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SOCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS : SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODS

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Abstract:

Social analysis is the analysis of situation that has been impacted by developmental project. The operational definition of social impact analysis is "Social impact assessment includes the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions. Its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment.

KEY WORDS:

Analysis , Significance , Methods , biophysical , human environment.

.INTRODUCTION

.” The field has yet to establish a common understanding of “social impact” what it is or how to measure it. Currently, measures of impact vary from funder to funder, and organization to organization. The more sophisticated measurement tools integrate organizational and process metrics with quantifiable outcome data, but in the absence of a common measure (like shareholder value) investors and grant makers are making it up as they go along. Therefore, social impact analysis is to be carried out assuming the likely impact on society and community either before taking decision of implementation during implementation or after implementation of the project. The funding agency or fund receiving agency has to assume the possible impact on various aspects of social life. It helps to make the decision on development activities. This text provides information on social impact assessment (SIA). The main objectives of this text are :

- a. To explain the concept and process of impact assessment and to explain the way social impact assessment can be used in decision making processes specifically what it captured and what it missed; and what were the principles, procedure and method of social impact assessment;
- b. Consider how social impact assessment of large infrastructures could be carried out; and
- c. Highlight best practice and general principles of social impact assessment that are relevant for large infrastructures. Such as establishing a special economic zone, power generation plan, new market, web of new roads, new township etc.

Stakeholder Analysis is an entry point to SIA. It addresses strategic questions, e.g. Who are the key stakeholders? What are their interests in the project or policy? What are the power differentials between them? What relative influence do they have on the operation? This information helps to identify institutions and relations which, if ignored, can have negative influence on proposals or, if considered, can be built upon to strengthen them (Vanclay, 1999). Gender analysis focuses on understanding and documenting the

differences in gender roles, activities, needs and opportunities in a given context. It highlights the different roles and behavior of men and women. These attributes vary across cultures, class, ethnicity, income, education, and time; and so gender analysis does not treat women as a homogeneous group. The secondary information from previously work is an easy way to narrow the focus of a social assessment. Participatory Rural Appraisal(PRA) covers a family of participatory approaches and methods, which emphasizes local knowledge and action. It uses a group exercises to facilitate stakeholders to share information and make their own appraisals and plans. Originally developed for use in rural areas, PRA has been employed successfully in a variety of settings to enable local people to work together to plan community appropriate developments along with five attributes self-esteem, associative strength, resourcefulness, action planning and responsibility for follow through that are important for achieving a participatory approach to development. It helps to optimise people's ability to self organize, take initiatives, and shoulder responsibilities. It is one of the best experiential methodology, which involves team building through training, and learning from local experience rather than from external experts.

Beneficiary assessment(BA) is a systematic investigation of the perceptions of a sample of beneficiaries and other stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are heard and incorporated into project and policy formulation(Vanclay,1999). The purposes are to (a) undertake systematic listening, which “gives voice” to poor and other hard to reach beneficiaries, highlighting constraints to beneficiary participation, and (b) obtain feedback on interventions. Participant Observation is a field technique used by anthropologists and sociologists to collect qualitative data and to develop indepth understanding of peoples' motivations and attitudes. It is based on looking, listening, asking questions and keeping detailed field notes. Observation and analysis are supplemented by desk reviews of secondary sources, and hypotheses about local reality are checked with key local informants. Semi-structured Interviews are a low cost, rapid method for gathering information from individuals or small groups. Interviews are partially structured by a written guide to ensure that they are focused on the issue at hand, but stay conversational enough to allow participants to introduce and discuss aspects that they consider to be relevant.

Focus Group Meetings are a rapid way to collect comparative data from a variety of stakeholders to address a particular concern; to build community consensus about implementation plans; to cross check information with a large number of people; or to obtain reactions to intended actions. Village/ community Meetings allow local people to describe problems and outline their priorities and aspirations. A point is to be cleared here is that this text does not intend to be exhaustive or definitive. It dosentrefer any infrastructure or infrastructures in particular although various infrastructures may be mentioned as examples. It presents general issues that need to be considered in social impact assessment of large infrastructures(World Bank, 2003).

While impact assessment applied in the field it represents the application of the methodology, and therefore the objective of the impact assessment process and procedure in relation to infrastructures is enhanced through general improvement of the methodology, there is so much other literature addressing improvement of social impact assessment (Burdge&Vanclay, 1995; Vanclay, 1999a), that it is more appropriate to concentrate on the applied aspect of general issues about social impact assessment.

Social Impact Assessment: Concept

Social impact assessment can be defined as the process of assessing or estimating in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow from development or particularly legislation. Social impacts include all social and cultural consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, and organize to meet their needs, as members of society. Cultural impacts involve changes to the norms, values, and beliefs of individuals that guide and rationalize in their society. SIA is normally undertaken within the relevant national policy framework and has a potential to contribute greatly to the planning process.

Impact Assessment

It is known fact that social change would occur as the result of the introduction of programs. However realization to involve an integrated planning for the development programs is a very critical stage. Although most of the development professionals had formal training either in managing social change or in undertaking SIA, they at least recognize the need to understand in advance what changes would likely to occur; depending upon the type development project that is being implemented. The process of SIA involves the specific information collection from the stakeholders for measuring the impact. This process highlights opportunities for SIA from the point of a practitioner implementing social decisions, SIA research provides a direction for understanding the process, and guidance in the management of social

change in advance. It thus it facilitates a decision-making process to choose between alternative possibilities(Slootweg,1999). In general, the SIA process provides direction for;

- (1)Understanding, managing, and controlling change;
- (2)Predicting probable impacts from change and decide the strategies to overcome negative impact of developmental project that is to be implemented;
- (3)Identifying and developing strategies in order to minimize potential social impacts (that is, identified social impacts that would occur if no mitigation strategies were to be implemented);
- (4)Developing and implementing monitoring programs to identify unanticipated social impacts that may develop as a result of the social change;
- (5)Developing and implementing mitigation mechanisms to deal with unexpected impacts as they develop; and finally;
- (6)Evaluating social impacts caused by earlier developments, projects, technological change, specific technology, and government policy;

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is the process of assessing and managing the impacts of a project, plan, program or policy on people (Vanclay, 1999a). Most of the social impact assessment professionals consider social impact assessment as a methodology, philosophy, development or democracy. In reality it considers pathologies of development (i.e. impacts), goals of development (such as poverty alleviation), and processes of development (e.g. participation, capacity building) (Goodland, 1999). There is no reason why social impact assessment, as a disciplinary entity rather than as a methodology, could not be involved in assisting communities to determine their development priorities (Goodland, 1999).

Although there has been some debate over the precise meanings of terms Social Impact Assessment, Social Analysis, Social Assessment, Social Appraisal, and even Social Soundness amongst the international professional community interested in social impact assessment there is no generally agreed definition. However according to Vanclay(1999b)the “Social impact assessment is the process of analysing (predicting, evaluating and reflecting) the intended and unintended consequences on the human environment of interventions (policies, plans, programs, projects and other social activities) and social change processes so as to create a more sustainable biophysical and human environment”.

The important features of this definition are that :

- (1) Social impact assessment is understood to include adaptive management of impacts, projects and policies (as well as prediction, mitigation and monitoring) and therefore needs to be involved (at least considered) in the planning of the project or policy from inception;
- (2)The social impact assessment process can be applied to a wide range of interventions, and undertaken at the wide range of actors, and not just within a regulatory framework;
- (3)It is implicit that social and biophysical impacts (and the human and biophysical environments) are interconnected; and,
- (4)The overall purpose of all impact assessment is to bring about a more sustainable change.

Fields of social impact of development

A social analysis is a process of investigation, gathering and treatment of information that includes elements such as the social characteristics of the population and locality. The size and location of populations, ethnicity, livelihoods and income, infrastructure, intrahousehold, community and broader power relationships, organization of civil society and State administration, relations with community key actors, identification of capacities, education, public health, level of conflict and nature of conflict-management mechanisms and cultural issues. This information should be built on the basis of a multi thematic participation taking into account private and public sector and the community thus the social impact analysis includes various elements. t includes all human impacts such as :

- Aesthetic impacts (landscape analysis),
- Archaeological (heritage) impacts,
- Community impacts,
- Cultural impacts,
- Demographic impacts,
- Development impacts,
- Economic and fiscal impacts,

Gender assessment,
 Health impacts,
 Indigenous rights,
 Infrastructural impacts,
 Institutional impacts, political impacts (human rights, governance, democratization etc),
 Poverty assessment,
 Psychological impacts,
 Resource issues (access and ownership of resources),
 Tourism impacts and other impacts on societies.

A convenient way of thinking about social impacts is as changes to one or more of the following:

People's way of life - how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis;
 Their culture - shared beliefs, customs, values and language or dialect;
 Their community - its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities;
 Their environment - the quality of the air and water people use; the availability and quality of the food they eat; the level of hazard or risk, dust and noise they are exposed to; the adequacy of sanitation, their physical safety, and their access to and control over resources;
 Their health and wellbeing - where health is defined as "a complete state of mental, physical and social wellbeing, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity", and is applied to individuals and to the society in which they live; and finally,
 Their fears and aspirations - their perceptions about their safety, their fears about the future of their community, and their aspirations for their future and the future of their children (Vanclay et al, 2000)

Social Impact as a Social Processes

One confusion in the social impact assessment literature relates to the lack of distinction between social changes processes that are caused by projects and social impact that are actually experienced by the people. In this conceptualisation, an impact must be an experience (either real or perceived) of an individual, family or household, or a community or society. Resettlement (relocation of a community), for example, is not a social impact, but causes social impacts such as anxiety and stress, uncertainty, disruption to daily living, potential change to family structure, as well as impacts such as homeliness (IOCG, 1994). Similarly, an (even rapidly) increasing (or decreasing) population, the presence of seasonal workers, and/or weekend residents, are not impacts, but they cause other impacts, such as (a) breakdown of the social fabric of the community, (b) cause existing residents to experience changed perceptions about their community, and (c) may stress the community physical infrastructure. Alcohol or other drug use are not social impacts, but are processes, which, depending on the context of their use, may cause social impacts such as family violence and economic hardship. All of the variables must be understood in their psychosocial context, and, of course, in their local cultural context (Vanclay, 1999).

Because many of the social impact assessment writers have stated different views on issues of social change processes and social impacts, partly because demographic processes such as changes in the size and/or composition of the population are more easily measured than the experienced impact (CGG, 2004). It is worthwhile presenting a list of potential social change processes, and a full list of social impacts. The list of social change processes will be always incomplete, because the potential number of social change processes is potentially infinite, and the processes vary widely according to the activity being planned. The list of impacts, however, is definitive, although some disagreement may exist about the precise wording and categorization of impact. In this scheme, impacts are classified according to the level of experience of impact that is, whether they are experience at an individual or household level, or whether they are experienced by the community or society as a whole. Of course, impacts on society as whole may translate into impacts that affect individuals as individuals. The list is not intended to be used as a checklist, but is provided to display the full range of potential social impacts, and to assist people not familiar with social impact assessment to become aware of the full extent of social impact assessment. The definition of inter organizational committee on principles and guidelines for social assessment is given in Box No. 1

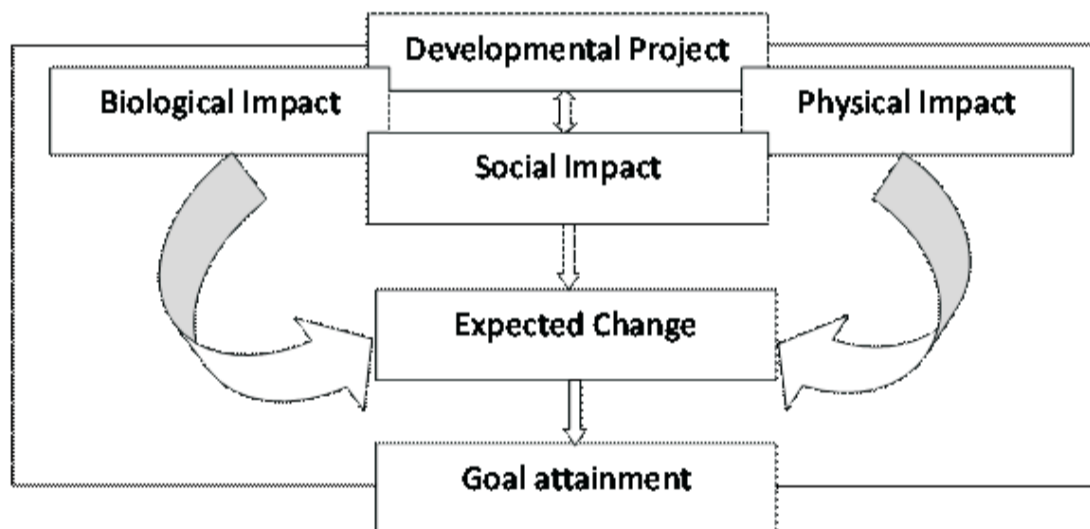
Box1 What are social impacts?

Social impacts can be characterized and defined in many ways. The following definition is widely understood and used: “By social impacts we mean the consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values, and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society.”

Source: Interorganizational Committee on Principles and Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment (2003).

It is important to appreciate that some impacts may be caused directly by an activity, while other impacts may be caused indirectly. And the experience of an impact can then cause other processes to take places which then cause second order impacts. Because of people's dependency on the biophysical environment, changes to the biophysical environment can create social impacts, and social processes which are the direct result of a project, or the result of the experience of a social impact, can also cause changes to the biophysical environment (see Figure 4.1 and Table No. 4.1).

Figure1 Interaction Process of Biophysical and Social Dimensions



**Table No. 1 A potential list of Social Processes
(Vanclay, 1999a)**

Social Processes	
<p>Demographic Processes: Increase/decrease in popula-tion size (in migration/out-migration) Presence of newcomers (perceived or real cultural differences) Presence of (temporary) workers Presence of seasonal residents Involuntary resettlement Rural to urban migration urban to rural migration</p>	<p>Institutional Processes: Globalization (the incorporation of the local into the global) - loss of autonomy of decision making at the local level land tenure changes institutionalization and bureaucratization</p>
<p>Economic processes Conversion of economic activities Conversion of land use Diversification of economic activities Increase in food production Decrease in food production Impoverishment Inflation Fluctuation in currency Increase in economic activity Decrease in economic activity Job creation, job loss Concentration of economic activity (dependency of singular economic activity) globalization (the incorporation of the local into the global) – global market- oriented production tourism</p>	<p>Political Processes Democratization concentration of power to an (urban) elite loss of grass roots political autonomy</p>
<p>Geographical Processes Urban sprawl (expansion of urban areas into rural areas) Urbanization (growth of villages into cities) Increased transportation and rural accessibility Physical splintering (such as caused by major roads) Individualization Creation of new localities such as slums Natural calamities Any other reasons such as social exclusion</p>	<p>Socio-Cultural Processes Globalization (the incorporation of the local into the global) – loss of cultural identification; cultural hegemony, emancipation and empowerment (the process of facilitating the integration of disadvantaged groups in civil society) Marginalization and exclusion (the process of creating marginal groups in society, which as a result are denied access to services) Segregation (the process of creation of social difference within a community) cultural hegemony, emancipation and empowerment (the process of facilitating the integration of disadvantaged groups in civil society)</p>

Source: Vanclay et al, 2000.

Definitive list of social impacts at individual and household level

1. Death family member;
2. Reduced mental health, increased stress, anxiety, alienation, apathy, depression uncertainty about impacts, development possibilities, about own life as a result of social change

3. Arrest, imprisonment, detention, torture, or other abuse of human rights inflicted on an individual;
- 4.Reduced availability of food and adequate nutrition, reduced level of health;
- 5.Gender disempowerment;
- 6.Loss of aspirations about the future for self or children;
- 7.Reduced actual personal safety, increased hazard exposure;
- 8.Experience of stigmatization and deviance labeling;
- 9.Reduction in perceived quality of life, subjective well-being, self esteem, self image;
- 10.Reduction in standard of living, level of affluence;
- 11.Worsening of economic situation, level of income, property values historical significance;
- 12.Decreased autonomy, independence, security of livelihood;
- 13.Change in status or type of employment, or becoming unemployed;
- 14.Decrease in occupational opportunities, potential diversity, flexibility in employment;
- 15.Religious affront and violation of sacred sites;
- 16.Objection/opposition to project, dissatisfaction due to failure of a project to achieve expectations;
- 17.Disruption to daily living, way of life (having to do things differently) 18. Reduction in inclusive environmental conditions ;
- 18.Reduced community cohesion, integration, disorganization;
- 19.Reduced community cohesion, integration, disorganization;
- 20.Loss of community identification, connection to place (do i belong here?) and changed attitude towards local community, level of satisfaction with the neighborhood;
- 21.Disruption to social networks and alteration in family structure, family stability, divorce, ect,
- 22.Increased family violence and deteriorating gender relations within the household;
- 23.Changed cultural values;
- 24.Worsening perceptions about personal health and safety, risk, fear of crime
- 25.Reduced leisure opportunities;
- 26.Reduced quality of housing or feeling of homeliness;
- 27.Increased density and crowding and loss of aesthetic quality, outlook, visual impacts;

Tentative list of social impact at community and institutional Level

- 1.Massive deaths of people in the community
- 2.Violation of human rights, freedom of speech or loss of fundamental natural rights
- 3.Reduced adequacy of physical infrastructure (water supply, sewerage, services and utilities)
- 4.Reduced adequacy of community social infrastructure, health welfare education libraries etc.
- 5.Reduced adequacy of housing in the community
- 6.Increased workload on institutions, local government, regulatory bodies
- 7.Diminished cultural integrity (continuation of local culture, tradition, rites)
- 8.Loss of rights over, and access to, resources
- 9.Destruction of, or other negative influences on, heritage and other sites of archaeological, cultural, or historical significance
- 10.Loss of local language or dialect
- 11.Degradation of culture values
- 12.Increased inequity (economic, social, cultural)
- 13.Increased concern about social justice issues in relation to minority or indigenous groups
- 14.Worsening gender relations in the community
- 15.Decreased economic prosperity
- 16.Increased dependency, reduced autonomy, reduced diversity, decreased viability of the community
- 17.Increased unemployment level in the community
- 18.Loss of other options (opportunity cost)
- 19.Increased crime and violence
- 20.Increased social tensions, conflict or serious divisions within the community
- 22.Increased corruption, decreased credibility or integrity of government
- 23.Decreased level of community participation in decision making, loss of empowerment
- 24.Impact on the social values about heritage and biodiversity

Box2 Integrated environmental and social impact assessment

The African Development Bank's Integrated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (IESIA) guidelines are designed to highlight major issues and potential impacts that should be taken into account during the preparation and assessment phases of the projects. The guidelines cover the development of sub sectors: irrigation, fisheries, forestry, livestock, agriculture and management, crop production, water supply, roads and railways, hydropower, and dams and reservoirs.

Six cross-cutting themes are considered: poverty, environment, population, gender, participation and health outcomes. The integrated thematic framework enables planners to identify and respond to a range of hazards. For example, in the case of forestry projects, potential hazard impacts identified by the guidelines include

Environmental :degradation of air quality, contamination of water supplies watercourse and water flow obstruction (and associated flood risk), soil erosion and contamination, landslides (resulting from soil instability caused by road cuts on slopes).

Population (natural resources and land management): increased risk of arid areas, risk of forest fires due to presence of workers and machinery.

Health outcomes :communicable diseases, pesticide poisoning, decrease in wild food sources leading to food insecurity and malnutrition, injuries during construction, psychosocial disorders associated with rapid resettlement and social change.

The guidelines also take external factors and project-related hazards into account. In the case of forestry, these include the following external hazards: fire, insect epidemics and tree diseases, and wider social instability. Hazards associated with the project itself might include: pesticides misuse, fire, work accidents and increased exposure to animal disease reservoirs.(ADB, 2003).

There are four stages of project implementation i.e. planning, implementation, maintenance and hand overing or decommissioning or withdrawal from project that always need to be considered to gain a full awareness of all impacts. Each of the four phases has its unique impacts relating to the nature of the activities associated with the project at that stage. The impacts vary according to local conditions, and also according to the planning of mitigation to reduce impacts (Branch K 1997). The four phases are:

1. Planning,
2. Implementation,
3. Operation, and maintenance
4. Decommissioning (Inter-organizational Committee, 1994; Burdge&Vanclay, 1995).

In view of infrastructure development projects recognition of these four phases is important to consider the full range of impacts. However the critical factors of success are given below.

Critical factors for success

The following factors may be important in making sure that social impacts associated with natural hazards are addressed through the SIA process:

- SIA should be linked to the rest of the appraisal process, especially to EIA and associated risk assessments, and the results of these different assessments related to each other in a comprehensive and coherent analysis of project impacts.
- Whilst a holistic view is essential, hazard and related risk issues should be kept in proportion, both with regard to their intrinsic significance and in relation to other social impacts.
- Impact assessment must feed back into project design, leading where necessary to development of avoidance or mitigation strategies.
- Communities perceptions are important indicators of hazards and associated risks, and of their likely responses to project interventions.
- Affected communities should be fully involved in the assessment, not just as providers of information (i.e., public consultation), where their extensive knowledge of local hazards and risk management strategies will be valuable, but in negotiations with other stakeholders about avoidance or mitigation options.
- Positive benefits of projects in terms of reducing risk should be acknowledged.
- Findings should be communicated to decision-makers and acted upon by them – SIA is a tool to help make Decisions.

Stage one: Conceptualization and Planning

The original conceptualization and planning of infrastructures causes one set of impacts, typically fear and uncertainty amongst the potentially affected publics. An important additional impact is speculation which may lead to a wide range of other processes and activities. People may move to the affected area or buy up land that may be inundated in order to benefit from potential compensation. People may move to the area in search of work, or to establish a business (such as to service the construction workforce) even long before construction has started. Conversely, people wishing to sell land or houses may find it difficult and/or may suffer a reduced return because interest in their property may have diminished because of fears about the project. Speculation, and the negative impacts from speculation, is fuelled by inadequate information, and especially in situations where corruption exists and certain people are able to access information and thereby capitalize on that information. Such corruption extends to cronyism where officials illegally disclose (leak) information to their friends and relatives so that they reap benefits from rezoning and compensation etc.

Stage two: Implementation

Implementation of large infrastructures can take up to ten years, and sometimes more. Some of the worst impacts occur during the construction phase, and this is also the time when the majority of associated activities happen when relocation of peoples occur and so on. Construction of the infrastructure implies a wide array of related activities including the construction of access and other roads, electricity transmission corridors, water pipes for city water supply, and irrigation channels; the operation of quarries to supply rock fill for the infrastructure wall and associated works; the use of explosives and heavy transport. There may be an influx of workers, as well as construction of a service centre to house these workers. Many of these activities cause dust, noise, and create hazard. All of these operations need to be considered and not just the infrastructure wall.

In addition to the impacts associated with construction of the infrastructure and associated works, a infrastructure has upstream and downstream impacts e.g. there will be many biophysical changes upstream and downstream as a result of the infrastructure. These changes will have considerable biophysical and social impacts. The social impacts may be direct or indirect. A direct social impact might be unemployment or loss of business or loss of livelihood resources because the relocation of the people. An indirect impact might be that the gap between poor and rich gets widened as some of the individual gets more benefits and some have to lose their resources. Another indirect social impact might be that feeling of uncertainty among project affected people hence large scale migration or psychological instability gradually gets developed.

There are three categories of people who are potentially displaced in a infrastructure project and who potentially require resettlement:

- (1) people whose houses are submerged;
- (2) people whose agricultural lands are submerged and therefore have lost their livelihoods; and
- (3) people whose lands are appropriated for agricultural development (whether or not they had legal control

over the land). People who are displaced must go somewhere. Whether they are relocated by an agency (involuntary resettlement) or whether they leave the area to be inundated by themselves, inevitably they wind up as newcomers somewhere else, where they in turn cause social and biophysical impacts on the host community. In some respects, the host community of relocated people is also inundated, especially in situations where many thousands of people are relocated.

Some social impacts relate directly to the development project. The experience of noise and dust are obvious, but more serious may be the increased risk of injury from the frequency of heavy transport hauling rockfill to the infrastructure construction site. The use of explosives presents a certain degree of risk to people in the near vicinity.

Other social impacts relate to the interaction of locals with the construction workforce. The construction phase of a infrastructure involves far more workers than the operation maintenance stage, and because appropriate infrastructure and management procedures are often not in place, the impacts at this time can be extreme. Construction workers tend to be separated from families, work long hours at hard work, and consequently develop a subculture which manifests itself in behaviours that are often disapproved of by the local community, especially the long term residents of small communities. These perceived antisocial behaviours can be exacerbated by being in conjunction with the large quantities of alcohol, that these workers tend to consume. Demand for, and establishment of, prostitution services to cater for workers can cause social and health impacts. Long term residents may experience increases in price for housing and local services, and community infrastructure may become over-stretched in order to cope with the influx of workers. There could be increased uncertainty about the future, and a change in residents' feelings about their community. These impacts may lead to resentment and friction between established residents and the incoming workers and other newcomers who are attracted because of the infrastructure.

While it is impossible to mitigate all social impacts during the construction phase, much can be done to reduce impacts during this phase. Adequate information and community participation in planning can reduce much of the fear and uncertainty associated with the infrastructure. Construction practices can be managed to reduce impacts. Consideration can be given as to whether it is better to separate or to integrate workers and the local community. A general rule of thumb is to maximize the use of local labor. For long term projects, and where there is little cultural difference between incoming workers and the local community, workers should be fully integrated into the existing community. For short term construction, and/or where there are large cultural differences between workers and the local community, the workers should be kept separate. Special effort must be made to provide the services that workers demand/expect, such as prostitution and alcohol, at the construction camp, so that workers do not seek these services in nearby villages, which inevitably will provide those services because of the economic differential between workers and locals.

Stage three: Operation and Maintenance stage

The operation and maintenance stage of a infrastructure occurs after all implementation is complete, and the construction workforce has left. Although there may have been profound change to the community, and there may exist some remaining maintenance staff, it is a time when communities return to a period of 'normalization'. With appropriate planning and the implementation of mitigation and monitoring procedures, negative social impacts during this time can be minimised and benefits maximised. With large infrastructures, because the construction phase can be for so long, it is important to prepare communities for life after construction. For example, the economic impact of large number of construction staff with relatively high disposable incomes (and the associated economic multiplier and associated social impacts) will no longer occur.

Stage four: Decommissioning and Closure

Although the concern infrastructure with the implementation and operation of new infrastructures, it is important to realize that the social impacts associated with decommissioning of a infrastructure may be substantially reduced by planning early on. Most of the infrastructure decommissioning is temporary, and occurs when large scale maintenance or strengthening is required, or when accumulated silt needs to be removed. In social impact terms, a form of social impacts similar to those experienced with decommissioning can also occur when a infrastructure project that was scheduled to go ahead and that has been expected for some time is cancelled. Impacts here are associated with the speculation that took place, and indicate the care they must occur during the planning phase (Burdge&Vanclay, 1995).

Summary - The social impact assessment is a continuous process which has to be undertaken at different levels and in different phases of the developmental project. There are some broad areas where the social impact makes the permanent changes. If these changes are positive it would help in overall development but if it is negative it grossly affects the community where social problems and social disorganization is inevitable. The assessment of environmental condition is also one of the major areas which has to be considered on a priority basis while undertaking the social analysis. The people those who are going to take the benefit of the developmental process should be actively involved in planning and implementation of various projects. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, DIFID, such organizations give vital significance to the social impact assessment to the social analysis at community level. There are various factors which are responsible for community development and also responsible for community problems. These factors are considered in social analysis.

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