

The Effects of the Rehabilitation of the La Mesa Dam (Into a Huge Ecological Park) to the Residents of East Fairview Subdivision, Quezon City

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Abstract

Dams are usually constructed for the economic growth of a region or a nation. Its main objectives include water storage, for irrigation, and other uses, flood control to prevent damages, regulation of river flow to permit navigation, and generation of hydroelectric power. In addition to these, a dam and its reservoir may stimulate a tourism and recreation activities and can now be called as one of the many facets of Ecoparks or Ecological Parks. Also, maintenance of aging dams often involves considerable and environmental and social costs to the society.

This study looked at the effects of the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Dam from the perspective of the people living within or near the area. In order to come up with results on what these effects are and how they were affected on noise pollution, traffic, business, privacy and security of the community, gathering some preliminary and secondary data is important to verify the assumptions on these effects. Several interview sessions were conducted with the local residents of the study area and chosen ten key informants that meet the criteria for significant information. Another purpose of this study is to locate these people which will be susceptible to the negative effects and be able to predict possible problems that might come up in order to help the management come up with alternatives for further improvement of the dam. A supplemental analysis shows whether ecotourism is really vital or does it have its compensations too.

However, the results indicated that the residents within the area are really affected by the park both positively and negatively. The results of the interview showed that the residents within the park itself are afraid of losing their houses although most of them in the family work for the management of the park; while most of the residents outside were unnoticing the changes to their community. As was mentioned on the introduction, the study area (East Fairview Subdivision, Quezon City) was a private subdivision and so most of the residents are unnoticeable of what's happening in their community. Although it may appear that on my secondary data gathering there have been threats to their security and privacy since the dam had been commercialized. And recent establishments have been constructed ever since that facilitated the boost of businesses and transportation in the community.

In conclusion, the park has indeed served its purpose to the community as a recreational and wilderness haven but then, it has posed a threat to its immediate surrounding community because of its further development.