

Does Owner-driven Resettlement Programme a Success? A Case Study of Resettlement Site in Kegalle District, Sri Lanka

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Abstract

People around the world become homeless due to increased number of natural disasters and man-made disasters. Therefore, effective resettlement programs are vital. The objective of the research is to explore the effectiveness of Owner-Driven Landslides Resettlement programme in relation to different key dimensions, policy & legal framework, beneficiary satisfaction, time, and best practices of owner-driven resettlement programmes. 100 closed-ended questionnaires were conducted on the people who affected by the landslides and dwelling in resettlement sites in Kegalle and 10 in-depth interviews were conducted with people who involved with the implementation of the relevant programme. The findings reveal that, though there is National Involuntary Resettlement Policy when it comes to practical level, the existing policy and legal framework are not supportive to implement effective change/development in the country. Further, it identified that the beneficiaries were not satisfied with the material support that they were given. The project has been failed to meet the expected time-line due to the absence of proper time-frame at the initiation of the project. Therefore, this study has proved that the owner-driven resettlement programme was not effective in relation to the aspects of practical policy and legal framework, beneficiary satisfaction, and time management. Hence, this study proposes to revisit the feasibility of national policy for resettlement and set up institutional reforms for enforcement of legislations, ensure community involvement from the planning stage to the end of the project.

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Introduction

A large amount of people around the world become homeless due to the increasing number of natural disasters with climate change. It was stated that because of natural disasters about 14 million people are being made homeless on average annually (Suliman, 2017). Asia and the Pacific have recorded the largest number of victims of natural disasters. It has been observed that natural disasters are twenty-five times more likely to affect individuals in the region of Asia and Pacific than those in Europe and four times more likely than people in Africa (Asian Development Bank [ADB], 2013). Sri Lanka is a country that has been frequently affected by natural disasters for consecutive years since recent past. It has observed that droughts, floods, landslides, vector borne epidemics such as malaria and dengue and cyclones are the most frequent natural hazards that affect Sri Lanka (Zubair et al., 2007, pp. 1-28). Among these disasters, landslide can be regarded as one of the major disasters happen in Sri Lanka which causes a larger amount of people become homeless compared to other disasters. (Vijekumara,

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2015). These landslides cause major destruction to the peoples' lives and country's housing stock. It is obvious due to prevailing global climate changes; in future the landslides may create further devastation. Therefore, it is apparent that there is an essential requirement of identification of landslide prone areas with vulnerable communities to implement effective risk mitigation interventions. Disaster risk reduction or mitigation interventions underline precautionary procedures to reduce peoples' and country's infrastructure/housing stock exposure to natural threats by reducing their vulnerability and reinforcing institutions for effective management of the risks. However, in some instances, it is identified that the risk to which public are exposed cannot be alleviated by any other ways apart from shifting the locations. Government uses this mechanism (Madushani et al., 2019). Resettlement is a part of the disaster cycle, which falls under the phase of recovery which is considered a key to mitigate and prepare for next disaster. The research objective is to examine the effectiveness of "Owner-Driven Landslides" resettlement programmes in Sri Lanka in relation to the case of "Resettlement Sites in Kegalle". Through this study the researchers tend to measure the effectiveness of resettlement sites in Kegalle District and provide recommendations for future resettlement programmes in Sri Lanka. After the massive landslide occurred in 2016 at Aranayaka division in Kegalle District, the Government of Sri Lanka had decided to rebuild the affected and at-risk houses in safer locations as a long-term recovery initiative. It has been recorded that this tragedy has affected around 36121 people from 9983 families and has caused around 168 full damages and 1631 partial damages (Vijekumara, 2016). According to National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC), 1980 families were identified to resettle in the Kegalle district in year 2016. Therefore, in 2016, Ministry of Disaster Management obtained cabinet approval to resettle those families living in landslides high risk areas in Kegalle Districts with the financial assistance from the government as phase I of Owner-Driven Landslides resettlement programme.

Table 01:

Total number of families identified for resettlement

	Name of DS Division	Total no. of families required to resettle identified by NBRO
1	Aranayake	586
2	Rambukkana	29
3	Mawanella	108
4	Kegalle	226
5	Warakapola	58
6	Galigamuwa	94
7	Bulathkohupitiya	447
8	Ruwanwella	78
9	Yatyanthota	145
10	Dehiovita	166
11	Deraniyagala	43
	Total	1980

Note: National Disaster Relief Services Centre , 2016

In addition to the above data, by the year of 2017 National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) had identified approximately 15000 families who are living in landslide high risk areas of the country through site specific landslide investigations (For district wise data see Table 2). As a result, considering the level of risk to human lives, it was recommended to resettle these families in safer locations. Therefore, in 2017, Ministry of disaster management obtained a cabinet approval to resettle 15000 families living in landslides high risk areas in 14 Districts with the financial assistance from the government as phase II of Owner-Driven Landslides resettlement programme. The main purpose of this resettlement programme was to safeguard the lives and properties of high-risk communities in land slide prone areas.

Table 02:

Resettlement information by DS Division and High-risk Families

		No. of Divisional Secretariat Divisions	Landslide high risk families identified in rural areas	Landslide high risk families identified in estates	Number of landslide high risk families identified by NBRO
1	Kalutara	12	821	-	821
2	Hambantota	6	109	-	109
3	Galle	13	178		178
4	Matara	13	296	22	318
5	Rathnapura	17	1,663	287	1,950
6	Kegalle	9	145	53	198
7	Kandy	20	2,072	638	2,710
8	Badulla	12	1,508	2,445	3,953
9	Nuwaraeliya	5	1,339	1,529	2,868
10	Matale	4	800	248	1,048
11	Monaragala	4	17	88	105
12	Kurunegala	2	44	-	44
13	Colombo	2	26	-	26
14	Gampaha	2	29	-	29
	Total	121	9,047	5,310	14,357

Note: National Disaster Relief Services Centre , 2017

Understanding the important for preparing for next disaster, the government of Sri Lanka has taken measures to resettle families living in landslide prone areas with the financial assistance from government. Owner-Driven Landslides Resettlement programme in Kegalle was initiated as one of such programmes planned to mitigate the disaster risk to the community by the government of Sri Lanka. Resettlement does not merely refer to just a housing solution, it is a much more comprehensive and multidimensional process. An unplanned and poorly implemented resettlement programmes can cause high negative impact over the lives of the community and the country. It has been observed rural settlements in developing countries suffer significant economic, social, and physical impacts over the lives of the community. Nevertheless, it also causes to disturb the original livelihoods of the resettled community

resulting greater risk of impoverishment though the aim of resettlement programmes is to restore their livelihoods and produce prospects for development (Madushani et al., 2019). Resettlement programmes involve a greater period with high cost. The government must spend millions of rupees to implement these types of resettlement programmes. Although the main objective of resettlement programmes is to shield the victims from disasters by relocating the relevant community, it has been observed most of the settlements have been failed to achieve the sustainability of the programme (Vijekumara & Karunasena, 2016). According to the NDRSC, under phase 1 of programme 1561 out of 1693 families were resettled in the Kegalle district by year 2020. Kegalle District Secretariat implemented this programme with the technical assistance of the NBRO and the financial support of NDRSC. 92 % resettlement was completed within a four-year period. The second phase of the resettlement programme was launched in 2017 within Rathnapura, Kalutara, Galle, Matara and Hambantota districts and later expanded to other landslide prone districts. However, progress of this resettlement programme was very slow which was below 12% even after implementing for nearly four-year period. According to the NBRO statistics the number of families need to be resettled has exceeded 15, 000 and there are over 10,000 families who have not initiated construction process. Although much local research has been carried with relevance to landslide resettlements, very limited number of research have been conducted on the effectiveness of owner-driven resettlements. Hence, this highlights the necessity of examining the effectiveness of this programme to obtain more details. Therefore, identification of the effectiveness of the owner-driven resettlement programmes in Sri Lanka is a timely need. The main objective of this research was to explore the effectiveness of owner-driven resettlement programme in Sri Lanka through a case study in Kegalle District.

Significance of the research and limitations

The research filled the gaps by examining the effectiveness of the resettlement programmes in Sri Lanka in relation to the case in Kegalle by exploring the efforts of streamlining the mechanism. Resettlement could arise either as a preventive or post disaster resettlement. However, decision of resettlement could be made only when the situation is adaptable or any other prevention method is impossible (Vijekumara & Karunasena, 2016). Planners should focus on preparedness and emergency response measures such as; early warning systems, evacuations, when implementing preventive resettlement plan. But post disaster resettlement is a part of recovery processes where it requires a fundamental pillar of rehabilitation and reconstruction plans. A resettlement programme is a beneficiary process as it provides opportunities to improve the quality of life of the community. Further, preventive resettlement helps to reduce the costs related to emergency responses and reconstruction. (Correa et al., 2011).

When it comes to landslide disaster resettlement, the process of resettlement planning should be more specific. It has identified that the success or failure of a resettlement program always depends on the effective resettlement planning and continuous monitoring of the process. Literature on this subject witness for successful landslide resettlements taken place

around the world. But, when it comes to the Sri Lankan context, the researchers have found that still the landslide resettlement in Sri Lanka has been unable to achieve its expected project objectives (Vijekumara & Karunasena, 2016). Therefore, this research paved the path to get a meaningful outcome with a holistic view on landslide resettlement process in Sri Lankan context while examining the failures and issues of existing owner-driven resettlement programme which would be useful for future references. Furthermore, this research provided relevant facts regarding necessary requirements to be considered to make the government resettlement process more effective in future. This research was based on only one case study; the Kegalle resettlement programme to examine the effectiveness of Owner-Driven Landslides Resettlement programme. It would be better to examine other such resettlement programmes. However, this could be a limitation in the research. Restriction of access to data was another limitation. Though the initial plan was to select 150 people who were affected by the landslides and residing in resettlement sites in Kegalle and conduct 20 in-depth interviews with the people that involved with the implementation of the relevant programme as the sample, it had to be limited to 100 questionnaires and 10 in-depth interviews due to COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Factors affecting success of resettlement programmes

Post-disaster resettlement is a comprehensive process. It requires multi-disciplinary research (Vijekumara, & Weerasinghe, 2016). These types of post-disaster development policies can have positive and negative short- and long-term consequences for the lives of communities. Therefore, poorly planned resettlement programmes can cause negative social and economic consequences. Therefore, when implementing a resettlement programme, it is needed to be well designed to reduce adverse impacts and vulnerability to future disasters. (Badri et al., 2006). A research conducted based on three landslide resettlements project, Farm Garden resettlement project (2003), Johnston Estate resettlement project (2007), and Galahawatta resettlement project (2010), found that success of a resettlement programme depends on both resettlement planning and implementation process (Vijekumara, 2015). In addition, they recommend several factors that can be used to analyse the success or failure of a resettlement programme. They are contextual factors, institutional arrangement, forming the work team, Assessment, resettlement alternatives, land component etc. (Vijekumara, 2015).

Another research which analysed the success and failures in Hambantota and Siribopura resettlement housing programmes has used few criteria such as improvement of physical environment of the resettlement, and Economic and social rehabilitation of the affected community to assess the successfulness of the resettlement programmes (Perera et al., 2012). In relation to this Siribopura resettlement, it has observed new patterns of employment opportunities and access to credit facilities have been successful from the perspective of the resettled community. However, the income generating activities attached to the land have shown a decrease compared to the situation before the resettlement due the changes happened. When it comes to the social aspects, it has found that the social status, educational opportunities and other facilities have been successful from the perspectives of the resettled community. In addition, it was also found that community members in Siribopura resettlement were happier

than Tsunami resettlement community members with regard to the housing design, construction, physical infrastructure and other common services provided (Perera et al., 2012). Cernea (1997) who analysed the risks and focused on preparing a reconstruction model for resettling displaced populations captured socioeconomic aspects of both segments of the process namely forced displacement and reestablishment. Further, Cernea (1997) identified few risk factors in relation to resettlement process; landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, loss of access to common property resources, increased morbidity, and community disarticulation.

Involvement of government and other institutes

When planning and implementing a resettlement programme, several institutes and organisations play a vital role including the government of the country. Therefore, each involvement and commitment can have a major impact on effectiveness of a resettlement programme. The involvement of government and other institutes can be measured against three phases, pre disaster management, during the disaster and post disaster management. A research carried in Samasarakanda Landslide found that various government and nongovernment institutes such as Ministry of Disaster Management, Kegalle District Secretariat, Aranayake Divisional Secretariat and NGOs played a vital role in the relocation of displaced people from Aranayaka landslide (Rev. Sangasumana, 2018).

Best practices for resettlement programmes

According to Badri et al. (2006), there are several best practices in resettlement programmes such as providing careful attention relation to social, economic and health issues, make engage stakeholders and disclose all relevant information to them, deciding on practical time frame for the resettlement plan, and providing compensation to all affected persons regardless of their ownership rights etc. Another study found several actions as best practices, which are, conducting a legislative review, conducting a census with relevance to all relevant data to the resettlement plan, conducting a social economic survey, and engage with stakeholders effectively (European Bank, 2019).

Timing and duration of the resettlement project can impact the effectiveness of livelihood restoration. When considering the previous resettlement programmes, it is common to observe lags in between the set timeframes and the timings throughout the implementation process. For example; During the resettlement projects, environmental authorities might take longer period to obtain relevant approvals etc. (Rowan, 2017). Therefore, it is important to establish a realistic time-frame to a resettlement programme based on the scope and scale of resettlement work (ADB, Handbook on Resettlement, 1998)#

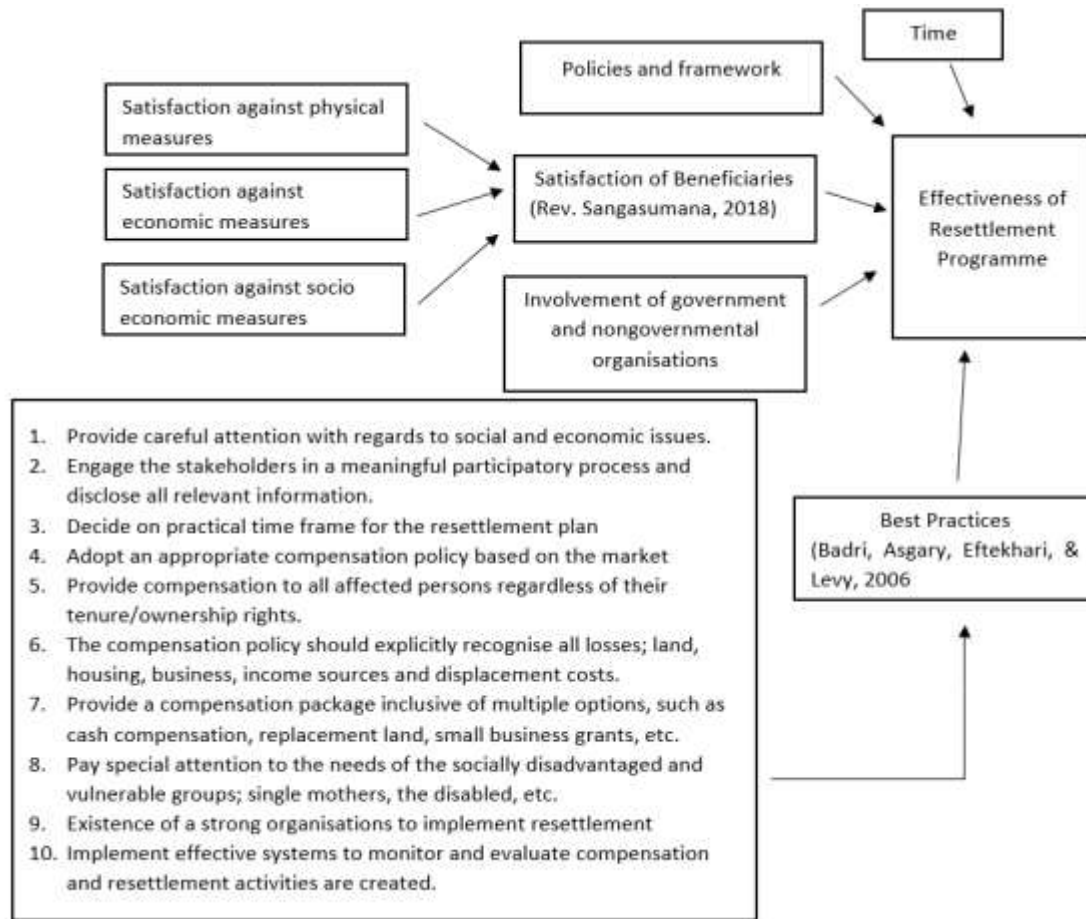
Policy and legal framework relevant for the resettlement programmes

The government of Sri Lanka has set up a Ministry of Resettlement to resettle Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in their original places of living with dignity targeting the community affected by the civil war. However, the government has not formulated an official or national resettlement policy though they set up a ministry for resettlement. Nevertheless, multiple related documents and mandates are available for perusal which provide an indication of how the government of Sri Lanka approaches the resettlement process (Saparamadu & Aftab, 2014). The available information showed that no framework neither a proposal got approved when initiating the Kegalle resettlement programme. The relevant authorities have only passed a cabinet paper to receive the permission to start the Kegalle Project in 2016.

Research methodology

This research is mainly based on a case of Resettlement Sites in Kegalle district and used mixed method. Convenience sampling method was used to select the sample from the community affected by the landslides in year 2016, inhabits in resettlement sites in Kegalle and the management personnel involved in the resettlement program. 100 closed-ended questionnaires were conducted from people affected by the landslides and dwelling in resettlement sites in Kegalle and 10 in-depth interviews were conducted with people involved with the implementation of the relevant programme. Secondary data was obtained from Acts, Policies, Cabinet papers, etc.

Figure 01:
Conceptual Framework



Conceptual framework

Duration spent for implementation, beneficiary satisfaction and involvement of government and nongovernmental organisations were measured based on questionnaires and semi-structured guidelines. These were developed based on literature and the variable of beneficiary satisfaction measured by Sangasumana (2018). Variables used to measure beneficiary satisfaction included physical, economic, and socio-cultural measures. Nine items were included to gather information; three items per each variable. Thirteen items were included in the survey instrument to measure the involvement of government and non-governmental organisations, while one item was used to measure the perception of beneficiaries towards the time-frame. Responses were elicited on five-point Likert scale starting from strongly agree, agree, Neutral, disagree and strongly disagree.

Findings of beneficiary interviews

Resettlers stated now the government does not have the authority to banish all people from the identified landslide prone areas and to obtain the ownership of those lands. Hence, due to these loop holes, the resettled community tends to shift back to their original places. This has caused the government to increase the costs, the same sets of community repeatedly get affected by the natural disasters. Therefore, it was stated that if the government can stop the resettled community shifting back to their original places, the government will be able to save huge money and will be able to reach better ranks in world development records. Further, the respondents stated when initiating the Kegalle owner-driven resettlement programme, there was not a proper plan, but they have just passed a cabinet paper and have implemented the programme without a proper framework or a plan. This has caused unfavourable implications towards the implementation of the project.

The beneficiary satisfaction with reference to post resettlement programmes

Nine items of scale under the three variables, physical, economic, and socio-cultural measures were used to assess the satisfaction of beneficiaries.

Table 03:

Percentage of the Beneficiary Satisfaction with Physical Measures

	Previous			Present		
	Physical environment of the land	Availability of space for livelihood	Land extent	Physical environment of the land	Availability of space for livelihood	Land extent
Strongly agree	8	94	10	0	0	0
Agree	90	6	90	2	0	0
Neutral	2	0	0	4	0	6
Disagree	0	0	0	80	2	6
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	14	98	88

Note: Field Research, 2021.

The findings show that the respondents are dissatisfied with the present physical measures with relevance to the physical environment of the land, availability of space for livelihood and the land extent against what they previously experienced. Further, they stated that they are having issues such as boundary issues due to provision of temporary roads for

transporting construction materials for the construction of houses. Hence, it has caused them to lose the extent that they were given originally. In addition, previously, they have had adequate lands with home gardens and self-determined house designing. However, now they have limited extent of lands compared to previously owned lands. Since given resettlement lands are in mountain areas with steep slopes and rock boulders, people complain that they do not have proper access their lands and they had to face difficulties in providing basic infrastructure to build the houses. Further, the respondents stated that their new settlements were constantly affected by unexpected natural hazards such as the high wind situation. These findings tally with research done with regard to Samasarakanda landslide, where the researcher has found the satisfaction of beneficiaries towards the physical measures regarding their resettlements are less compared to their original places (Rev. Sangasumana, 2018).

Table 04:

Percentage of the Beneficiary Satisfaction with Economic Measures

	Previous			Present		
	Livelihood support	Employment	Community development	Livelihood support	Employment	Community development
Strongly agree	82	0	0	0	0	0
Agree	10	6	12	0	80	76
Neutral	8	94	88	4	20	24
Disagree	0	0	0	8	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	88	0	0

Source: Field Research, 2021.

Above findings show that in comparison with the previous situation, majority of respondents are more satisfied with the opportunities received with regard to employment opportunities and community development opportunities in current context though they are dissatisfied with the livelihood support extended through the resettlement project. Respondents stated that they are happy as now they have easy access for schools, hospital, playground, retail shops, police station, etc. When it came to livelihood, respondents stated that earlier they were engaged in cultivating tea, coconut, areca fruits, green leaves, cinnamon. They have earned more than 35,000/= per month from cultivation (example; tea cultivation). Nonetheless, now since the resettled location are far away from their lands, they must travel a long distance daily to reach their cultivated lands and sometimes neighbours rob their harvest due to this matter. In addition, they also stated that their living costs got increased as they must purchase drinking water, and food due to loss of the home garden after shifting into these resettlements.

Table 05:
Percentage of the Beneficiary Satisfaction with Socio-cultural Measures

	Previous			Present		
	Social relationships	Education opportunities	Neighbourhood	Social relationship	Education opportunities	Neighbourhood
Strongly agree	12	0	4	8	2	0
Agree	88	6	92	92	90	88
Neutral	0	94	4	0	8	12
Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Field Research, 2021.

Above findings show that majority of respondents are satisfied with the social relationships and reputation, the neighbourhood and the education opportunities and facilities in the current context. However, they also stated that since the settlements are established in a scattered pattern as well as each house is not inhabited, they are experiencing some security problems. In addition, they stated that previously they had strong relationships with the neighbouring community in terms of wealth and resources sharing. Further, they stated that at some extent, the current situation is also tolerable, since most of the neighbours have been resettled together. Findings show that the majority of respondents are highly dissatisfied with the time-frame of this owner-driven resettlement project implementation, strongly dissatisfied 70% and dissatisfied 30%. The majority (84%) of beneficiaries expect the government to finish resettlement projects implementation within a year, however, it did not happen. Respondents stated when implementing this project, they did not have a proposal or agreed time- frame. Still this owner-driven resettlement programme in Kegalle is not completed. The respondents stated that due to not having a proper proposal and a time-frame they had to face lot of issues and that caused them to delay the closure of this project. The interviewed management personnel stated that long delays occurred in project completion due to lack of responsibility and interests among the relevant stakeholders as their responsibilities were not clearly divided through a proposal.

Table 06:*Percentage of the involvement of government and nongovernmental organisations*

%	Government Organisations			Nongovernmental Organisations		
	Pre-Disaster Management	During	Post Disaster Management	Pre-Disaster Management	During	Post Disaster Management
Strongly agree	0	90	0	0	76	26
Agree	0	10	0	0	20	44
Neutral	10	0	28	0	4	28
Disagree	20	0	70	0	0	2
Strongly Disagree	70	0	2	100	0	0

Note: Field Research, 2021.

Involvement of government and nongovernmental organisations was analysed by responses received from the beneficiaries through the questionnaire provided. When it comes to government organisations, above findings show that majority of beneficiaries agreed that government organisations played a key role in supporting the victims during the landslides though they did not receive much support before and after the disaster. The same finding has been made by Sangasumana (2018), who carried out the research related to Samasarakanda landslide. According to his findings, the involvement of government was high during the disaster (Sangasumana, 2018). They stated the government did not give warnings to the last mile regarding the potential risks before the disaster. But with the support of forces, the government took immediate actions to rescue the victims from the affected areas and relocate the affected community in temporary welfare centres (schools, temples, etc.) while providing necessary facilities such as food, cloths, and other sanitary facilities. However, respondents also stated that during post disaster, the attention from the government has got reduced eventually and the relocating process got delayed and the relevant authorities did not cater to their requirements such as food, sanitary facilities, and livelihood activities. When it comes to nongovernmental organisations, above findings show that the majority of beneficiaries agreed that though non-governmental organisations did not play a key role before the disaster, they were very supportive and involved a lot during and after the disaster. Respondents stated nongovernmental organisations such as UN Habitat, World Vision and HelpAge Sri Lanka took actions to fulfil their requirements with greater interest.

Table 07:
The Best Practices Regarding Post Resettlement Programmes

Best Practise	Practised (%)	Not Practised (%)
1 Provided careful attention with regards to social and economic issues.	20	80
2 Engaged the stakeholders in a meaningful participatory process and disclose all relevant information.	0	100
3 Decided on practical time-frame for the resettlement plan	0	100
4 Adopted an appropriate compensation policy based on the market	70	30
5 Provided compensation to all affected persons regardless of their tenure/ownership rights.	50	50
6 The compensation policy explicitly recognised all losses; land, housing, business, income sources and displacement costs.	0	100
7 Provided a compensation package inclusive of multiple options, such as cash compensation, replacement land, small business grants, etc.	0	100
8 Paid special attention to the needs of the socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; single mothers, the disabled, etc.	0	100
9 Existence of a strong organisations to implement resettlement	0	100
10 Implemented effective systems to monitor and evaluate compensation and resettlement activities are created.	0	100

Note: The best practices regarding the post resettlement programmes were analysed with the findings received from the management personnel interviews.

Above findings show that most of the best practises which were analysed by the researchers have not been practised when implementing this owner-driven resettlement programme. Previously mentioned findings show that all policy and legal framework, beneficiary satisfaction, time, best practises and involvement of government and nongovernmental organisations relevant to this owner-driven resettlement programme

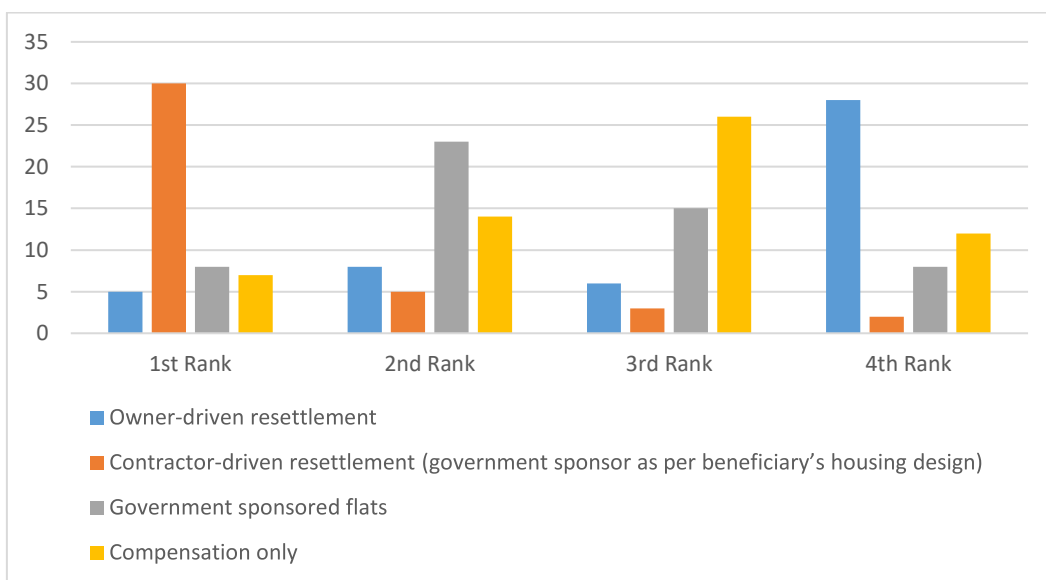
associate with issues and failures. Hence, it is concluded that the existing owner-driven resettlement programme is not effective.

Beneficiary preference towards other resettlement options

Previous studies have shown that there are two distinct concepts used in housing construction of disaster resettlements namely, the Donor Driven and Owner Driven approaches. Both of these approaches have been used in Kegalle district resettlement after the 2016 landslide. Donor Driven reconstruction programme is completely handled by the donor agencies. House owners involved less in design or construction. As literature stated, though the “Donor driven approach” is the quickest way to rebuild the houses after a disaster, it has several draw backs when compared to “Owner driven approach” and has recorded minimum success. The major limitation of this approach is that it may lead to housing that does not respond to the need of the victims. However, the donor driven approach cannot be simply evaded in disaster reconstruction process, where multiple options are needed due to its complex nature. The decision on which approached to be used, should be decided upon the results of socioeconomic and need-capacity assessments (Vijekumara, P. A., 2015). Through the research questionnaire, the researcher asked the beneficiaries to rank the below shown resettlement options as per their preference and the findings are given below;

Figure 02:

Beneficiary Preference towards Other Resettlement Options



Source: Field Research, (2021).

Majority of beneficiaries (60%) ranked contractor-driven resettlement as the best option where the government will allow the beneficiary to make their new house as per their design through a contractor. Then, second most preferred option was government sponsored flats (40%), the third was compensation only (46%) and ranked fourth was the owner-driven

resettlement (56%). When the researcher probed the question why the respondents ranked owner-driven resettlement as fourth, they have answered that since there was not a proper mechanism, they spent those received instalments for other purposes such as purchasing fixed assets to their houses, etc., and eventually they were not able to complete houses. Some other have answered that they could not purchase the relevant resources to build their houses with the given instalments. So, if there was a contractor as intermediary party in between the beneficiaries and the government this programme would be much more effective.

Findings of interviews with management

The responses received from the interviewed management personnel regarding their recommendations to make the resettlement programmes more effective are briefed below; a) Conduct a comprehensive study on climate and specially the history of natural disaster in the resettlement areas before planning the resettlement. It should not only be focused on landslides; they should focus on all possible hazards, b) Identify and take measures to involve different institutes for different functions such as housing, education, health, public services, and social assistance, c) When the resettlement approach is owner driven, it is needed to identify capacities of the people and their interest, d) Proper coordination between all stakeholders to avoid repetition of work and complete the work on time) Consider the socio-cultural background of beneficiaries, f) Consider the accessibility of the resettlement when selecting the resettlement location, g) It was proposed that the government should take steps to stop resettled community shifting back to their origins, so then the government can save huge amount of money which can be allocated into other development purposes, h) Need a national resettlement policy. Further, it was found that by setting up laws that allows the relevant authorities to take the ownership of the prone landslide areas could help the government to stop the community shifting back to their origins. Therefore, it is important to gazette all landslide prone areas to initiate other relevant activities.

Conclusion and recommendations

It is important to study success and failures of resettlement programmes as it helps to avoid issues or challenges in future to implement more effective resettlement programmes. This study has focused on studying the effectiveness of owner-driven resettlement programme in Kegalle. Unsuccessful resettlement programmes could lead a country to have distressed community, larger amount of cost to the government and might even cause to increase the potential for numerous other disasters. It was also identified that there is a direct positive relationship between empowerment and commitment. Furthermore, it was also identified though the beneficiaries were unsatisfied with the physical measures, they were happy with the economic and socio-cultural measures except the issues related to the extent and support received for their livelihood. When it comes to time, it was observed that the project has failed to be successful with the time aspect due to the absence of a proper time-frame at the initiation of the project. When it comes to the involvement of government organisations, it was found that although the community were happy with the involvement of government during the disaster,

they were not satisfied with the involvement before and after the disaster due to irresponsible behaviour of the government organisations. Further, it was found that best practises have not been applied when implementing the project.

Therefore, it is evident that this owner-driven resettlement programme is not effective in relation to the policy and legal framework, beneficiary satisfaction, time, best practices and involvement of government and nongovernmental organisations aspects. Therefore, it could be recommended that it is mandatory / crucial to revisit the feasibility of national policies for resettlement including relocation of people living in landslide high risk areas and set up institutional reforms for enforcement of legislations to ensure the sustainability of the post disaster resettlement interventions. Any failure of a resettlement process may impact on the affected community; therefore, an effective approach is needed to achieve the wellbeing of the affected community. Further, ensure community participation or involvement from the beginning of the planning process to implementation. When deciding the systematic approach for resettlement and selecting of best resettlement options, it requires rational thinking based on socio-cultural aspects. Socio economics and cultural information should be collected from the affected communities. Therefore, the success of resettlement should be decided based on the outcomes of socioeconomic and cultural need-capacity assessments.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Contributors

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