

ROUTLEDGE STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT, DISPLACEMENT
AND RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement Policy in Large
Development Projects

Edited by
Ryo Fujikura and Mikiyasu Nakayama

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2 Planning resettlement programs

Introduction

Resettlement programs must be carefully designed and implemented so as to be an opportunity for people to become better-off, but there have been many cases where this was not so. Even if the program was carefully prepared, the full consequences of resettlement may not be as expected. In this chapter, we review six cases of dam resettlement programs: three in Japan, two in Indonesia, and one in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). First, we present two cases of land-for-land compensation: the Ikawa Dam in Japan and Nam Ngun 1 Dam in Lao PDR. The former was constructed in Japan and Nam Ngun 1 Dam in Lao PDR. The former was constructed half a century ago, before the Japanese government adopted a cash compensation policy. The latter was constructed in 1971 during the country's civil war. The Lao project neither involved resettlers in project planning nor development of a resettlement program. Then, we present the two cases of Wonorejo and Saguling in Indonesia, where compensation included cash and participation in the Transmigration Program (TP), which was introduced to facilitate immigration from the densely populated islands of Java and Bali to less populated ones such as Sumatra and Sulawesi. In both cases, the majority of resettlers chose to move to areas near the reservoir, while the government had assumed that many people would choose to move to more remote areas, including other islands. As a result, the natural resources in the resettlement area became insufficient to improve the lives of resettlers. Finally, we present two Japanese cases in which resettlers were relatively satisfied with resettlement. In the Kusaki Dam case, where compensation was principally made by cash, resettlers were able to negotiate with the developer in order to continue their jobs after resettlement. In the case of the Jinsugawa Dams, a unique rent scheme was employed for the resettlers to maintain their livelihoods and their pride as landowners.

Ikawa Dam (Japan)

The Ikawa Dam project, completed in 1957, was one of the few attempts to devise a good compensation practice by adopting land-for-land compensation.

This was before adoption of the Japanese compensation guidelines, which stipulate only monetary means for compensation (see Box 2.1 at the end of this chapter). In this remote mountainous area, at about 650 meters elevation, people were mainly engaged in small-scale farming and forestry. Their staple food was not rice, but millet harvested through slash-and-burn agriculture on the mountain. Since there were no roads for automobiles connecting the village of Ikawa with the outside, goods for everyday life were carried by people crossing the nearest pass. There were no major industries other than forestry, which utilized the rivers to transport logs. There were two elementary schools and one junior high school in the village. Most of the students who graduated from junior high school did not go to high school in downstream areas, such as the city of Shizuoka, but remained in the village to become part of the workforce for their households.

After rigorous consultations among parties, in 1953 Chubu Electric Power Company finally agreed to the three conditions of compensation demanded by the villagers: (1) completion of the Dainichi Road (to Shizuoka); (2) construction of a new village; and (3) full and satisfactory compensation for a better and improved living standard (Ikawa Village 1958). One of the major requests of the villagers was the construction of the "New Village." At the same time, there was an option to receive cash compensation instead, and eventually 99 out of the 193 resettlers took the cash compensation option to leave the village.

This compensation scheme, known as New Village Building, aimed to provide compensation on a land-for-land basis. Some resettlers who had lost their houses and cultivated land received new housing and new land plots in a newly developed area within the village. Others received new reclaimed land near the reservoir for their housing within the original main village, which was also equipped with new infrastructure and community facilities. In cases where the property could not be replaced with substitutes, cash compensation was given. In one such newly developed area, known as Nishiyama-daira, near the main village, 23 houses were built with attached land plots and other community facilities, including water and electricity supply.

There were two special features in this compensation scheme. First, in the newly developed land, rice cultivation was newly introduced. At a high elevation of around 650 meters, villagers in Ikawa did not have any substantial paddy cultivation before the inundation for the reservoir. It was said that many villagers had only known rice as a precious commodity that was eaten just once or twice a year, but did not know much about the rice plant itself. Second, for this new practice, one agricultural expert from Shizuoka Prefecture was stationed for four years in Nishiyama-daira in order to assist villagers in stabilizing their agricultural production and thus improving their livelihoods. This expert conducted a test on the cultivation of rice in the newly developed Nishiyama-daira one year before the relocation in order to obtain confidence from the villagers.