

# Gender Issues in Involuntary Resettlement due to Dam Construction:

## In case of Tokuyama Dam in Japan and Kotmale Dam in Sri Lanka

(ダム建設に伴う住民移転におけるジェンダーイシュー :

日本の徳山ダムとスリランカのコトマレダムを事例に)

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### 1. Introduction

Dams constructed around the world obliged many people to resettle because of inundation of their homes, and various difficulties were reported in the reestablishment of their livelihoods after relocation. The number of involuntary resettlements by development projects has increased substantially in the last two decades. The number of projects triggering the involuntary resettlement by the World Bank's projects has increased from 146 active projects in 1993 to 747 active projects as of December 2009. (World Bank, 2012). Gender issues caused by displacement were also reported. Gender issues have been observed in several Asian dam construction projects. Some research suggest that gender differences were overlooked in the resettlement and livelihood re-establishment processes and that resettlement tends to exacerbate gender disparities that exist in project-affected areas (Kumar, 1987) On the other hand, very little research was ever conducted in Japan about gender issues related to resettlement by dam construction. Our first study clears the presence of so-called "dam brides." "Dam brides" is the colloquial term given to women who do not originate from Tokuyama village. (Yamazawa, S., Moriya, K., & Nakayama, M, 2018).

### 2. Objectives

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the resettlement of the Japanese case and the Sri Lankan case in short term and long term from the perspective of gender and assess the optimal compensation for future resettlements in developing countries.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Basic information

##### (1) Tokuyama dam in Japan

The Tokuyama dam in Gifu prefecture is the largest multipurpose dam in Japan. A unique feature of the dam is that almost all lands in Tokuyama village were submerged and all 466 households (about 1500 people) had to move from 1984. The Japan Water Agency (JWA), owner of the dam, asked the resettlers either (a) to move to one of the five resettlement areas built by the JWA or (b) to move to a place of their own choice.

##### (2) Kotmale dam in Sri Lanka

Kotmale dam is five major head works projects in Mahaweli Project in Sri Lanka. The dam was built by the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL). About 3200 households were displaced from late 1970 to early 1980 by the Kotmale dam construction. The MASL asked the resettlers to move to (a) one of the three resettlement areas (i.e., Systems B, C, and H) for paddy cultivation or (b) a location for tea plantations near the old Kotmale village.

#### 3.2 Research Questions:

1. Was there any "dam bride". If so, Why?
2. What kind of gender issues did women face after resettlement? And how did women overcome gender issues with agency?
3. What kind of productive activities have women been engaged in through the long term?

Detailed information about field survey are described below.

• Tokuyama dam in Japan

Place : resettlement area (Omoteyama, Shibahara, Monjyu)

Date: August, 20th – 22th, 2017. November, 24th – 26th, 2017. September, 17th – 19th, 2018

• Kotmale dam in Sri Lanka

Place : resettlement area (System B, C, H)

Date: September, 2nd – September, 9th, 2017. October, 28th – November, 5th, 2018.

### 3.3 Models

In order to clarify the gender issues in the dam resettlement context and identify how women overcome difficulties, the IRR and PAR models will be used. The IRR model by Cernea (2000) categorizes the factors connected to the impoverishment of resettlers into eight risks: 1. landlessness, 2. joblessness, 3. homelessness, 4. marginalization, 5. morbidity, 6. food insecurity, 7. loss of access to common property assets, and 8. social disarticulation. This research applies PAR model to dam resettlement, which analyzes the factors connected to a disaster. This model explains that a disaster is caused by not only hazards such as earthquakes and flooding, but also the victims' vulnerability. Vulnerability is categorized into three types: root causes, dynamic pressures, and unsafe conditions. (Blaikie, et al. 2004).

### 4. Findings

Finding 1: There are “dam brides” from outside in the cases of Japan and Sri Lanka. The compensation motivates women living outside to settle down in the village to be submerged by dam construction. The “dam brides” in Tokuyama case have characteristics that differ from villagers originally from Tokuyama village.

“Urgent marriages” were observed in case of Sri Lanka. Some women attempted to get married immediately before the resettlement to get compensation.

Finding 2: Although women have been regarded as passive victims in the context of dam resettlement in the literature, we observed women's important role with the agency. For example in case of Japan, regarding jobs, women easily obtained a new job after resettlement because of job placement systems (dynamic pressure) and “dam bride's” working experience in the city before getting marriage (root cause).

Findings3: This research also clears the change of women's productive activities in the long run. Regarding the

change in job, in case of Tokuyama, women obtained a part-time job, for example, a sewing job, immediately after resettlement without difficulties. However, job opportunities that did not require women to have a specific skill, such as sewing, decreased in the long term. Regarding farming, in the cases of Tokuyama and Kotmale, farming machines and farmer's associations enabled women to cultivate farm land more efficiently; however, the literature had evaluated resettlement only in the short term and had indicated that women's burden dramatically increased immediately after resettlement in Sri Lanka case. However, in System H, people did not earn money because of a water shortage and did not borrow machines. Therefore, women's burden did not change in the long term.

Findings4: IRR and PAR models have effectiveness and ineffectiveness to explain the phenomena in dam resettlement from the perspective of gender.

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