

**EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA**

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**Sri Lanka**

**August 2019**

**EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA**

**A study has been carried out to assess the Effectiveness of  
Community Involvement in Integrated Road Investment  
Programme (i Road) Implemented by the Road  
Development Authority in Southern Province.**

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Thesis/ Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree  
Master of Science

Department of Civil Engineering

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August 2019

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/ dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters dissertation under my supervision.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Various agencies have been involved in multitude of programmes on road construction projects in Sri Lanka. Road Development Authority (RDA) is the main state agency which has constructed and improved the lion portion of the road network in the country. Almost all such programs have been implemented in the nature of supply driven system in which the beneficiaries were not involved in any stage of the implementation of road development programs. Subsequently, through some studies, it was revealed that the users were not satisfied with the roads that have been constructed without their involvement and also found those roads are not sustainable too. Having considered above situation, Road Development Authority has decided to change their supply driven approach in the implementation of road development programs and introduced community based, participatory development approach as an alternative approach, especially to deliver user friendly roads through beneficiary involvement.

The problem identified is that there had not been conducted adequate researches/studies to understand the effectiveness of applying community based, participatory development approach as an alternative strategy to achieve the anticipated targets, in the road development projects implemented in the country. If this situation is pursued, without ascertaining the effectiveness of adopting participatory development approach for road development programmes, that would perhaps, negatively affect to the successfulness of the road network in the country.

Objective of this project is to identify the effectiveness of adopting community based, participatory development approach as an alternative strategy to achieve the anticipated targets, in development projects implemented in the country. Also, the Researcher intends to identify the critical factors for community involvement in road development projects.

Several methods have been used to collect data for research including, literature review, administering a structured questionnaire, Focal Group Discussions with selected community leaders in the project area.

The Sample for the research has been selected using random sampling theory together with stratified sampling theory. The sample size is 10% of 180 number of roads undertaken to improve/ develop by the iRoad project. Accordingly, 18 numbers of roads have been selected from iRoad project and another 18 roads which were constructed without community participation have also been selected for the sample. The data collected have been analyzed and used tables, graphs and figures to present the findings of the survey.

The research has been conducted in the selected sample area to ascertain the effectiveness of adopting community based, participatory development approach in the implementation of road development projects. It was revealed through the analysis of collected data that the project was able to implement with much success with applying participatory development approach to deliver user friendly roads, in particular. (97.2% respondents disclosed that they are satisfied with the project). It is suggested to apply participatory development approach for forthcoming similar projects to ensure the long term sustainability together with beneficiary satisfaction.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I must thank many people who helped and supported me while engaging in this research.

This research thesis could not have been prepared if not for the help and encouragement given by my research supervisor Prof. Chintha Jayasinghe and I heartily thank her.

Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to Prof. Asoka Perera, Dr. L.L Ekanayaka and Dr. Chandana for the immense guidance and instructions given throughout the MSc. Course and research period.

Further, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Somathilaka Kindelpitiya for the courage given to me.

Lastly, I offer my best regards and sincere appreciation to all of those who supported me in any respect during the completion of the research.

M.P Palihawadana

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
CBRP	Community Based Road Project
NCBRP	Non Community Based Road Project
iRoad	Integrated Road Investment Programme
ADB	Asian Development Bank
GRC	Grievances Redressing Committee
RDA	Road Development Authority
GOSL	Government of Sri Lanka
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CBO	Community Based Organizations
EA	Executive Agency
IA	Implementing Agency
MOHRDPRD	Ministry of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum Resources Development

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