

IMPACT OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL SATISFACTION IN POST-DISASTER HOUSING RESETTLEMENTS

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Introduction

Many people in different parts of the world are displaced and relocated due to different types of disasters caused each year. Those disasters take thousands of lives and cause unexpected economic crises, environmental losses, property damages and complicated social issues predominantly in developing countries. Among those natural disasters, landslides are known to be one of the most hazardous disasters which is frequently occurring in the hill country, Sri Lanka. Hence, planning of post disaster resettlements is one of the crucial needs when rebuilding the vulnerable communities during disaster resilient programmes conducted by the Sri Lankan government with the help of Non-Government Organizations (NGO's). Even though extensive research has been done on the subject, Sri Lanka's landslide resettlement programme has fallen short of expectations (Vijekumara, 2015). As an example, Maheshika & Sangasumana (2017) explain that resettlement programs did not adequately satisfy the concerns of the impacted population at Meeriyabedda and there were no conclusions that ensure long term satisfaction of victimized rural communities in these resettlements.

As explained by Hidayat & Egbu, (2010), it is impossible to achieve the successful relocation without a well-planned and managed process. Although, SL government has resettled most of the victimized communities, many social researchers have highlighted that needs of the communities were not met even after several years of resettlement programmers. There is a gap between resettlement and social connectivity and achieving community satisfaction. These programs were mainly focusing only on 'how to relocate?', rather focusing on the massive impact which can make through the given built environment over long-term satisfaction of a victimized community. Thus, the study aims to investigate the current situation of the selected victimized communities and their social satisfaction over a certain period of time after living within the given built environment. To fulfil the aim of this research, following objectives were proposed such as: to identify the relevant indicators that affect social satisfaction of a community through a comprehensive literature review, to collect the data using selected samples of post disaster resettlements, to analyse the selected data using a mix method and to propose relevant improvements to uplift social satisfaction of selected post disaster resettlements.

Methodology/experimental design

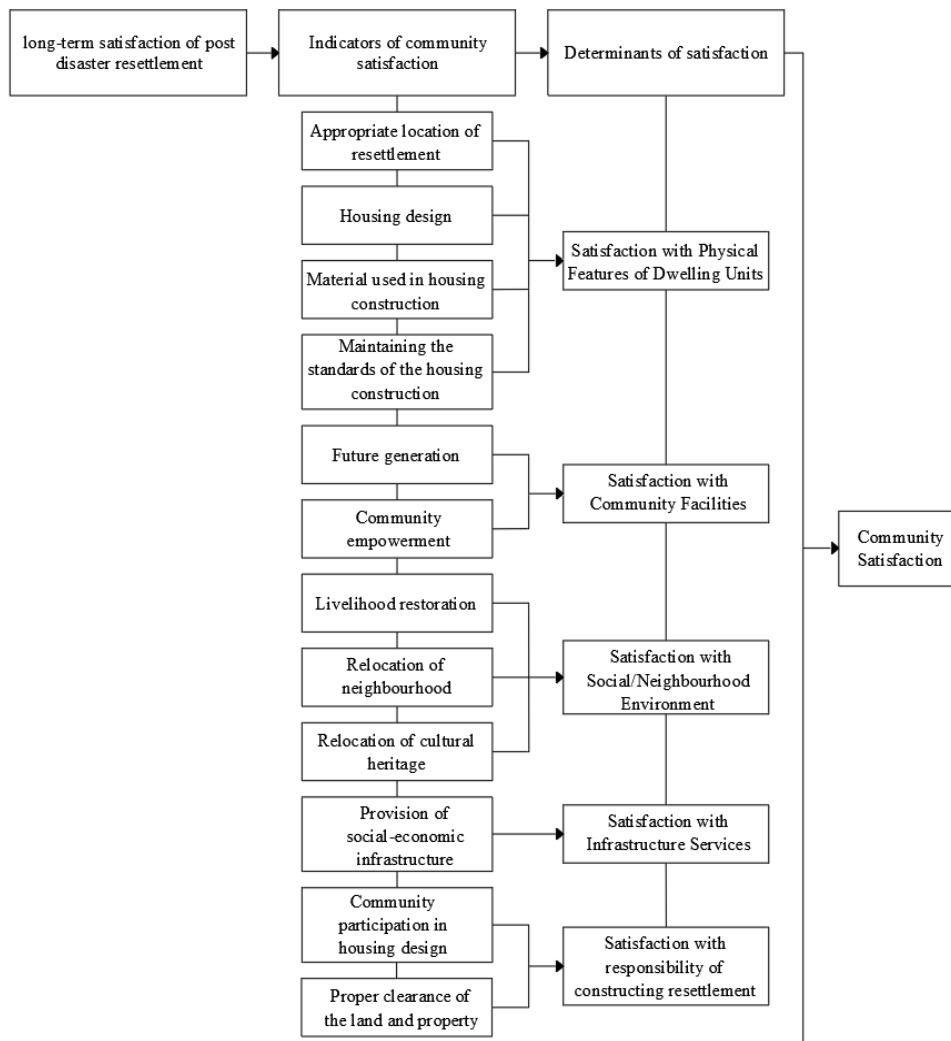


Figure 1: Determination of community satisfaction

This study examines and analyses the most important factors affecting the long term-satisfaction in post disaster resettlement programmes. Further, the comprehensive literature study summarizes the list of indicators which impact on long-term social satisfaction in post-disaster resettlement programmes. Three (03) post-disaster resettlements were selected as case studies, which were built during 2015-2017 in rural areas (Meeriyabedda, Aranayaka, and Bulathsinhala). Fifty (50) samples were taken from each case which is more than 75% of the recorded population.

The data were collected using semi-structured interviews and own observations while analysing the architectural layout of the existing resettlements. Mixed methods were used to analyse the collected data by using SPSS software with frequency analysis and Chi square analysis.

Results and Discussion

The literature summary shows that researchers have identified a list of indicators for community satisfaction in different perspectives. It is concluded that case study one: Koslanda Makaldeniya resettlement, at Meeriyabedda – (2015-2016), is one of the unsatisfied resettlements due to the less infrastructure facilities as well as the lack of studies done to understand the cultural values of estate Tamil people. The people who were selected in case study two: Wasanthagama resettlement at Aranayaka – (2016-2017) can be concluded as partially satisfied resettlement because it fulfills the housing requirement but not the infrastructural and social needs. The case study three: Oshinton waththta resettlement at Bulathsinhala- (2016-2017) can be identified as a satisfied resettlement because the resettlement programme commenced with an owner-driven approach though it was not monitored until the completion by the responsible parties who were involved in the project.

Conclusion

The study concluded that participatory design approach is one of the prime important aspects to consider in achieving long-term social satisfaction in post-disaster resettlement programmes. In addition, the study proved that the owner-driven approach is considerably more effective than donor-driven approach in designing the settlements where sensitive communities live in rural households. Further, the resettled communities demanded for a more community-friendly, responsive planning programme to uplift their current social conditions. In addition, a list of actions are identified to consider in the beginning of the resettlement programs to achieve the long-term social satisfaction in Sri Lanka such as;

1. Proposing participatory design approaches for resettlement programmes
2. Proposing owner- driven approaches, as it is evidenced to be more successive than the donor-driven approach, restoring income sources and development of social services
3. Proposing well-planned infrastructure services from the initial stages of the design
4. Proposing to give proper training to respond on early warning systems to vulnerable communities and awareness of future hazards with the help of relevant authorities.

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