

Managing Resettlement and Rehabilitation in Implementing Development projects – A Case Study of Bangladesh

AKM FAZLUL HOQUE¹ and SS FARHANA HOSSAIN²

Rehabilitation and resettlement are the most critical issue of executing any large development project in Bangladesh because of her small geographic size and large population. Almost in every large development projects, it is unavoidable and undeniable for policymakers. Project affected people (PAP) are of two types: directly-affected and indirectly-affected. People who would lose their homestead, land property, and any other infrastructures and who would lose their source of income due to project implementation are considered as directly-affected and indirectly-affected respectively. Indirect-affected people are a farm and non-farm workers, farmers, and squatters and so on. Resettlement and rehabilitation of severely displaced people due to inappropriate and existing land acquisition law is one of the vital challenges for development projects. Thus, resettlement programs often result in the stream of marginalisation, loss of homestead and community, and ultimately fell into the poverty trap. Resettlement and rehabilitation plan of Padma Multi-Purpose Bridge Project (PMBP) are development-bound and livelihood intensive. Bangladesh has no formulated rehabilitation and resettlement policy. Due to lack of proper policy guidelines; resettlement and rehabilitation issues are severely addressed in development projects. As a result, evicted, displaced and other ways directly and indirectly affected people are poorly compensated, and turbulently resettled. Recommend that the individual and group efficiency, skills, gender, future potentiality and needs, and available resources of PAP might come into consideration. Some cooperative approach such as partnership support program, which relocates rehabilitation site into livelihood earning zone and their well-being. To lessen the grievance regarding parental homestead and long time cultivating land, PAP might get a wider choice in selecting rehabilitation site. Management information system (MIS) might use to monitor resettlement and rehabilitation activities. A ‘new standard set’ of resettlement and rehabilitation policy with the experience of revised resettlement action plan of ‘Jamuna model’ would be recommended.

¹*Deputy Director (Planning & Development), BCS Administration Academy, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.*

²*Upazila Agriculture Officer, Gofargaon, Mymensingh*