

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – 2021

Prof. Upul Subasinghe of University of Sri Jayewardenepura has conducted the social impact assessment in all 15 estates managed by Lalan Rubbers Pvt Ltd. Total sample consist of workers (300), resident non worker (60), non resident non workers (120) and community leaders (45). Main objective of this assessment was

1. Assessment of the impacts of the LAD estate management activities to workers and the community.
2. Compare the findings of the present assessment with relevant findings of the previous assessment conducted on the same in 2015/16 period.
3. Identification of the causes of the negative impacts and to produce recommendations to improve such impacts

After analyzing the responses of the workers, community and community leaders surveyed in the current assessment, the following conclusions were drawn.

01. Preference of the young population to work in estates is less.
02. Number of family members in the household is much higher in worker and estate resident non-worker families than that of the community.
03. 13% of the employment is in watcher category, which is a good sign of well and effective protection of the estate premises and crops.
04. Estate management supplies fuelwood and water for a large portions of workers (81% and 67% respectively) and community (70% and 63% respectively). It indicates services provided by the estate management for both the workers and community. Those actions are essential to maintain good and healthy relationship with the surrounding community which is a major stakeholder in estate management.
05. Workers (21%) and community (31%) are allowed to collect medicinal plants when required, food such as fruits and staples from estate lands.
06. Estate lands are also used for feeding animals of both the workers (21%) and community (31%). It also proves the maintenance of a healthy relationship by the estate management with the community by allowing those who require to graze their animals in the estate lands.
07. 90% of workers and 84% of community use religious establishments such as Buddhist Temples and Hindu Kovils established inside estate lands.

08. 76% of workers use public roads in estates which is 92% for the community
09. 58% and 39% of workers and community use schools and pre-schools located in estates and 42% of each of workers and community use the estate dispensaries and/or hospitals allowing to use the schools, pre-schools, dispensaries and hospitals for the community is a very positive indicator of the maintenance of healthy relationship of the community,
10. 78% of the community agreed that the management improves the quality of the common utilities. The maintenance and the improvement of the common utilities in the estate premises are essential to the continuity of those resources.
11. The most common support of livelihood enhancement for the workers is the provision of financial assistance (bonus, loans, overtime etc.).
12. 62% of workers and 72% of community agreed that the employment opportunities are given by the management. In addition, a considerable number of respondents stated that the training programs were conducted for increasing self-employment and extra income generating opportunities.
13. The most workers and community is not aware of the FSC status of the estate which prove the lack of awareness provided by the management. Only 39% of the workers aware of the FSC status of the estate while 35% of the community aware of it. Those figures are much less than that of the 2015/16 assessment.
14. 53% of the workers and 30% of the community agreed that they are aware of the new crops planted in the estate lands.
15. 80% of the workers and 88% community agreed that the management takes actions to protect water bodies and streams. 100% of the workers and 98% of the community in Mahaoya Group agreed that the water bodies and streams are well protected. The lowest agreement of the workers is from Sapumalkande Group (65%) and of the community from Pitiakande Group (76%).
16. 75% of the workers and 88% of the community trust that the natural forests are protected in the estate premises. 92% of the workers and 96% of the community of Mahaoya Group agreed that the management protects the natural forests. Those values for workers and community were 78% and 90% for Miyanawita, 69% and 89% for Sapumalkande, 81% and 95% for Udabage and 70% and 72% for Pitiakande Group.
17. 66% of workers and 68% of the community responded that the animals and plants are protected. The highest responses were received from Mahaoya Group where that is for the workers and community are 92% and 96% respectively. The responses from the other groups are comparatively low. Only 44% of the community believes that the animals and plants are protected in Pitiakande Group. 20% of the total workers stated that only some animals and plants are protected by the management. 34% of Sapumalkande and 29% of

Udabage Group workers stated that only some animals and plants are protected. Those values for 24% and 23% for the Pitiakande and Miyanawita community.

18. Both 27% of workers and 40% community stated that landslide prone areas were not present in the estate lands. Among the rest, 47% of workers and 52% of community agreed that the management protects those lands.
19. According to 62% of workers and 73% of community, the adjacent lands are protected and those are not affected due to the management of estate lands. 92% of workers and 84% of community of the Mahaoya Group are in agreement that the adjacent lands are protected by the management.
20. 80%, 92%, 84%, 68% and 69% of workers confirmed the availability of first aid in an emergency, immediate attention for the patient in an accident, availability of safe transport for distance fields, informing about the hazardous or dangerous locations in the workplace and availability of eating and resting places respectively low in Pitiakande Group.
21. According the 57% of the workers, trainings were not held during the last 12 month period which could be due to the government guidelines to prevent spreading CORONA virus. However, the 43% who confirmed having the trainings were also able to mention the type of training they underwent.
22. Both the workers and community confirmed that none of the estates are running with child labour and/ or forced labour.
23. Though all workers of the estate sector in Sri Lanka are free to join or form worker unions, 15% indicated that there are obstructions. However, those who stated that there are obstructions were unable to provide specific situations or examples.
24. 5% of the workers stated that they had slight issues which are mostly work related. Only 3% of the community stated that there are minor issues occurred. Further, 94% of the community stated that it is easy to resolve such issues with the management.
25. It is a good indicator to know that 99% of the workers are in agreement that their workplaces provides peaceful environment. However, only 3% and 1% of Udabage and Pitiakande Group workers stated that there were some disturbances. The reasons are however, based on the payments which are beyond the control of estate management of LAD.
26. 93% of the community confirmed that the employment opportunities are given for the local population based on the availability of vacancies.
27. 97% of workers and 96% of community recommend the estate work for the others including younger generation. Those who do not recommend such work due to the need for hard working for low salary and to emphasise the young generation to be more educated for better life.

28. 56% of the community stated that the younger generation does not want to obtain employments in estates because of outmigration, low salary, good level of education, low social status and hard work.
29. It is another good indicator to know that 90% of the community is in agreement that there is a good collaboration between them and the management. The highest value for the positive response (98%) is received from Mahaoya Group while the lowest (87%) is received from Pitiakande Group. They emphasised that the management provides assistance in different ways such as funding festivals, rehabilitating roads, playgrounds etc. Those who said that there is no such collaboration failed to provide valid reasons.
30. Community members suggested the management to (a.) assist enhancing the livelihood, (b.) assist in education especially by facilitating libraries, (c.) improve the utilities such as supply of drinking water and road and playground rehabilitation, (d.) donate sports equipment and to for funerals and festivals and (e.) assist enhancing ethnic harmony between Sinhala and Tamil communities.
31. When the overall perception of the workers on the estate management was tested, 44% ranked it as very good. 46% ranked as good, 8% ranked as average and only 1% ranked as poor. None of them ranked the above as very poor. In addition, majority requested facilities such as housing, dispensary, schools/ pre-schools and road renovations. The ranking of the community is 47 as very good. 44% as good, 7% ranked as average and only 0.5% as poor.