that a resettlement program can be undertaken as a development program has become a part of the standard expression of project preparation, though nothing is usually done by both project implementers and government officials in notifying the victims way in advance for them to prepare fully. Against this background, therefore, to what extent does the Mwomboshi Dam Project reflect the ethos of sustainable development, actual intentions and actions of the authorities, and can the re-settlers themselves use the opportunities provided by compensation and other entitlements to improve their own lives?

1.2. Study Objectives

- (i) To explore the effects of the Mwomboshi Dam Project on the displaced residents.
- (ii) To establish the efficacy of compensation schemes in bettering the lives of the displaced persons.
- (iii) To critique post implementation mechanisms undertaken by government officials after the resettlement of displaced residents in Mwomboshi.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1.3. Effects of Dam Projects on Displaced Persons

The literature on large dams and their economic, environmental, and social impacts is vast. McCully's book (2001) and the WCD report (2000) provide comprehensive overviews of the impacts of large dam projects, including direct displacement and resettlement, but also other impacts that could lead to indirect displacement. These include: the inundation of valuable farmland and animal habitat; the capturing of sediment by dams, leading to erosion and soil degradation downstream; the endangerment of freshwater habitats, leading to the extinction or threatening of riverine and wetland life forms; reservoir-induced seismicity; the spread of diseases by insects that thrive in stagnant reservoir water; and environmental destruction and human death as a result of dam failure or collapse. The report by Bartolome et al. (2000), prepared to inform the WCD report-writing process, offers a comprehensive discussion of recent practices concerning the displacement, resettlement, rehabilitation, and development of people adversely affected by dam projects. It also suggests a number of ways to improve accountability and facilitate negotiation in future resettlement schemes.

Moreover, Colchester's paper (2000) provides an overview of the impact of development projects such as dams throughout the world on indigenous populations and ethnic minorities. It highlights that these groups make up a disproportionately large percentage of those whose livelihoods are adversely affected by development projects, for example, despite constituting only 8 per cent of India's population, Adavasis (tribal peoples) are estimated to make up 40-50 per cent of those displaced by development projects in the country. Colchester's paper points out that the experience of indigenous peoples with dams has been characterized by cultural alienation, dispossession of land and resources, lack of consultation, insufficient or a complete lack of compensation, human rights abuses, and a lowering of living standards. The specific and strong cultural connection that many indigenous groups have with the land on which, and the

environment in which, they live makes their physical dislocation potentially more harmful than is often the case for other groups. According to Kumar (2005), the Dam building is one of the most important causes for development related displacement. According to a report, 'during the last fifty years, some 3,300 big dams have been constructed in India. Many of them have led to large-scale forced eviction of vulnerable groups. The situation of the tribal people is of special concern as they constitute 40 to 50 per cent of the displaced population' (Kumar, 2005). The brutality of displacement due to the building of dams was dramatically highlighted during the agitation over the Sardar Sarovar Dam. It has been called 'India's most controversial dam project'. For children, Cernea (2000) notes that resettlement often interrupts schooling. In many households, owing to drops in income and living standards, children may never return to school, instead being drafted into the labour market earlier than might otherwise have occurred. Other groups, such as the elderly and the disabled, might also face higher risk intensities in the displacement and resettlement processes, although, as for the other groups, the conditions of the project, resettlement procedure, and resettlement site play a role in determining which groups, if any, experience different and more intense risks.

1.4. Compensation Schemes and Mechanisms

In general, the issue of gender disparities in compensation resettlement operations has been ignored in the literature. A small number of studies have shown that women often experience the adverse consequences of forced resettlement more strongly than men. For example, compensation payments are usually paid to the heads of households, which can concentrate the cash value of family assets in male hands, leaving women and children at higher risk of deprivation. Agnihotri's chapter (1996) exposes another form of gender discrimination in compensation criteria in Orissa, where entitlement to land compensation for unmarried persons is set at age 18 for men and age 30 for women. Other research has shown that, in urban development projects, women can be harder hit by displacement because they are more likely to derive income from small businesses located at or near their residences. In rural areas, women can be more adversely affected because they are often more dependent than men on common property resources for income sources.

Participatory methods of resettlement planning can also expose the ways in which women can be prevented from shaping and/or benefiting from projects and compensation schemes. For example, Guggenheim's (1993) discussion of Mexico's Zimapan Dam Project highlights that, at first, women were common participants in community consultations because their husbands were working away from home for the agricultural harvest. The women's demands changed resettlement plans to include not only land compensation but also credit to open sewing and baking enterprises. However, once the consultations began producing tangible results, men began attending in place of their wives.

Findings further show that villagers are often not properly informed of the details of their displacement and there is lack of resources and access to alternative housing. New mega-projects displace already resettled communities; in some districts the population has been displaced several times in just a few decades. The utter casualness with which those displaced are sometimes subjected to multiple displacements is described in the Bargi Tribunal report. The plots allocated to the oustees for construction

of new homes were chosen in cavalier fashion by the authorities. This becomes apparent when one learns of the fact that their carefully reestablished homes such as they were fell victim to submergence once more without the slightest hint of a warning from the engineers and planners of the dam. Traumatized once, the loss of their security for the second time was unimaginable. For this second displacement, no compensation was paid, compounding several times over the original injustice of Working Papers Center on Migration, Citizenship and Development forcing them to occupy plots barely one-tenth the size of their original holdings. The villagers had no choice but to put up the money to re-house themselves as they had no alternate shelter, or place to stock provisions and stores safe from the vagaries of weather'. To impose the trauma of forced relocation on any population once is grave enough. To do it again and again merely because of casualness or slipshod advance planning or lack of coordination by engineers and project officials reflects bureaucratic insensitivity and callousness at its nadir (Hemadri and Mander, 1999).

1.1. Implementation Process and Post Implementation Mechanisms (GRZ Resettlement Framework, 1995)

Government through relevant ministries expressly links the resettlement implementation process to the civil works. No Project Unit will initiate construction until the relevant officer or the ESU has certified that all of the DPs have received the agreed upon compensation and other assistance and the land or access to it lies free of claim with government. If in the course of implementation, any additional resettlement or income restoration activities prove to be necessary; government through relevant authorities will consult with the local communities on the alignment of the project and access roads or the location of the substation (or the area for any expansion). On the basis of these discussions and the consultations, implementers will define a compensation and resettlement plan that will be submitted to the financing agency, if any, for approval. In such an instance, they will insure that all agreed-upon resettlement activities are completed before initiating those improvements in the project.

According to Phiri (2009), lack of National resettlement policy has increased illegal settlements and land conflict in resettlement areas. It takes a lot of resources to plan and implement a program such as the dam resettlement program; involvement of other NGOs could help make resettlement areas more viable communities. Need to strengthen the collaborative mechanisms with various stakeholders (private sector, NGOs) to enhance service provision. Need to handle the concern of the amount of planning beforehand and the need for proper infrastructure in the resettlement areas. Poorly implemented livelihood and support programs and investment in skills training and income generation activities delayed resettlement compensation, relocation, flooded area affected resettlers livelihoods increased investment in Zambia's resources means displacement of rural poor exacerbated by poor consultation processes (Munshifwa, 2007).

1.1. Development Projects and Displacement Synopsis in Zambia

Colson's detailed study (1971) of the impacts of the Kariba resettlement scheme on the Gwembe Tonga is a classic work, not just of the literature on displacement but also of the field of anthropology. The WCD case study by Soils Incorporated and Chalo Environmental and Sustainable Development Consultants

(2000) also assesses the Kariba Dam project in Zambia, which displaced approximately 57,000 people. Findings show that victims reported being landless. Development dam projects such as Kariba removes the main foundation upon which people's productive systems, commercial activities and livelihoods are constructed. Homelessness is yet another major end. Results of these surveys found out that loss of shelter tends to be only temporary for many victims of the project; but for some, homelessness or a worsening in their housing standards remains a lasting condition. In a broader cultural sense, loss of a family's individual home and the loss of a group's cultural space tend to result in alienation and status deprivation.

According to Government of Zambia (2013) Strategic Plan 2013 - First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Trident Mine project in Solwezi, Zambia's largest single mine - 600 households were displaced and resettled at Shinengene resettlement scheme. Evidence has shown that the livelihood of these residents were insecure. Moreover, the Government Republic of Zambia (1995) Profile of the Department of Resettlement paper shows that in 1994, 2,000 people in North - Western Province in Solwezi faced displacement due to Chisola Dam construction by Kalumbila Mine in Solwezi. The main impact was a negative environmental impact which affected the health of these residents. Additionally, research shows that these residents were deprived of their freedom of expression and their livelihood compromised. Furthermore, Munali Nickel Mining in Mazabuka acquired 3,000 hectares of land in 2008 plus an additional 2,100 hectares for mine extension and this displaced about 125 families and needed resettlement. This resulted in a negative impact on food security, legality and the socioeconomic standing of the victims.

1.2. Theoretical Framework

The Scudder–Colson and Cernea's Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction (IRR) Models

In the early 1980s, building upon earlier approaches that dealt primarily with the processes of voluntary resettlement, Scudder and Colson proposed a *four-stage model* of how people and socio-cultural systems respond to resettlement. The stages were labeled recruitment, transition, potential development, and handing over or incorporation. In the recruitment phase; policy-makers and/or developers formulate development and resettlement plans, often without informing those to be displaced. During transition; people learn about their future displacement, which heightens the level of stress experienced. Potential development occurs after physical relocation has occurred in which displaced persons begin the process of rebuilding their economy and social networks. Handing over or incorporation refers to the handing over of local production systems and community leadership to a second generation of residents that identifies with and feels at home in the community. Once this stage has been achieved, resettlement is deemed a success. The Scudder–Colson model focused on the different behavioral tendencies common to each of a series of stages through which resettlers passed. At first, the model was formulated to explain the stages of voluntary settlement, and was only later applied to some cases of involuntary resettlement (i.e., those 'successful' cases that passed through all four stages). In the 1980s and 1990s, the mounting evidence of involuntary resettlement schemes that failed to pass through all four stages suggested that a new model was necessary to explain the

consequences of involuntary relocation. In particular, it was recognized that a new theory was necessary to model what was increasingly seen as predictable impoverishment in forced resettlement schemes and Cernea's Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction (IRR) became handy.

Cernea's Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction (IRR) model arose in the 1990s in response to this recognition. In contrast to the Scudder–Colson model, the IRR model does not attempt to identify different stages of relocation, but rather aims to identify the impoverishment risks intrinsic to forced resettlement and the processes necessary for reconstructing the livelihoods of the displaced. In particular, it stresses that, unless specifically addressed by targeted policies, forced displacement can cause impoverishment among the displaced by bringing about landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, loss of access to common property resources, increased morbidity and mortality, and community disarticulation. To these risks, Downing and others have added: loss of access to public services, disruption of formal education activities, and loss of civil and human rights. The model also recognizes risks to the host population, which, while not identical to those of the displaced, can also result in impoverishment.

Not all of these processes necessarily occur in each case of forced resettlement and not all displaced households are necessarily affected in the same way by each process. Rather, the model notes that, when taken together, these processes capture the reasons behind many failed resettlement operations. Aside from distinguishing risks, the IRR model serves several other functions: as a predictor of impoverishment; as a guide for formulating research hypotheses and conducting theory-led field investigations research; and as a compass for risk reversal, advocating targeted resettlement policies, such as land-based (as opposed to mere cash-based) resettlement, job creation, health and nutritional safeguards, and social network rebuilding

1.1. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework is the system of concepts, assumptions, expectations, beliefs, and theories that support and informs research. The study's conceptual framework in Figure 1 below is depicted by Emergency displacement, Inadequate Compensation and Weak Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms as independent variables (IV) which automatically impact on displaced persons' sustainable livelihoods as Dependent Variable (DV). Emergency displacement may reflect inadequate public policy framework on communicating to the affected persons on the impending development projects within their localities which directly affect them while compensation implies the extent to which the relocation schemes / packages cover all necessities as immunity against any unforeseen internal or external shocks in new locations. The M&E mechanisms depict the post implementation interventions government or developers put in place to guarantee improved livelihood of the displaced persons beyond mere compensations given.

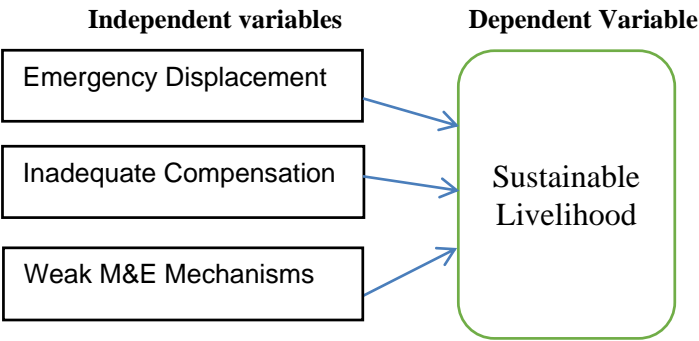


Figure 1: Study's Conceptual Framework

Source: Author's Construction (2020)

III. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a case study approach which largely incorporated a qualitative paradigm. According to Merriam (2009: 13), "qualitative researchers are interested in understanding the meanings people have constructed, that is, how people make sense of their world and the experiences they have in the world". This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. Therefore, this approach proved most suitable for this study because it is valuable in providing rich descriptions of complex phenomena under investigation.

The target population of the study was Mwomboshi rural community residents who were displaced as a result of the construction of the dam in 2016 which was commissioned by the then Republican President of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu. According to key informants and project implementers, a total of 72 homes were displaced with a total of about 402 residents who occupied the area then. The study purposively sampled 50 participants representing 72 households as sufficient sample size for the study. Data were collected through semi-structured interview guides and subjected to content analysis in which recurrent themes and categories of information were identified and analysed. Three major themes were analysed and these were the actual effects of the displacement scheme on the residents, form of compensation given to the displaced residents, and whether government took interest in monitoring the welfare of the residents post their displacement.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In line with the research questions, the following were the study's findings and the discussion assigned.

1.1. Effects of Mwomboshi Development Project on the Displaced Persons

The first research question of the study was to ascertain the effects of the resettlement on the victims of the Mwomboshi dam development project. Results show that the effects of Mwomboshi

dam project include, increase in poverty levels among the displaced persons, inadequate land for cultivation, children dropping out of school due to long distances from the resettlement area and loss of daily livelihood such as gardening. Before the inception of the project, victims had a stable life at their level, children could easily go to school, their livelihood was not as bad as after the project was implemented. This was due to the disruption in activities such as gardening and the grabbing of land for cultivation, which was said to be their main source of survival. Participants complained that they were not given full information on time for them to prepare for the relocation and this made their lives difficult because it was urgent. Therefore, affected people should be fully informed and closely consulted on resettlement and compensation options. Where adversely affected people are particularly vulnerable, resettlement and compensation decisions should be preceded by a social preparation phase to build up the capacity of the vulnerable people to deal with the issues. Social preparation would so be necessary to obtain cooperation for the project to proceed in cases where there is likely to be significant social resistance. These findings are also consistent with Mathur's (2011) findings in his similar study. According to (Mathur, 2011), in the past 5 decades it has become clear that grand-scale infrastructure and development projects do not necessarily result in general good. The adverse impacts of such projects on the environment and population are now documented although a lot still needs to be unearthed. Participants in this study reported an increase in poverty levels among the victims. Consistent with empirical review by Cochester and Mathur, it is correct to argue that large-scale displacement of people and inadequate resettlement programs have resulted in the economic and sociocultural impoverishment of communities, which has left them psychologically and culturally traumatized which is also supported by tribal and rural communities which constitute the majority of such affected populations. Living at the margins of the society, these groups often lack the voice and capacity to protect their interests, and are thus overrun by the march of development.

One of the male participants had the following to say; therefore, if a household ran out of food, another household in the village would help out. Another female participant testified that:

"In our village not everyone had enough land. The poor people were often dependent on well-off households. Someone would come to our house and would say my grandchildren or children have not eaten. In such an instance, whatever I had in my house, rice, coarse grain, maize or anything, I would give them a portion so that they too could eat a meal. The person whom I helped might come at a later point to do some work voluntarily at my house or in my field. Moreover, it was not considered good if someone in the village went hungry when you stored food in your house. But now everything is new, new life, new people, new interaction, this has increased our poverty levels and we are not happy."

In recent times, displaced communities have become more vocal, and in some cases have resisted forced displacement. In the case of the Mwomboshi Dam, the affected people opposed the construction of the dam from the beginning of the project. They had a strong sense of attachment to their native villages and saw displacement not only as a process of uprooting but also as a threat

to their survival. However, following the government's approval of the project, these residents had no option but to vacate the land.

1.1. Form of Compensation

Compensation is a payment for a loss. In land law, compensation is defined as the amount of money required to make the owner no better or worse off than if no land had been acquired from him or her. In the context of involuntary displacement and resettlement, compensation takes two key forms: cash for land and land for land. In case of cash-for-land compensation, it is the amount of cash that the owner of lost asset needs to replace it. This is not the market value of the lost property; but the money the property owner needs to buy a property of equal productivity or value. If compensation is given as land for land, the land received in lieu of the acquired land must be of equal value or productivity. A vital difference between cash for land and land for land is that in land-for-land compensation, the loser is given replacement land by the project authorities, while in cash-for-land compensation; the loser has the option either to invest the money received in land or to use it as he or she wishes.

The second research question of the study was to find out the form of compensation that was given to those displaced by the construction of Mwomboshi dam. 27 participants reported being compensated with money. Amount of between K6,000.00 to K9,000.00 (which averages US\$ 833) was given to each displaced resident depending on the size of the land. Compensation has to go beyond market value of land and assets. The basis of compensation must not be value in exchange but the totality of the rights that are extinguished or negatively affected by the project. This has two implications: the compensation of assets like houses as well as on the basis of their replacement, and the compensation for the customary and legal rights of use that will be compromised by the project. Compensation must include customary and legal rights and the future value that the land may generate for the community as a whole. To this end not only individuals but also whole communities are eligible for compensation, which means, not just monetary value but alternative resource bases for the loss of common property resources, submergence of forests, etc. In other words, the basic principle must be rights for rights, just like land for land. There should be transparent and justifiable mechanisms to calculate the replacement value of all assets, and the date for calculation should not be the date of original notification, but instead the date on which the compensation is actually disbursed.

On the other hand, 23 participants reported being compensated with land. According to them, land was better than money although it was smaller than the land they had lost. Therefore, it is worth noting that cash compensation must not be minimal, except where it is a preferred option of the people. All assets must be replaced and the cash component must be in the name of the oldest male and female member or the male and female heads of household. People who are to be relocated must be fully compensated before physical relocation from land, house, or livelihood is executed. The resettlement plan must provide for full disbursement of compensation a year prior to any physical dislocation. If the relocation is delayed, then there must be a provision to pay interest on the compensation that is made in order to account for inflation and other escalations in cost of replacement. All negatively affected persons must have the right

to obtain land for land compensation. These findings were supported by the study conducted in India in which very similar results were obtained in 1999, (India Report, 1999).

As a matter of fact, some sociologists argue that the affected people have a right to be compensated with equity shares so that they receive a share of the returns from the project that has taken their homes and lands (Mexico Report, 1999). This approach seeks to emphasise the point that the negatively affected people are actually investees and as they have contributed a factor of production, namely the land for storing the waters/building the canals etc, they are entitled to a share in the returns on the investment. However, some fundamental objections have been raised to this approach. One is that it makes the well-being of the affected people dependent on the economic performance of the project and the stock market in general. The general lack of private sector interest in dam projects suggests that even experienced investors do not regard dams as profitable investments.

1.2. Government Post Implementation Activities

The third research question of the study was to establish the efforts made by government officials to ensure improvement of the welfare among the displaced persons since the inception of the project. All the participants reported that not even government representatives had gone there to see how their condition was since inception of the project. Resettlement planning and implementation are the responsibility of the government (Tan, 2008). The government encourages self-reliance among resettlers and helps them restore their pre-project living standards and livelihoods. The Land Administration Law establishes general resettlement principles, leaving the development of detailed regulations to individual sectors, and made provincial and local administrations accountable for the application of the law and its regulations.

Government, project authorities and other project developers must take responsibility and enter into binding enforceable contracts for compensation and resettlement programmes both prior and post implementation periods. These contracts must be properly negotiated and agreed upon with affected communities (Maphalala, 1999). This is a policy measure that has become increasingly necessary in the light of frequent violations of promises made by project proponents and the State to displaced people. Before land acquisition proceedings are initiated, a legal covenant has to be mandatory between the negatively affected people (individually or collectively) and the project authorities, the State (if the project proponent is not the State itself), and the primary funders of the project. The agreement must cover all aspects of the resettlement and development plan.

V. CONCLUSION

This study has established the daunting effects of the Mwomboshi Dam project on the displaced people. The psychological, economic, socio-cultural and environmental shocks are among the paramount effects of this development project as people no longer lead the normal life they used to prior to their displacement. Clearly, the form of compensation offered could not atone for the life time investment they had made in their ancestral land, which actually worsened the whole scenario. There

is need for pragmatic and humanitarian policy framework from government to ensure adequate prior and post sensitization of the affected persons by such development, including appropriation of sufficient social safety nets to these communities throughout the transition which should be legally binding between and/or among parties (social contracts).

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