
Post-war development in Kilinochchi District of the Northern Province in Sri Lanka

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Introduction

North development is not merely about the economy and it entails economic, social, political, cultural and even moral aspects. The end of the long civil war in Sri Lanka in 2009 generated widespread expectations of a peace dividend that would enable the country to embark on a development plans in Northern.

Kilinochchi, a region that had experienced pitched battles during the Sri Lanka's civil war, has successfully recovered from the war's destruction and even development further (Fernando et al., 2013). Post conflict development is the significant task of transition from war to peace and economic development. In this process Government has to consider several things including re-establishment of democracy, decentralization, managing the development processes, building government capacities in conflict area, youth development, reintegration, reconciliation, rehabilitation, government policy reforms and liberalization if necessary (Barry, 1991). Post-war reconstruction on a firm political foundation, what is really required is to widen the political space through necessary constitutional and institutional arrangement to include those who feel excluded from the political decision-making process indeed success of post-war rehabilitation and reconciliation and long-term peace and stability will be determined by the progress of the political process.

This research mainly focuses on the post-war development in Kilinochchi District of the Northern Province. In line with that, the study aims to review the progress of development programs and projects in the Kilinochchi District in Sri Lanka and to examine the role of development programs and projects in the present socio- economic status of the district.

Development programs have been tremendously taken place in the research area, Kilinochchi District. In the research area, agriculture is the main occupation of the people. While most of the people are doing paddy cultivation, others are engaged with subsidiary food crop cultivation, Next to agriculture fishing comes in this second place and helps the people for their livelihoods. Also rain fed cultivation is being carried out by the farmers of the research area.

Methodology

The study uses case study approach by focusing Karachchi, Kandawalai, Pachchilaipalli and Poonakary Divisional Secretariat divisions. A sample of 125 respondents was selected to the study from the selected regions using simple random sampling. Data were gathered through a structured questionnaire, interview and observations. Qualitative and quantitative methods were employed in the data analysis.

Results and discussion

Post-war development activities in the study area include resettlement, housing facilities, educations, water supply, communication, health, harmony etc. with respect to resettlement and 1211 beneficiaries detail files were completed and forwarded to the Rehabilitation Authority in 2012 for the payment of compensation to the most affected people during the period of unfavorable ground situation prevailed in research area.

The number of houses built by the Indian government in 2012 year amounted to 250 houses under the model housing scheme in the research area. The Indian government has allocated fund to build 7100 new houses and repair of 1000 partly damaged houses in research area under their scheme of constructing 49000 houses.

The expenditure incurred for educational development during the last four years was Rs.8561467.81.00. The government inaugurated national programs to develop 5000 primary schools and 1000 Secondary Schools Island wide. Accordingly within August 2012 school vacation period the physical works such as electricity and water supply, construction of school and playground for students, renovation of buildings and painting works had been done in the selected schools.

Rehabilitation of the district office of the Water Supply and Drainage Board was also initiated by the two ministers. In accordance with an agreement entered with the Japanese government on May 6, 2012 Rs. 677 million by the Japanese government and Rs 740 million by the Sri Lankan government would be used to complete the entire project. Kandavalai Divisional Secretariat would be supplied with drinking water benefiting over 40000 families under this scheme.

Infrastructure is a major factor in the economic well-being in the area. Efficient transportation is a key factor providing friendly method of transport as well as a safe and economical way of travelling. After more than 23 years, single railway line between Colombo to Kilinochchi was re-constructed by the Indian railway. People in the research area are optimistic about the vast development in the transportation sector. The 24 mega-watts "Uthuru Janani" thermal power plant and the 67 kilometers long transmission line, from Kilinochchi to Chunnakam is

a modern approach to electric, power generation, transmission and distribution to sustain the economic growth in the Northern Province in Sri Lanka.

Health service in the area is provided by both private and state sectors. A hospital in the area was renovated at a cost of Rs 13.8 million. The government of India provided medical equipment to the Kilinochchi General Hospitals worth millions of rupees expanding access to primary care for residents in interior of research area through community health centers is an essential task to develop the health sector in the research area.

With respect to telecommunication, the research area has fourth generation (4G) mobile phone communication technology standards the Kokavil multi-purpose transmission tower commissioned to connect the North and South of country.

A harmony center in the research area is functioning as a catalyst in bringing together the community. The 133 projects implemented by the center is also actively involved in developing culture, arts, skills development and sports as a tool to uplift and involve communities. Research area security forces through the harmony center have granted scholarship to 33000 students.

Conclusion

Development process is crucial in developed of war affected areas in Sri Lanka. The socio-economic status of post-war Kilinochchi well progressed as a result of development programs and projects. Local people's participation in the development process is relatively high. It is possible to reach sustainable development in the research area through the proper monitoring and evaluation of development project.

Keywords: *Development, Kilinochchi district, North province, post-war.*

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