Acceptance to be the Host of a Resettlement Programme: A Literature Review

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Abstract

The rate of internal displacements and consequent resettlements are increasing rapidly and drawing the attention of the world. More often than not, the consequences of resettlement will have an impact on two different communities; the community which is being relocated (displaced community) and the community receiving the newly relocated community (host community). For example, social disintegration and severe impoverishment are some of the immediate consequences of resettlements, which affect not only the displaced community but also the host community. As these negative consequences are more than likely to demand resource sharing, it is not unusual that the host community often blames the displaced communities for creating economic losses and social unease. Therefore, receiving community’s acceptance to host the new community is essential to ensure integration and to sustain the resettlement, if the repatriation is not possible for the new community. Accordingly, this paper aims to identify the influences of acceptance between the displaced and the host communities.

A comprehensive literature review was conducted to identify acceptance factors and to draw conclusions. Results show that segregation and labelling, differences in land use pattern, inadequate resources to share, the growth of an informal economy, lack of improvement in public services to the population increase, and cultural barriers are some of the factors influencing the acceptance of the host community. However, the significance of these factors is highly depended on several background factors such as the wealth of the host community, nature of government policies, livelihood of the host community, and alike. Understandably, the difficulty in establishing an empirically verifiable list of factors affecting the acceptance / rejection between the host and the displaced communities may be attributed to the fact that these factors may stem from latent variables. Therefore, an empirical study based on the identified factors is recommended for future research to determine the latent variables.

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1. Introduction

‘Internal displacement and resettlement’ studies have been an active research field of anthropologists and sociologists since the early 1960s [1]. The field has since matured and retains a wealth of knowledge cutting across disciplinary boundaries. Millions of internal displacements and consequent resettlements around the world each year explains the surge of interest in this field of study [2]. Internal displacements have extraordinarily diverse causes in qualitatively different situations. Some of the major causes are conflicts, consequence of change in the land usage, and natural disasters [3]. However, Betts [3] argues that, solely these external shocks do not trigger displacements, but are extended to political decisions that revoke the population’s choice to remain. This makes the repatriation not feasible for the displaced people and becomes one of the key reasons why governments assume the responsibility for resettlements. This is particularly common in financially less stable developing countries.

Resettlement is a planned relocation of population with varying degrees of assistance [4], which is one of key stages of any post-disaster recovery process. Typically, resettlement schemes are implemented in large-scale, to accommodate more houses, to achieve economies of scale, and for the ease of management. These large-scale resettlement schemes have often been developed among a host environment. Host community is defined herein as the community in whose neighbourhood the new community is resettled [5]. Compared to new developments, problems and predicaments are more in a condition where the new resettled community and their host community co-exist and share resources of the location [6].

Lately, a growing trend of reluctance in hosting refugees and displaced communities has shown by the international communities [6]. As an endorsement, the new refugees welcome index, based on a global survey conducted in 27 countries says that globally, 1 in 10 will let refugees stays in their house and 3 in 10 in their neighbourhood [7]. This hesitation is influenced by several factors. Among them, one of the key reasons is the ignorance of the governments, humanitarian agencies and researchers in including host community as a stakeholder in the process of resettlement [8]. However, in cases where repatriation is not feasible for the displaced community, local integration is the only choice. Therefore, the acceptance of the host community is an essential element in shaping the community and for the success of any post-disaster resettlements, which is seldom addressed in a systematic way [8]. Accordingly, this research is an attempt to determine the influences of acceptance between the displaced and the host communities.

2. Research method

This paper aims at exploring the factors influencing acceptance of a resettlement programme by the host community. Accordingly, this paper has been written based on a literature review, from the data gathered across different sources such as; peer reviewed journals, conference proceedings, books, official reports and official websites. Among these 15 articles are selected to identify factors influencing the acceptance between host and displaced communities. Table 1 shows the journal types from which the articles are selected. Collected information were organised and synthesised to draw conclusions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journals</th>
<th>No of articles</th>
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<td>Journal of refugee studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disasters</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The international migration review</td>
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دریافت فوری
متن کامل مقاله
امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات