

Abstract

Economic development relies on construction of new physical infrastructure to cater to the increasing needs of growing population. Infrastructure development, in turn, often requires acquisition of land and other assets that are privately owned. Such acquisition can adversely affect the socio-economic well-being of the people whose assets are acquired, as well as the communities they live in. Impacts include physical relocation, disruption of livelihoods, and potential breakdown of communities.

With the passage of time, the development of public laws related to property has narrowed down the freedom of the owner of property in respect of the use or disposal thereof. The right of property has now-a-days to make a compromise with concepts of human welfare at individual as well as community levels.

In a land hungry country like Bangladesh where the density of the population is highest in the world, the very word “land” appears to be an indispensable and an indicator of power, pride, happiness and ecstasy to the people of Bangladesh. People still count the ownership of land as the base of political power as well as the hallmark of social prestige. Provisions regarding possession of land and Land Acquisition are clearly mentioned in the Article 42 of the Constitution of the Peoples’ Republic of Bangladesh.

This dissertation is the output of Land Acquisition related topic dealing with the objectives of analyzing the trends, what type of land has been acquired and the purpose of land acquisition, examining the land acquisition activities of Tangail district, examining the adequacy of the compensation packages of different projects,

analyzing the impact of land acquisition on project affected people (PAP), examining the mitigation means for the project affected people.

The area of the research was limited to Tangail district as it is an important district of Bangladesh where thousands of acres of land have been acquired for establishing different sorts of government and non-government infrastructures including the Jamuna Bridge.

The methodology of the study was based on both primary and secondary data. Books, relevant papers and documents of the Tangail DC office were reviewed for secondary data. A total of 50 persons were chosen for interview through questionnaires on random sampling basis. The major findings of this study are: (a) 86% of the acquired land is agriculture land, (b) 92% of the project affected people are dissatisfied with the estimated compensation, (c) 36% of the PAPs didn't get entire estimated compensation for multidimensional complexities, (d) 84% of the PAPs overall condition worsened after land acquisition, (e) 58% of the PAPs had to shift their homestead after land acquisition, (f) the recipients spend 9.38% of the total compensation as extra money.

It is by the beginning of the '90s that the World Bank came forward to check on the tyranny to protect the human rights of the displaced people of development projects in Bangladesh and elsewhere. Based on the findings of the study, some important recommendations have been suggested to be considered by the authority concerned. The recommendations are pivoted to sufficient compensation package and resettlement activities with the directives of the World Bank so that the PAPs socio economic condition is enhanced after land acquisition.