

## **CHAPTER-6 : COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

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### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

Public participation and community consultation has been taken up as an integral part of social and environmental assessment process of the Project. Carried out at various stages of the project preparation, public participation has been viewed as a continuous two way process, involving promotion of public understanding of the processes and mechanisms through which developmental problems and needs are investigated and solved. Consultation was used as a tool to inform and educate stakeholders about the proposed action both before and after the development decisions were made. It assisted in identification of the problems associated with the project as well as the needs of the population likely to be impacted. This participatory process helped in reducing the public resistance to change and enabled the participation of the local people in the decision making process.

The involvement of the various stakeholders ensured that the affected population and other stakeholders are informed, consulted and are allowed to participate at various stages of project preparation.

### **6.2 OBJECTIVES**

Community consultations in the project was undertaken with objectives, which may be grouped into (a) information sharing; (b) appraisal and assessment of the community needs, and (c) development of specific design solutions. These objectives are listed below:

#### **Information-Sharing**

- To promote public awareness about the proposed project especially amongst the potentially impacted communities/individuals.
- To educate the potentially impacted communities/individuals about the proposed course of action and the project alternatives.

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- To explain the project related terms and definitions for easier understanding of the project.
  - To explain to the community the importance of their role in supporting/facilitating the implementation of the EMP in the project.
  - To introduce and explain the roles of the Officers of the PIU, and other officers of the PWD to the PAPs and the affected communities (for developing a mutually supportive working relationship).

#### **Appraisal & Assessment**

- Deduce information from the local people about their socio-economic status and the resources they depend upon for their livelihood.
- Ascertain from people the environmental hotspots to be managed as part of the project.
- Collect peoples' perceptions about the project and how the negative environmental effects of the project should be mitigated.
- Create accountability and sense of local ownership during project implementation.

#### **Devising Specific solutions**

- To solicit the views of affected communities/individuals on environmental and social problems.
- Receive suggestions from the villagers/PAPs with regard to the preferences and options about the project in general, avoidance measures, mitigation/compensation measures, and benefits being provided, in particular.
- To ensure lessening of public resistance to change by providing them a platform in the decision making process.

### **6.3**

#### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS**

In order to gather further information and local perception about environmental issues, public consultations at State and Village levels were conducted at various times during the project preparation, the latest being on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2001. In order to solicit the views of the project affected persons and other stakeholders about the project and its impact on them; public information and consultation (PIC) meetings were conducted at different stages of

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project-preparation during 1999-2001. The following section describes the objective and methodology for consultation programme during the project preparation stage.

### **6.3.1 Identification of Stakeholders**

The consultation programme has been conducted with all the stakeholders of the project, such as:

- Heads of the households likely to be impacted;
- Members of the households likely to be impacted;
- Clusters of PAPs;
- Villagers;
- Village Council Presidents;
- Local voluntary organisations, and CBOs/NGOs;
- Government agencies and departments;
- Other project-stakeholders<sup>1</sup>, such as women, prominent persons from the villages (such as teachers, health workers, doctors).

### **6.3.2 Levels of Consultation**

#### **Local Level Consultations (Household and Village Level)**

The main objective of the household/village level community consultation was to generate feedback to minimise negative impact inflicted upon the local communities by the project, and to spread awareness regarding the project. During the consultations, efforts were also made to:

- Understand views of people affected with reference to the environmental impacts of the road;
- Identify and assess all major environmental and social characteristics of the village to enable effective planning and implementation;

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<sup>1</sup> All persons consulted at the household and the village levels, and a vast majority of the other stakeholders consulted belong to the tribal populace. Therefore, no separate consultation was required for tribal population, as is customary in projects in other states/regions.

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- Resolve issues relating to impacts on community property; and,
  - To establish an understanding for identification of overall development goals and benefits of the project.

### **6.3.3 Methodology**

The following steps were generally adopted for conducting the village level meetings:

- Dissemination of information through public address system<sup>2</sup> and requesting villagers to attend the public consultation meeting.
- Conducting a public meeting fulfilling all the objectives of EA .
- Conveying information (related to the scope, purpose, design of the project, and impacts of the project) during the social surveys to the community and the likely PAPs.
- Gathering information related to the opinions and preferences of the community and the likely PAPs.
- Recording the perceptions of the people on various issues related to Resettlement & Rehabilitation
- Involvement of the community and the likely PAPs in the decision making process.

### **6.3.4 Tools for Consultation**

The consultation process established for the project has employed a range of formal and informal consultation tools including, in depth interview with key informants, village meetings, workshops and even door-to-door personal contacts. Techniques like participatory rural appraisal (PRA), formal questionnaire-based interviews, personal interviews, and other consultative and assessment techniques had been deployed. Such consultation sessions have been carried out at all stages of the project preparation and will be continued during the implementation, which will subsequently be monitored during the operation of the project.

Efforts had been made to contact each and every PAP while conducting the census and the baseline socio-economic survey, which was conducted door-to-door. A 100% sample was

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<sup>2</sup> Each village in Mizoram has a 'public address system'.

taken up for individual household consultation. The household level consultations were carried out with the help of a questionnaire prepared and circulated in advance to the various groups through the Village Council Presidents’.

At the village level, PAPs and local government leaders (the Village Council Leaders), the local voluntary organisations (including the “Young Mizo Associations”) had been consulted. Most of the village meetings were conducted in the form of group discussions, based on an open-ended schedule. The minutes of the village meetings had been recorded/documentated.

#### 6.4 ISSUES RAISED

From all consultation sessions (household, village and state levels) it was found that the participants were aware of the project. They also made several recommendations about the plan and design of the project.

##### 6.4.1 Key Environmental Issues Raised by Participants

The principal issues raised during the various stages of community consultation and the perceptions about the project are summarised in **Table 6.1**.

**Table 6.1: Principal Issues, Opinions & Perceptions of the Communities**

Sl. No.	Issue	Perceptions, Opinions & Suggestions
1	Water Harvesting structures	The location of one of their stream water collection is very good. As it is not steep, women and children can carry water easily from there, but it lies within COI. In most cases villagers depend on stream pit (Tuikhur in Mizo) for water. And most of this stream pits lie at the bottom of the valley or hill. Villagers were concerned that if the residue mud is pushed down then their source of water will surely be damaged.
2	Water Requirement	Water Scarcity being felt throughout the year, water required for road construction was the chief concern. Measures are

Sl. No.	Issue	Perceptions, Opinions & Suggestions
		being taken by the state P.H.E Deptt., to make the water available by way of harvesting rain water, collection from the roof top(mainly), to meet the requirement during non monsoon period.
3	Degraded forest land	The forests and land is degraded due to jhuming cultivation leaving no place for natural vegetation older than 5-10 years in the vicinity of priority road
4	Landslide	People want a good road, but our lands may be acquired and landslide may occur due to the hill cutting.
5	Construction waste disposal	Dumping of earth/soil residue should be done at a sites designated by the respective village representatives. If crop or land is damaged due to waste disposal, the affected persons should be compensated fully. Fear of landslides due to cutting down of trees and bringing down of hill slopes.
6	Natural Resources	Bamboo and other trees proposed to be cut in the project should be compensated appropriately.
7	Bypasses/ diversion	In most of the villages, the communities were in favour of developing the road along existing alignment through the village. Conversely, people were not in favour of bypasses. (This is related to the fact that the village settlement pattern in Mizoram, otherwise a difficult terrain, was entirely dependent on the roads and the road-form.)
8	Power supply to the rehabilitated/ relocated buildings	Delay in providing adequate power/electricity connection to the building structures, which are relocated or rehabilitated, was a big concern. To avoid any inconvenience to the PAPs the concerned departments of the state government should work in close co-ordination.
9	Road Safety	People expressed concern about safety of the local inhabitants (as the residential and/or commercial properties in the villages

Sl. No.	Issue	Perceptions, Opinions & Suggestions
		are located very close to the road, and the roadway is not very wide). Due to increase in motorised traffic, the people are willing to limit their commercial activities on the roadside and shift their residence away from the road, for the safety of their children.
10	Cutting towards hillside	People living on the valley side of the road were concerned about the difficulty to move their properties away from the road (as the valleys were very steep), and had suggested cutting the hillside for widening the road.
11	Labour Camps	People want that the labour camp should be established away from the village and habitation. People do not want that the labourers should settle down, in their neighborhood, after completion of the project.
12	Quality Control	There was apprehension about timely completion of, and quality control in the project. (The implementation schedule and arrangements, including the procurement of supervision consultants and technical auditors were explained to the people.)
13	Dust pollution	Dust, rubbles from demolished (or cut) hillside, and those from dismantling of building structures worried the community. Without proper precaution, the houses and gardens (or orchards) on the valley side would be impacted due to dust, debris or construction wastes.
14	Noise Pollution	Noise pollution was also an issue (particularly on the stretch with in the villages).
15	Community Involvement	The communities were of the view that they should be consulted at various stages of the project, from preparation to project implementation

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## 6.4.2 Specific Design Suggestions and Incorporation

During community consultations, suggestions and recommendations were received from the participants about certain design solution (specific to locations). Type of benefits that the people would like to accrue to the village from this project and suggestions for the various camp sites, etc., required during the construction stage of the project.

## 6.5 PERCEPTION AND FELT NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

### 6.5.1 Community Perception

The overall opinion, among the villagers in general and the PAPs in particular, was that the project is very beneficial to all of them. The people welcomed the idea of road improvement and expressed willingness to support the project activities in all possible/feasible ways. The communities opinion regarding the positive effects of the project were:

- The project would accelerate development of trade and commerce, which in turn would lead to an overall increase in the standard of living in the villages.
- The project would enable the people to save time, money and fuel.
- Travelling to places like Lunglei and Aizawl for medical treatment would be easier.
- PAPs would be able to sell agricultural produces more profitably as improved road condition will enable access to a wider market area. More villages would be able to sell perishable goods to the urban centres (which is difficult now due to the long travel time).
- More individual households would be able to open small roadside businesses (such as provision shops, ‘vehicle repairing’ shops, restaurants) either as an alternative source of income, or to augment their income.
- Influx of tourists and visitors would help the local entrepreneurs.
- Value of land will increase after the project is operationalised.
- Communication with other villages and urban areas will be improved or facilitated.



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### **6.5.2 Community Development Needs**

The communities also indicated the following felt needs, which are associated with the current poor road conditions in and around the villages:

- Augmentation of telecommunication network in the villages
- Ambulance service to transport patients to the district hospitals in emergency.
- Betterment and construction of the internal and the access roads in the villages (including surfacing of the earthen roads, which become unusable during rains; and, construction and upgrading of approach roads joining the highway).
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### **6.5.3 Findings of the FGDs conducted**

Different meetings and consultations with relevant Government departments were conducted; meaningful public consultations were also conducted at various locations with the help of a focus group discussion guide to ensure a comprehensive perspective on the proposed road improvement and its impacts; and to ascertain community response, their needs and expectations. The residents in the locality were not aware of the project. When informed they felt enthusiastic about the project and were willing to shift their structures, if properly compensated. Economic status of the people was poor to well off. Employment status wise they were labourer to petty business owner.

FGD were conducted in all villages along the project stretch, and findings of the FGDs may be summarised as –

- They expressed unhappiness with the existing road .
- Collection of commodities is difficult due to bad road.
- People were happy to know about the Project and wanted to cooperate.
- They expect compensation for shifting.
- They foresee development in the locality as a consequence of the Project
- Women's status is good
- They mentioned that they will shift if they get proper compensation

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- There is no endangered wild life

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON WORKSHOP OF STAKEHOLDERS'**  
**CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**FRAMEWORK OF MSRP – II**

**Venue : Conference Hall, Aijal club, Aizawl.**

**Date & Time : Dt. 18.11.2013 at 0:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**Part –A: EMF meeting minute:**

**Lalram Thanga, Principal Secretary**, Chairman of the meeting welcomed all participants of stakeholders and thanked them for attending the meeting in spite of their busy schedules giving due importance to the meeting. He further emphasized his desire for open, frank and fruitful discussion with open mind to clear all doubts and problems arising for implementation of the proposed project. He highlighted briefly the background and importance of the proposed road under MSRP –II for improvement of Socio-Economic profile of Mizoram. He further stated the history of global issues of sustainable development of environment and worldwide World Bank's achievement.

**Ms. Er. Laltlanthangi Ralte Assistant Engineer (Env) PIU** gave PowerPoint Presentation of Draft Environmental Management Framework. This was followed by discussion of the topic.

The summing of discussions is given below:

**Ms. Ethel Rothangpuii Dy. Director, Transport Department:** asked on what scenario the proposed road was selected and name of the selected road.

Engineer in Chief, PWD answered the queries.

**Ms. P.C. Ialmuanpuii, assistant Executive Engineer, Mizoram Pollution Control Board:** said that in the MSRP –I, there were many complaints about dust pollution. She

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asked how it is going to suppress dust generation during construction period in the MSRP – II

**Er. Samar Banerjee World Bank Consultant** answered that generated dust will be suppressed by mixture of 2% NaCl with water through sprinkler.

**Lalmalsawma Jt. Secy, Finance Department:** asked Chhumkhum – Chawngte road was already accorded Administrative Approval under NABARD funding, how it was going to do with this.

Engineer in Chief, PWD answered that the proposal of Chhumkhum – Chawngte road under NABARD funding was only for single lane. However the proposal under World Bank is double lane national Highway, if the proposal is going to be success, the proposal under NABARD funding will be cancelled.

**Dr. Alfred Malsawmsanga S.A, Mizoram Pollution Control Board:** said about study of bio-diversity in Mizoram. It is very important to give prior important for preservation of wild animals living in Mizoram. He again mentioned that rehabilitation of dumping areas and road site plantation.

**Dr. Chawngsailova, General Secy. Mizoram Consumer Union:** said that the road width of road, MSRP –I was not 7.0m and whether there is provision of crash barrier along the proposed road or not, as crash barrier is very important for road users.

Engineer in Chief answered that the previous road constructed under World Bank funding was not conformed the National Highway Standard. However, the proposed road under MSRP –II was designed for Double Lane, National Highway. There is provision of crash barrier along the road in MRSP –II.

**Er. Lalzawmthanga, Executive Engineer, PIU** said that in the Champhai to Zokhawthar road, there was Forest plantation area owned by Mualkawi village YMA of about 0.28 Hac. He asked that whether the village YMA is entitled to receive the compensatory fees of the area in spite of their wantedness. **Duhthlana Assistant Conservator of Forest Department** replied that the issue will be settled in Part –II.

**Samar Banerjee, World Bank Consultant:** mentioned that National and state regulatory Laws and Acts should be followed during pre- construction, construction and post-construction. Framework of implementation arrangement should be made and this should be revised by the PWD official.

**Er. Lalramthanga Assistant Engineer PIU** said that villagers of Phairuankai village have LSC for their land but the area is within riverine forest area.

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**Principal Secy.** MPWD said that the riverine reserve forest area does not need to have LSC.

The workshop was concluded by Engineer in Chief, Mizoram PWD with a vote of thanks.

**Part –B: SMF meeting minute:**

**Lalram Thanga, Principal Secretary, PWD, Mizoram :** Welcome the participants and highlighted basic importance of Social Management Framework then call upon Chuauhunna, MCS, SLAO, PIU, PWD to give presentation on social Management Framework.

**Chuauhunna. SLAO, PIU :** Delivered presentation on social Management Framework.

**Lalram Thanga, Principal Secretary, PWD, Mizoram :** Thanks Chuauhunna, MCS, SLAO, PIU, PWD for his presentation on social Management Framework. He request the participants to share any idea if they have for better SMF. He highlighted the importance of Special Development for Primitive Tribal Group where PAP are Tribal. He also suggested that BPL family and widows may be treated as Vulnerable Group if they are among the PAP.

**Zonunmawia CEP :** Said that where land is acquired by relevant LA process, it is always the Vulnerable Group who suffer the most. He suggested that care should be taken to make accurate assessment of the property losses by this group.

**Lalramthanga, Principal Secretary, PWD, Mizoram :** Most of these Vulnerable Group are always the one who want their land to be acquired by the government because of compensation money.

**Chuauhunna. SLAO, PIU :** stated that in most of the case the land owner are not the victim but the beneficiary of LA process.

**Duhthlana, Assistant Coservator of Forest, E&F Dept :** Said that in Table 3 – Entitlement Matrix (b) stated that “ If the compensation amount fixed by Special

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Committee is higher than that amount calculated from the rate fixed by the Collector, the amount fixed by the collector shall be paid by the collector as compensation and the remaining amount as assistance” , then if reverse is the case, what would be the solution ?.

Chuauhnnuna. SLAO, PIU: Assured that there should not be such case.

**Dr. Chawngsailova, General Secy. Mizoram Consumer Union:** Mentioned that this is a high time for everybody to abstained from indulging in corruption in compensation and also request to formulate a method or system that appropriated compensation are paid to the rightful owner. And this should be the practice in World Bank Project.

**Chuauhnnuna. , MCS, SLAO, PIU, PWD :** Stated that to make assessment of compensation more accurate and to make the process more transparent, NGO like YMA, MUP etc are engaged to witness the measurement at site and also assured to all the participant that corrupt practice shall not be practice in LA process.

**Duhthlana, E&F Dept :** From the Entitlement Matrix it appear that land holder by way of Periodic Patta also have to be compensated, will this have adverse effect on future Land Acquisition Process as this entitlement is not according to LA Act 1894. This can make precedence in the case of compensation.

**Chuauhnnuna. , MCS, SLAO, PIU :** mentioned that the poor villagers can't always came to district headquarter to have their land pass issued or to engaged surveyor from revenue department, and that why most of villagers don't have LSC. Assistance will be paid to them not the compensation. And caution will be taken not to make any precedence that could have adversely affected on future LA Process.

**Niraj World Bank Consultant:** Social Management Framework should assured minimum social impact, resettlement and development of Indigenous People, Best alternatives alignment, Studies of best alternatives.

**Chuauhnnuna. , MCS, SLAO, PIU :** Asked the participant if they felt if the rate of compensation is too poor eg Rate for Fruit bearing Zawngtah is Rs 1000/- while the fruit it yield in a year can be up to Rs 10000/- .

**Lalram Thanga, Principal Secretary, PWD, Mizoram :** This issue could be very controversial case. It is better that the rate adopt may be accepted as it is today.

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**Lianchungnunga E in C, PWD** : The classification of fruit bearing and non fruit bearing is too wide ranges. Compensated base on girth size for plant may be more appropriated.

The workshop was concluded by Engineer in Chief, Mizoram PWD with a vote of thanks.

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