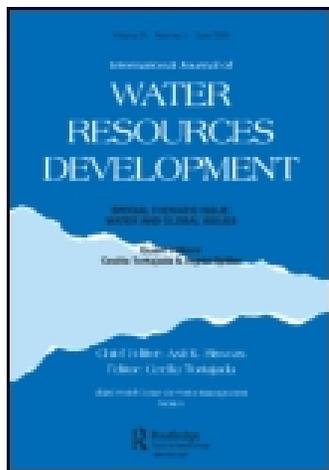


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Livelihood status of resettlers affected by the Saguling Dam project, 25 years after inundation

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A study of the effects of the Saguling Dam project has been conducted. This paper attempts to examine the long-term effects of the dam construction on the livelihoods of the displaced people, paying special attention to any effects caused by inequality of access to resettlement schemes. The study results indicate that the majority of the resettlers perceived their livelihoods as being better after their resettlement. However, loss of jobs or conversion to less preferable or beneficial occupations caused by the project has affected their satisfaction level. In addition, inequality of access to options of the resettlement scheme has caused differences in socio-economic status among the resettlers. Furthermore, in the long term, the option has also failed to indemnify resettlers from lost livelihoods due to environmental and socio-economic constraints. For future resettlement programmes, the authors propose that policy makers should employ analysis instruments which can precisely predict long-run impacts, while local backgrounds and dynamics are important to be considered to secure the success of resettlement programmes.

Keywords: aquaculture; compensation; dam; Indonesia; resettlement; Saguling

Introduction

In West Java Province, Indonesia, Saguling Dam was constructed about 25 years ago with the main purpose of provision of hydroelectric power to heavily populated Java and Bali. The project displaced 3038 families from the inundated area and affected 7626 families that lived in non-inundated areas but had land and sources of income in the inundated area (PLN, 1989). It has been acknowledged by researchers that many of the most challenging socio-economic impacts of dam construction relate to the migration and resettlement of people near the dam site or in the catchment area (Bartolome, de Wit, Mander, & Nagraj, 2000; Cernea, 2003; Egge & Senecal, 2003).

In view of the significant number of people displaced by the project, the government provided a resettlement programme. Several schemes were offered: (a) transmigration to islands outside Java; (b) local transmigration (within West Java); and (c) decision by the resettlers as to where they would move. A few additional alternatives, such as estate work, construction and agri-aquaculture were also provided as options by the government. Only 3.9% of the displaced people followed the first two schemes; the rest chose to relocate near the reservoir (Suwartapradja, Arifin, Kanum, Ansor, & Djumari, 1985). Also, some of the

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