

ABSTRACTS

'Maganaguma' is a community based feeder road development programme which was established in the year 2004 by the President H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksha, as then Minister of Highways. This programme functions as a partnership between the government, the communities and the people. It will assist the development of the technical, financial, economical and other capabilities of the communities to maintain infrastructure that is created or developed.

The programme will be funded by the treasury through the National Budget allocation as well as from foreign aid and grant programmes. The Asia Development Bank, Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank of International Coordination (JBIC) and World Bank are some of the foreign agencies. The government of Sri Lanka has allocated Rs 3,082.00 in 2007 to complete 'Maganaguma' project in respective areas.

The Highway Ministry is functioning as the principle executing agency through the Minister, Secretary and Programme Director of Maganaguma project and it spreads in Provincial, Divisional and Pradesheeya Sabha level in respective areas. The District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries presently handle major part of the Maganaguma road development project. The General Manager of the Road Development Authority monitors the activities and assigns tasks through his provincial directors based on the guide lines and directives issued by the Ministry of Highways.

The objective of the programme is to develop the rural roads that need improvements or rehabilitation due to the considerable vehicular traffic and also taking in to consideration of areas that are potential for development etc. The rural development is the aim of the projects such as Maganaguma, Gamanaguma etc and mainly the improvement of infrastructure facilities in villages, envisaging enhancement of income of the villagers.

It connects major cities and remote villages creating a healthy market for villagers to sell their products. The communication between the town and the village makes a new culture and changes the life pattern of the villages.

Sri Lanka has achieved a significant development in the fields of education and health during the last few years due to easy accessibility to the rural areas. However there is still a problem in quality and distribution of resources in rural areas. Even though a project like Maganaguma is one of the important project which helps the local community to access the market.

The objective of the research is to assess the Maganaguma community based feeder road development programme in Sri Lanka and discuss the outcome and implementation strategies by getting information from the users and beneficiaries of the society.

During the research study, it was found that the Maganaguma road development programme continues with good and bad mixed environment. According to the government officials and people of the sample area, it was revealed that uplifting the living standard of poor people, infrastructure developments, cultural and social development of people are achieved gradually.