

UNIT-IV: SOCIO ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

4.1- Baseline monitoring of Socio economic environment



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Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts

Socio-economic impacts are the influence of projects and/or programmes or policies on the human values, culture, living standard. Institutions undertaking large investment projects such as highways, air ports, sewerage systems, water resources projects (DOMS, reservoirs, water relating systems, diversions, canals) stimulates secondary impacts in the form of associated investments and changes in socio-economic activities. These effects include changes in the existing community facilities and activities, induced new facilities in the next round and changes in natural conditions. All such effects may be substantial than the primary impacts of the original actions.

(Displacement of people from a project area □ reduction in permanent population from the project area □ displaced people resettlement somewhere requiring economic cost, housing, water power, public services at new place, with cultural and psychological adjustments (Tehri Dam project, Narmada project). During construction of project temporary population (labourers and their families) will come to the project area. Such persons will be accommodated in the project area. They will need all kind of services for living. The area will undergo changes by the temporary population.

All such changes will come under socio-economic changes of the project or Socio-economic Impacts Assessment (SIA). The following should always be taken care of:

a)	Demographic impacts	Labour force, population shift, employment and multiplier effects, displacement and relocation and change in population make up
b)	Socio-economic Impacts	Includes income and multiplier effects, employment rates and patterns, prices of local goods and services, taxation effects and property value
c)	Institutional Impacts	Demands on Government and Social Services NGO's in the areas, housing, schools, policing, justice health and welfare
d)	Cultural Impacts	Such as those on traditional patterns of life and work, family structure, authority, religion, tribal factors, archaeological features and social work, community cohesion
e)	Gender Impacts	Implications of development projects on women's role in society, income generating opportunities access to resources and employment opportunities

Along with changes in physical environment due to a development project, there will be changes in Socio-economic environment. Social Impact Assessment should pay special attention to vulnerable sections of population (elderly, poor, children, minorities)

Some of the variable have measurement dimensions (both positive and negative) with increasing size of the variables population size, growth, rate of population growth, age dependency on community; job opportunity, job distribution, employment level, participation in labour force, price level, educational attainment, socio-economic status, housing availability public services; social well being; collective response). These are cumulative effects. These impacts can be put in (i) Social impacts and (ii) Public Services impacts

A very important aspect is displacement of population. They will have all types of problems and should go hand in hand with rehabilitation and resettlement policy of state and Central Government.