## SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

#### FOR

# SETTING UP OF FACILITATION CENTRE- ENTRY AND EXIT POINT IN MALIDOR VILLAGE, EAST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT





## **Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG)**

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#### **Executive summary**

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified to conduct Social Impact Assessment Study for the acquisition of land to set up a Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point in Malidor Village, East Jaintia Hills District under section 4(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (No.30 of 2013).

In lieu with the implementation of Inner Line permit in the State of Meghalaya, the Government of Meghalaya has proposed the setting up of Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point in border area to check on people entering or leaving the state, to prevent illegal immigration and other anti-national activities from across the State.

The primary objective of the Social Impact Assessment Study is to carry out baseline survey of the project site, to bring out likely impact from the proposed project and to draw out preventive measure for the likely impact.

The approaches and methods adopted by the Social Impact Assessment Team for data collection is a qualitative approach. This approach involves at looking in-dept at non numerical data which has been collected through key informant interview, focus group discussion, reconnaissance survey, public consultation and disclosure.

Malidor and Ratacherra are medium size villages in East Jaintia Hills with a population of 48 and 1841 respectively. These villages border along Assam and Bangladesh and falls under the administrative Block of Khliehriat. The major occupational status of the people in these village are Cultivator, Agricultural Labourer and marginal worker.

From the reconnaissance survey, the project site has been allocated and identified in a Betel Nut Plantation Area cum fruit trees plantation. The project location area belongs to four Individual private owners from Ratacherra Village. The land Owners are Betel nut Cultivator and their livelihood is totally dependent on this project location. The survey also identify that no structure will be affected from the land acquisition except the livelihood of the land owners would be affected for a short period of time.

Primary data collected from the Key Informant Interview with the four land Owners: SmtPhulbiPohdeng, SmtHamdiawBandara, SmtSainaMukhim and Shri. BindroSympli, it was brought out to the Social Impact Assessment Team that the land owners were willing to give their land for the acquisition but fair compensation should be made for the plantation and land within the project location area. Since most of the land owners are dependent on this land for meeting their social domestic needs they are hopeful that the government provide them with the compensation at the earliest.

Primary data collected from the Focus Group Discussion with the community member in Malidor and Ratacherra stated that they approved to the developmental work in the region and the setting up of the Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit point in Malidor village will indirectly address to the encroachment issue faced by the State as well as provide Malidor with an identity of being a part of Meghalaya. Though the participants from both villages are unfamiliar with the functioning of an Entry and Exit point, they stated that the Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit point will maintain law and order in relation to illegal entry into the State. The community member stated that the project will not have negative impact on the community as a whole rather it will bring more benefit to them in term of employment opportunities during construction and after construction.

The Public Hearing, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016 witnessed a common approval from both Malidor and Ratacherra Village. During the Hearing, the draft report was read out to the community members present in the hearing and then later an open discussion was made on the draft report. All the four land owners were present in the hearing and each one of them stated there approval for the construction. The land owners requested for compensation and the community members requested for employment opportunities for the local people first.

ABOUT MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance was created as one of the institutional support

mechanism of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority with a vision to explore, share and

promote good governance in Meghalaya by assisting the government, private sector, the

voluntary sector and the communities in putting good governance into practice for the well-being

of citizen and society with special emphasis on tradition institution, cultural organisation. And

village head.

In exercise of powers conferred by the sub section (1) of section 4 of the Right to Fair

Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013 (No. 30 of 2013),

the Government of Meghalaya has notified the Meghalaya Institute of Governance as the State

Social Impact Assessment Unit for carrying out Social Impact Assessment Study.

The social Impact Assessment Team is as follow:

1) Shri. A.B.S. Swer, OSD, MIG (Team leader)

2) Smt. Ibakordor Dohling (Assistant Manager, training)

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Publication year: 2016

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Background

Though one of the smallest states in the country, Meghalaya shares a 443 km international border with Bangladesh. This international border begins from Boundary Pillar No. 1071 located at the tri junction on Rangpur District of Bangladesh, West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya, India and Goalpara District of Assam, India and ends at Boundary Pillar No 1338 at the tri junction of Sylhet District of Bangladesh, Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya, India and the Cachar District of Assam, India. Presently there are 1523 villages falling in the border areas covering an area of 4,890 sqkms<sup>1</sup>. This area starts from Dona-Malidor areas in the Jaintia Hills to Mahendraganj in West Garo Hills. The Indian state is still in the progress of fencing the extremely porous border between India and Bangladesh. The fencing along the 443 km stretch of border between Bangladesh on one side and the Indian state of Meghalaya on the other has met with certain difficulties.

Due to this poor fencing and lack of effective monitoring, the border area has faced issues of illegal immigrants and influx into the state from Bangladesh. According to a report in The Telegraph (dated October 18, 2013) Meghalaya faces rise in immigrants from Bangladesh. According to official statistics, in the past five years (2008 to September, 2013) 18,951 illegal immigrants from Bangladesh were found in the State. As such to weed out these unwanted elements non-governmental organisations and pressure groups from Meghalaya have demanded a mechanism to curb influx into the state.

"Under pressure from ten students and youths organisations the Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma will hold talks with the representatives in Shillong on August 29. He said that the problem of illegal immigration needs to be solved and the government is contemplating a legislative measure.

There had been reports of rapes, murders and other heinous crimes reportedly committed by some migrant workers in Meghalaya. Suspected militants had also shot dead some migrant workers in the recent past.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 2010 Report of the Directorate of Border Areas Development, Government of Meghalaya Shillong, 2010, pp. 6

In view of the burgeoning agitations the state government has been unable to ignore the demand for the implementation of the ILP.<sup>2</sup>"

The implementation of the Inner Line Permit system in the State was thought to be well equipped to protect and address the change in demography, identity and national security in the State. However, seeing that the Inner Line Permit was not suitable to the political-economic-social needs of the state the Inner Line Permit proposal in the State of Meghalaya was replaced with the proposal to set up Facilitation Centres cum Entry and Exit Points in border area to check on people entering or leaving the state, to prevent illegal immigration and other anti-national activities from across the State.

As part of this initiative, land will be acquired for the proposed construction and Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified as the Social Impact assessment (SIA) Unit for conducting the Social Impact Assessment Study under section 4(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (No.30 of 2013).

#### 1.2. Objective of the Social Impact Assessment Study

- To carry out baseline survey from the project site.
- To bring out the likely impact from the proposed project.
- To draw out preventive measures to address the likely impacts from the project.

#### 1.3. Outline of Chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction: This section describes the background, needs and objectives for the proposed construction of a Facilitation Centre.

Chapter 2: Description of Project: This section describes the project details, location of project area, maps etc. for the setting up of Facilitation Centre.

<sup>2</sup> Meghalaya CM to Focus on Implementation of Inner Line Permit, The Hindu, Dated August 18, 2013, Accessed from <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/meghalaya-cm-to-focus-on-implementation-of-inner-line-permit/article5034746.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/meghalaya-cm-to-focus-on-implementation-of-inner-line-permit/article5034746.ece</a> on 18th June, 2016

Chapter 3: Research Methodology: This section describes the approaches adopted by the Social

Impact Assessment Team for data collection. The approach for the study is a qualitative study.

Chapter 4: Demography profile of the Village: This section describes the brief demographic

profile of the villages and draw out the anticipated impact likely to come up from the proposed

project.

Chapter 5: Data Interpretation and Analysis: This section describes the data which has been

collected and analysed from the field. Mitigation measure has been drawn out to address the

likely impact which would be incurred from the said construction project.

Chapter 6: Public Consultation and Disclosure: This section describes the public hearing, the

ideas, opinions, suggestions, and queries put forth by the people likely to be affected from the

said project.

Chapter 7: Recommendation and Conclusion

Chapter 8: Annexure

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This section will describe the objectives, need and location for setting up the Facilitation Centre

cum Entry and Exit Point in Malidor village.

2.1. Objectives of the project

The objective of this project is to check the entry of people into the state and to facilitate legal

flow of people, goods and vehicles into the State.

2.2. Need for the project

The Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point is required to check illegal immigration and

influx in the State of Meghalaya. It will also check the exchange and interaction of goods and

services between the states of Meghalaya and Assam. The Facilitation Centre will ease all

arrivals and departures of people from the state. it will act as a check and carry out inspection to

avoid any kind of unforeseen incidents.

2.3. Project location

The project site selected for setting up the Facilitation Centre in Malidor village is located within

the land of four land owners. This land is presently used as a betel nut plantation.

The proposed Exit Point is located on the left hand side of NH-44. The boundaries for the

proposed Exit Point are as below:

North: Land of DriPohleng

East:

WahDuidRit

South: Land of Shri, J Pohshna

NH 44

The proposed Entry Point is on the right hand side of NH-44. The boundaries for proposed Entry

project site are as below:

North: Land of ShanborShadap/SmtHandiawMukhim

East: Petrol pump and land of SmtSainaMukhim

South: NH 44

West: Stream

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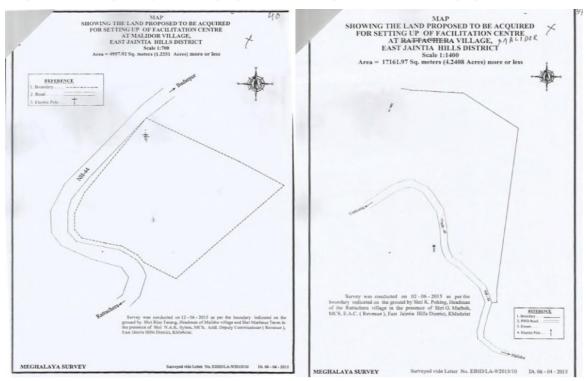
## 2.4. Proposed Implementation of Project

The proposed date for implementation of project is not known as the land to be acquired falls under four private land owners and their consent is required for acquisition of land.

## Maps and illustration

The maps provided in this report have been obtained from the Revenue Branch, Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District.

Map 1 and 2: Depicting the land proposed to be acquired for the setting up of Facilitation Centre.



Source: Office of the District Commissioner (Revenue Branch), Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District.

Picture 1 and 2: Showing the land to be acquired for setting up of the Facilitation Centre.



Source: Reconnaissance Survey, SIA-Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.



Source: Reconnaissance Survey, SIA-Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.

#### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This Chapter discusses the methods and approaches adopted by the Social Impact Assessment Unit to gather information from the field.

#### 3.1. Research Method

The research strategy that the SIA-Unit has used is a qualitative method. This method is more subjective in nature, where data collection involves at looking in-depth at non-numerical data which has been collected through semi-structured interview and focus group discussion. This type of research is more exploratory in nature as it tries to identify people's opinion, perception and feelings about a topic through open-ended questions.

#### 3.2. Methods for Data collection

Reconnaissance Survey: The reconnaissance survey was carried out to understand the proposed project area topography. From this survey, the research team identified the impact likely to be caused by the proposed project and was also able to survey the project area, brief the village functionaries and the respondents about the purpose of the data collection and type of data required.

Secondary Data: The research team first did a literature review to understand the requirement and needs of the project area. Based on the literature review the team was able to get an insight on the background of the project and this has allowed for group identification and formulation of questionnaire design. Secondary Data of relevant documents such as the details of project profile, type of investment, maps, details of landowners, etc. were obtained from the Office of the District Commissioner (Revenue Branch), East Jaintia Hills District.

Primary data: Primary data was collected through interviews (semi-structured and key informant interview), focus group discussion and field observation. The methods used were structured and designed based on the impacts likely to affect the project area. The data for Key Informant Interview was collected from the land owners, whose land will be acquired for setting up of Facilitation Centre at Malidor Village by using an interview scheduled. The data for Focus Group Discussion has been collected from the community members, from both Malidor and Rattacherra village, who are most likely to be affected from the setting up of the Facilitation Centre at Malidor Village by using a semi structured interview scheduled.

Public Hearing: This method is adopted when the data collection is completed and a draft report has been submitted to different governing bodies including the Village Authority. The public hearing is conducted with a notion to convey the major findings to the people and to receive further suggestions and opinions on the developmental work within their village.

## 3.3. Data processing and analysis

The research approach adopted for this study is a qualitative type and the data collected and generated from the key informant interviews and focus group discussion as well as the feedback the SIA-Unit received during the public hearing was video recorded. The transcription of the data collected from the public hearing had been analysed by the SIA-Unit.

#### 4. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE VILLAGE

The project site allocated for setting up Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit Point is located in Malidor and Ratacherra village which falls under Khliehriat Community and Rural Development Block in East Jaintia Hills District. East Jaintia Hills District has two Community and Rural Development Block: Khliehriat and Saipung Block. As per google maps, the distance from Khliehriat to Ratacherra by road is 67 Km and from Khliehriat to Malidor Village is 69 Km. Both these villages are adjacent to one another and situated along the border of Assam and Bangladesh.

## 4.1. Brief about Ratacherra Village:

Ratacherra is a medium sized village in East Jaintia Hills District with a population of 1841 people, of which 967 are males and 874 are female as of the Census of India, 2011. The total number of households in Ratacherra village is 310 families. The average sex ratio of Ratacherra village is 904 and child Sex Ratio is 879 (Census, 2011).

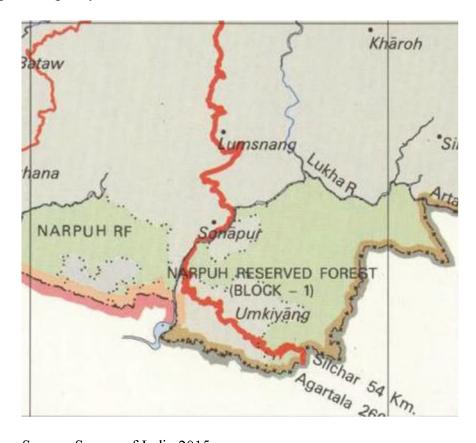
The literacy rate of the village is 68.16% male literacy stands at 67.94% and female literacy stands at 68.40%. The population is a scheduled tribe area and majority of the population are cultivators, agricultural labourer and marginal workers.

#### 4.2. Brief about Malidor Village:

Malidor is a tiny village in East Jaintia Hills District with a population size of only 48 people out of which 27 are males and 21 are females as per the Census 2011. The total number of households in Malidor village is 12 families. The average sex ratio of Malidor village is 778 and child Sex Ratio is 1000 (as per census 2011).

The literacy rate of Malidor village is 36.11 % where male literacy rate stands at 57.14 % and female Literacy rate stands at 6.67 %. The identified population are mostly scheduled tribes and majority of the population are mainly cultivators or daily wage labourers.

Map 3: Inset of Map showing NH-44 which exits Meghalaya passing the last point of Malidor village in Meghalaya.



Source: Survey of India,2015

#### 4.3. Anticipated project impacts:

## 4.3.1. On individual land owners

Since the proposed project site for setting up of Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point is part of a betel nut plantation, the land owners whose land will be acquired may likely be affected since this land may be their only source of income for the family. The land to be acquired is a fertile land and plantation in that area is very productive as the land used for betel nut plantation, growing fruit trees and spices like black pepper. The land to be acquired is a hill type land and soil excavation will change the topography of the area. The loss of arable land will affect their income and will take away opportunities to earn in the future.

## 4.3.2. On groups or community members

The land to be acquired for the proposed project site will affect the common property resources of that area. A stream which is used as a drinking water source for Malidor village may likely be affected by the proposed project, if strict action is not taken to check and monitor soil dumping into this stream.

#### 4.3.3. On infrastructures/institutions

From the proposed project, it has been observed that individual households will not be affected and institutional services will not be disturbed by the construction of the project. However, the private petrol pump which belongs to private individuals may be affected during the construction phase of the proposed project. No rehabilitation and resettlement cases have been identified from the proposed land to be acquired.

#### 5. DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

This section will discuss, interpret and analyse the data collected from the field which has been collected from the respondents based on Key Informant Interview with the land owners and Focus Group Discussion with the community members who are likely to be impacted from the setting up of Facilitation Centre-Entry and Exit Point.

#### 5.1. Key Informant Interview with the land owners

The Key Informant Interview was conducted through a semi structured interview scheduled. Two land owners, Smt. PhulbiPohdeng and Smt. HandiawBandara were interviewed as they were present during the Focus Group Discussion. While,Shri.BindroSympli and Smt. SainaMukhim were consulted through a telephonic interview.

The land to be acquired for the proposed project within Malidor village has four (4) land owners belonging from Ratacherra and Khliehriat Village. The land to be acquired for setting up the proposed Exit Point measuring an area of 4957.92 Sq. Mtrs falls under the ownership of Shri. BindroSympli. The land to be acquired for setting up the proposed Entry Point measuring an area of 17161.97 Sq. Mtrs falls under the ownership of Smt. PhulbiPohdweng, Smt. HamdiawBandara and Smt. SainaMukhim. The area of land to be acquired from each of the land owners is not known though a letter for the proposed acquisition has been sent to them.

The land owners are mostly cultivators of betel nut and betel leaf and utilise the land for this purpose and also to cultivate other plants. The land they own is a major source of income for the families and as future income. The annual income of the cultivator varies from the number of betel nut trees and fruit trees present in that land to be acquired. At time, the cultivators earn a minimum income of Rs. 100,000 per annum to a maximum income of Rs. 500,000 per annum.

Depending on the size of the land and the amount of labour required to maintain it, the land owners also employ daily wage workers from Jalalpur and Malidor. If a land owner has more than 3000 (three thousands) betel nut trees in his/her land, he/she will hire more than 60 people to clean the plantation area from season to season. While a land owner having less than 500 (five hundreds) betel nut trees, hires about 30 people to clean the plantation area. The daily wage workers are paid Rs. 250 per day and are hired only twice to thrice in a year to clean the plantation area.

The land owners consent to parting with their land for the purpose of land acquisition for the proposed project but they want that the compensation price should meet the price of the land inclusive of the number of betel nut trees (mature and sapling), fruit trees, spices and soil that will be lost present in that land. The land owners have requested that employment opportunities should be given to their family members and the local people.

Some of the land owners say that for fear that the compensation rate would be less they will not be willing to give their land for the acquisition as it is their only source of income and this income has enabled them with means to address their social needs like education, health, food, etc,. The land owners have also stated that the land to be acquired is a fertile land and no chemical products have been used on this land so the productivity level of this land is high and the government need to compensate more.

When the land owners were asked how they would use the money they received as compensation, the land owners said that they would replace the plot of land with a new one to meet their needs.

Land owners were interested to know how the compensation rate would be calculated, be it square foot or on the total size of the land holding. If compensation is paid will the Government also pay for the soil and stone (natural resources) along with the trees or only for the land.

Picture 3: Showing Ongoing Key Informant Interview at Ratacherra Village.



Source: SIA-Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.

Picture 4: Showing Key Informant Interview at Malidor Village.



Source: SIA-Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.

#### 5.2 Focus Group Discussion with Community Members of Malidor and Rattachera

This section will discuss the Focus Group Discussion that was held as on 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 2016 with the community members from Malidor and Ratacherra village. The number of participants attending the Focus Group Discussion in Malidor Village was eleven (11) falling under the age groups of 18 years to 50 years. The participants at Malidor were male members working mainly as betel nut farmers, shopkeepers and students. Likewise, in RatacherraVillage there were ten (10) participants falling under the age groups of 27 years to 76 years. All of the participants in this area too were male members of the community working as farmers, businessmen, handicraft and one as a government teacher. The Focus Group Discussion lasted about an hour in both the villages and data collected from the discussion has been noted and video recorded for future reference.

At the onset a brief introduction was made on the objectives and goals of the Social Impact Assessment Study and the Institute carrying out the study. Thereafter, the following were the questions discussed during the Focus Group Discussion.

## 5.2.1 Awareness level on the proposed construction site

Participants in Malidor village have stated that they were aware about the setting up of a Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit point in the village of Malidor and that the land owners were notified about the acquisition by the State Government, while in Ratacherra, participants were unaware about the proposed construction.

Since most of the participants were unaware about the Facilitation Centre, the Social Impact Assessment Team brief out the background and government initiative of setting up the proposed project to the participants.

#### 5.2.2 Type of Land utility for proposed construction site

The proposed land to be acquired is mainly used for betel nut plantation and for cultivation of fruits trees like oranges, jackfruit, litchi, champa trees and spices like black pepper. The land proposed for setting up the Facilitation centre also has a stream which is used by Malidor village as a source of drinking water. The water is dammed by loose boulder construction and water is supplied through pipes into the village of Malidor.

#### 5.2.3 Land utility by the community members

When the participants were asked if they make use of the proposed project land, most of them said that since the land belongs to four individual land owners, the participants only work there as daily wage workers that too only twice or thrice in a year for cleaning the land, collecting ripe betel nuts, and for cleaning and checking the drinking water source of Malidor village located at that area.

#### 5.2.4 Problems faced by the village

The problems drawn out from the discussion made in Malidor and Ratacherra are as follows:

- > Since hospitals and medical facilities are not available within and nearby, the people from Malidor and Ratacherra go to Kalain and Silchar in Assam to avail these services.
- Educational Institution present in the village are primary and secondary education only and people from Malidor have to go to Silchar, Assam for higher education and from Ratacherra people go to Silchar, Assam or Khliehriat and Jowai, Meghalaya for higher educational and other vocational course.
- > Lack of employment opportunities within the area has made it difficult for the youth to get jobs in Malidor and Ratacherra.
- ➤ Lack of commercial activities in the area and along the National Highway 44 has made the people from Malidor and Ratacherra to depend on market areas in Kalian and Silchar, Assam for domestic goods like rice, clothes, LPG gas, etc. It was only recently, in April 2016, that residents of Malidor village received ration cards.
- > Lack of transportation facilities within the village has made people from Malidor to depend solely on the transportation facilities from Assam who are operating in the area.
- > Betel nut cultivated in Meghalaya is sold as wholesale product to individual traders (malik) from Assam who sells the goods back to Shillong and others place. Since Assam also produces Betel nut and these nuts are sold to Meghalaya, this has created competition for their products in other markets.
- > As LPG gas is not available in the area, the people from Malidor buy their LPG gas from the black market in Assam.

➤ In Ratacherra, cases have occurred where people from other area comes to dispose of dead victim's body in the village.

#### 5.2.5 Measure taken to address problem

The village headman of Malidor said that though grievances are made to the government; so far no effective steps have been taken up to address these problems.

#### 5.2.6 Proposed measures to address the problem

According to the village headman of Malidor, he said that basic amenities like higher educational institution and medical facilities should be set up nearby so that local people can have quick access to health and educational facilities, to bring out employment opportunities for skilled workers, unskilled worker and educated workers within the area and to strengthen local transportation.

Priority should be given to goods and products grown and produced within the state of Meghalaya like betel nut. These products need to be traded first before letting prducts from outside the state (Assamese goods) be traded within the boundaries of the state. The government needs to promote the utilisation of local goods as well as promote local entrepreneur to manage and market the goods of the locals.

The government should set up service facilities like FCI, Gas agency, etc within the vicinity of the village so that people does not depend on black market in Assam.

#### 5.2.7 Familiarity with the functioning of the Facilitation Centre-Entry and Exit Point

The participants from Malidor and Ratacherra were both unfamiliar with the functioning of the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point.

5.2.8 Perception of participants on how the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point should function.

The participants were asked to describe what comes to their mind when they think about a Facilitation Centre-Entry and Exit Point. One of the participants said that,

"I think the facilitation centre- Entry and Exit Point will be functioning more like a toll gate, same as the one that we have in Shillong-UmsningBypass. They collect a fee for

using the road there. It will be like a check gate too, like the one Forest Department use to have".

Majority of the participants also agreed with him. In Ratacherra, however, the village headman said that the Facilitation Centre should check on the entry of people especially those trading in Jaintia hills. The SIA-Unit then briefed them, that the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point will not act as a check gate rather it will be an entry and exit point where people, goods or trades will be halt before entering into or moving out from the state.

#### 5.2.9 Advantages of setting up a Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point

The participants were asked about their perception on the advantages that are likely to come from setting up a Facilitation Centre. One of the participants in Malidor said that,

"We welcome development in our village because the government knows it for a good cause. When there is development especially in border area, people and tourist will notice the village and will come to pay a visit. The Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point will also bring beautification to the village".

A positive response was also receive from Ratacherra, where the participants said that,

"Such a construction will strengthen ownership level of the local people in that area and other people will not try and encroach into the Meghalaya border. It (Facilitation Centre) will also bring prosperity in the village since in will check on goods coming from other State especially kwai or Betel nut. It will provide employment and reduce illegal migrants and criminal intention".

#### 5.2.10 Concerns likely to come up from the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point

The participants were then asked about their concerns over the setting up of the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point, participants in Malidor and Ratacherra. They said that, they fear if the construction is in place they may have to pay tax or a legal fee or illegal fee when using the service there. One of the participants also said that,

"Most of the domestic goods coming into Malidor are from Assam, and if the Facilitation Centre is in place then domestic goods coming from Assam will be expensive".

The participants also feared that employment opportunities may not be allocated for the locals because they lack skills and have low educational qualification which may not meet up with the requirement of the jobs provided.

The setting up of the Facilitation Centre will also disrupt the employment opportunities of people from Jalapur, Assam; Malidor; Ratacherra; etc who work as daily wage worker in this land.

There was a common feeling among the participants in Malidor and Ratacherra who felt that local goods and products exported to Assam were never taxed before, but with the setting up of the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point, local goods and products may also be taxed. They also felt that the functionaries who will be appointed in this Centre will take advantage of their position and may ill-treat the local people.

#### 5.2.11 Likely impact on community safety

When the participants were asked about the likely impact on the community safety, the participants said that, since this is a new project and we have not seen one being set up in the State or one that is functioning in the State it is hard to predict the future of whether this project will have an impact on the safety of the community. However, after further explanation, the people stated that the project will not have any impact on the community safety rather it will improve and strengthen the safety level of the people especially from people with criminal or bad intention.

#### 5.2.12 Likely impact on the community wellbeing and liveability

The participants were asked about the likely impact on the community wellbeing and liveability, they responded that there will be no such impact as people from Assam and Meghalaya has cooperation with one another and so far they have not face any problem with one another. They also said that the wellbeing of the land owners will improve as they are mostly farmers.

## 5.2.13 Likely impact on the community resources/common property resources

The participants stated that the land belongs to four individual/ private land owners, so the likely impact on the community resources will be less. However, it was later pointed out that near the proposed project site there is a stream which is used as a drinking water source for

Malidorvillage. The likely impact on this drinking water source is that the water source is constructed with loose boulder where water is collected in a catchment area and is being supplied to the village through water pipes. The likely impact on this water source from the construction phase is:- the water may dry up or water quantity will be less due to fewer trees; dumping of soil into the water sources; new water pipe connection may be required as they will have to find another drinking water source.

## 5.2.14 Likely impact on the environment

When the participants were asked about the likely impact on the environment, they said

"Any kind of construction will change the topography of the area and environmental effect will be there because the trees will be cut down and the land will be dug. But such construction should not be like the one we see in Lumshnong village (referring to cement factories there) which has caused a lot of environmental problem in the area and surrounding area. Problems will be there during the construction phase mainly, but after completion we will receive more benefit".

## 5.2.15 Determining the necessity and convenience of the project site

When the participants were asked about the necessity and convenience of the project site area, they said that the proposed project site selected by the government officials is convenient for them but it depends on the private land owners whether they want to give their land or not. One of the participants said that,

"The project site is good because it's not too close to the border line and having the project site in that proposed area will indirectly address to border issues and will create a sense of security in the border area".

#### 5.2.16 Expectation from the said project

When the participants were asked about their aspiration and fear on the proposed project or if they would like to share anything with relation to this proposed project, one participant in Malidor said that, "We welcome this development in our village and we believe that the government is working for a good cause. Now it's up to the government whether they will work to bring goodness or badness from this project".

Another participant from Ratacherra said that, "the land belongs to private land owners and betel nut plantation is the only source of income in their family, so if the government pay compensation at the earliest, they are willing to give the land. Local people should be the first to get employment from this project whether skilled or unskilled. Policemen should also be there in this facilitation centre to look into the law and order of the area".

Picture 5: Showing the Focus Group Discussion held at Malidor village.



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.

Picture 6: Showing the Focus Group Discussion held at Ratacherra village.



#### 5.3Data Collection from the Public Hearing held in Ratacherra Village.

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance conducted a public hearing on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016, on the proposed setting up of an Integrated Facilitation Centre-Entry/Exit point in Malidor and Ratacherra village at 1:00 p.m. This was done as part of the Social Impact Assessment study under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 notified by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

The Public Hearing was Chaired by Shri. AibanSwer, OSD, Meghalaya Institute of Governance in the presence of Shri. B. Wahlang, Deputy Conservation Officer, Forest Department along with the members from the Village Executive Committee and the land owners. More than 80 people from both Malidor and Ratacherra villages attended the Public Hearing. It began with the reading of the draft Social Impact Assessment report by Programme Associates from the Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong thereafter the floor was opened for a discussion on the proposed Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point.

The following are the views opined by participants on the proposed project:

Shri.RisoTanglang, Headman of Malidor village said that during the construction and after completion of the project employment should be given to the local people of the village. He also said that the adjacent land owners who own the land in the border of the construction will also need to be informed before the construction so that their land will not be affected.

Shri.KhamsngurbhaPohiing, Headman of Ratacherravillage said that the villagers and the land owners are cultivators and the land is used to generate income for them. He also states that Ratacherra village has no objection to the coming of this project because this project is important to prevent entering of illegal migrants and also people with criminal intention. He further stated that compensation should be paid on time otherwise it will be of great loss to the land owners. Since the locals are familiar with the terrain and language spoken there, it would be easier if employment is given to them.

Smt. HamdiawBandara, Smt. PhulbiPohdweng and Smt. SainaMukhim, the land owners from Ratacherra Village said that since this land that will be taken away had provided livelihood for

generation, the Government should pay adequate compensation on time and also provide employment to at least a member of their family.

ShriFairusPohshna, a local from Ratacherra Village expressed his fear that since the transportation facilities are mainly from Assam, he fears that The Entry and Exit point will cause a problem for the locals. He also said that he is happy if the construction is in the border because it will act as border fencing for the border area.

Shri. G Dkhar, Forest Department official and local of Ratacherra Village, said that since the economic activity in the area is less, construction of this project will bring more benefit to the village. He also said that women and youth need to be encouraged more to set up economic activity in the Village.

Shri. David from Malidor Village said that "Education is a Fundamental Right, and children are victims of illiteracy" therefore the Government needs to provide opportunities to set up Education Institutes in the Village.

Shri.IaidSuting from Ratacherra Village said that the Facilitation Centre should not block people who come to buy betel nut and betel leaves from Meghalaya because if we sell it elsewhere we don't get a good price.

ShriBinusNajiar, Ratacherra Village said that, the Entry and Exit Point will check on the Entry and Exit of people so the effect on the goods and products will be less.

Shri Mathias Teron from Malidor Village said that, if the work is implemented at the earliest then the dispute claim over Malidor Village will be addressed at the earliest. He also said that the people of Malidor Village are still confused whether Malidor Village is within Assam or Meghalaya. In order to address this issue he said that the Government should immediately construct the project to avoid confusion.

Shri A.B.S Swer concluded the meeting by asking the participants to raise their hand as a sign of agreement for the construction of this project in which everyone in the meeting agreed with him.

## Conclusion

People from Malidor and Ratacherra, East Jaintia Hills District accepted the proposed project for setting up of an IntegratedFacilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point in Malidor village. The headmen from both Ratacherra and Malidorwere grateful for this proposed project and hoped that the setting up of this project would check the illegal immigration of people and goods from both the states. They also stated that there would be safety and security to those who reside in the border areas.

Picture 1: Showing the officials conducting Public Hearing



Picture 2: Showing Public Hearing



Picture 3: Showing Landowners present in Public Hearing



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.

Picture 4: Showing the approval of the community members from Maliodr and Ratacherra.



#### **6 MITIGATION MEASURES**

This section aims to bring out mitigation measures to address likely problems that may arise from the setting up of Facilitation Centre Cum Entry and Exit Point in Malidor Village.

The following are the measures:

- Compensation for land owners needs to be made prior to the implementation of the project.
- In order for the people to understand the functioning of a Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point, it is important that the government needs to issue a notice or article on the daily newspaper or gazette on how the proposed Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point will bring benefit to the people and the State as a whole.
- The proposed land to be acquired is betel nut plantation area as well as fruit tree
  cultivation area. The land is a fertile land where land owners do not use chemicals and
  pesticides to grow their products. It is important that compensatory afforestation or Social
  forestry is proposed since a numbers of Betel nut trees and fruits trees will be cut down
  from the proposed project.
- In the proposed land to be acquired the source of a stream which is used as a source for drinking water. Thus the construction of this Facilitation Centre may disturb this water supply to Malidor village. It may also make it undrinkable in the future. Effective measures needs to be adopted to see that dumping of soil is avoided in this stream.
- Steps should be taken up to address to community safety during the construction phase especially where boulder and stone needs to be properly disposed of so that accidents does not occur in the area
- Employment opportunities should be given to the local people during the construction phase and operational phase of the project.
- To address to the issues raised in relation to common property resources, it is important to note that the stream existing near the project site is the only source of drinking water for Malidor village. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind during the construction phase that soil dug up from the project site should not be dumped into the drinking water

- source. Dumping site needs to be identified by the contractor along with the village authority for proper disposal of soil.
- During the construction phase of the project, problems like dustiness and muddiness will mainly happen during the summer season. Sprinkling of project site with water during the dry season is important to avoid dust cloud. Placing of proper signals in deep excavation, steep turn and during manual labour is important to avoid accident in the area. Even after the project is in place, cleanliness of the area should be promoted and maintained.

In order to address to the concerns put by the participants, the following are the measure that needs to be address when the construction is in place.

- Local people should be exempted from paying any legal or illegal fee except in certain cases as deem fit by the functionaries and legal laws.
- Illegal collection of fee from the locals and passer-by should be monitored and restricted.
- The NH44 is a lifelineconnection for border area and domestic goods like rice, clothes, gas, etc. passing from this area should not be affected.
- Employment opportunity should be provided to the local people wherever deemed fit.
- Though the proposed project is said to reduce employment opportunities of daily
  wage worker, it was put forth that the daily wage workers are hired only for
  maintenance and cleaning purpose, twice or thrice in a year. So impact on daily wage
  worker is less since this is not their only source of income.
- Local goods produce within the State needs to be utilised first then goods coming from other States can be used.

#### ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Letter from the Government of Meghalaya for conducting Social Impact Assessment Study.

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER EAST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT: : KHLIEHRIAT.

Email:- dc.khliehriat@gmail.com

Fax No.: 03655-230033 Phone No.: 03655-230713

EJHD/LA-9/2015/70,

Dated Khliehriat the 19th November, 2015.

To

The Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Revenue & Disaster Management Department,

Shillong.

Subject:-

Construction of Facilitation Centres at Malidor, Ratacherra, Mooriap,

Umkyrpong and Lakasein.

Reference:

RDA.90/2015/1, Dated 16th November, 2015

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am to send proposals for conducting Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Acquisition of Lands for the Facilitation Centres at Malidor, Ratacherra, Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein in East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat. The details of the lands are indicated below:

SI No	District	Village	Rural/Urban	Total Area Sq. Mtrs	Area to be acquired Sq. Mtrs
1.	East Jaintia Hills District	Malidor	Rural	4957.92	4957.92
2.	East Jaintia Hills District	Ratacherra	Rural	17161.97	17161.97
3.	East laintia Hills District		Rural	7934.96	7934.96
4.	East Jaintia Hills District	Mooriap	Rural	21604.70	21604.70
5	East Jaintia Hills District	Mooriap	Rural	19781.08	19781.08
6.	East Jaintia Hills District	Umkyrpong	Rural	24478.60	24478.60
7	East Jaintia Hills District		Rural	4803.37	4803.37

In this connection, I am to request you to take up with MIG to facilitate early initiation of the SIA as aforementioned with due intimation to the Undersigned

Yours Faithfully,

Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat.

Memo: EJHD/LA-9/2015/70-A,

Dated Khliehriat the 19th November, 2015

Copy to:

1. Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute Governance, Shillong for information and necessary action.

Secretary, Executive Committee Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai
with a request to kindly issue a consent from your Office for initiation of Land Acquisition
proceedings in respect of the above proposals. Proforma for the District Council consent is
enclosed herewith.

3. The Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya Political Department for information.

Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District,

Annexure 2: List of participants in Focus Group Discussion

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3.	KASAN TERBAS	L	36	65a	den	10-15,000/		K. Jewson
4.	MATHER TARON	A	48	^	IN (JUHGE)	40-60,000/-	_	Mother To
5.	ANIL THRON	n	35	-/-	n	3-9,500 pm	-	AIVIL TERON
	BBKIN DURONG	A.	34	h.	n	18, 600/-	4-11-	O. Durong
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8	BADAL TARON	ži,	35	т.	KIJAI	7,600/-		BOYN TEOD
9	DENIN TERON	15	26	M	Student		98548247/7	12
10.	CARSON TERM	U	19	11	N			BO Rough
11.	Peter Roughan		25		<u>*</u>	,	98546258	80 Rougoh
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Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) Lumpyngngad Cottage, Bishop Cotton Road Shillong- 793001, Meghalaya

Email: migshillong@gmail.com

No: MtG 165/2016/374

Dated: 1"-June-2016

6.

#### **Public Natice**

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified as the State Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Unit to conduct Social Impact Assessment Study for acquisition of land measuring an area of 4957.92 Sq.m (Exit Point) and 17161.96 Sq.m (Entry point) at Malidor, East Jaintia Hills District for the purpose of setting up proposed Facilitation Centre.

In connection with this, a Public Hearing will be held in Ratacherra, Government L.P School in East Jaintia Hills on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016 at 11:00 Am.

All interested persons are invited to attend the said Public Hearing to express their claims/ objections/ suggestion, if any, on the proposal.

Dr. BDR Tiwari, IAS
Executive Director,
Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
Shillong.

No: MIG 165/2016/374;

Dated: 1\*- June -2016

#### Copy to:-

- 1. The Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat
- 2. The Superintendent of Police, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat
- 3. The C.E.M, Jaintla Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai
- 4. The Under Secretary, Govt. Of Meghalaya, Revenue and Disaster Management Department
- 5. The Under Secretary, Govt. Of Meghalaya, Tourism Department
- 6. The Under Secretary, Govt. Of Meghalaya, Forest & Environment Department
- 7. The Block Development Officer, Khliehriat, East Jaintla Hills District
- 8. The DPRO, Jowai for Information with a request to kindly arrange PA system for the Hearing
- 9. The Rangbah Shnong of Malidor and Ratacherra, East Jaintia Hills District

Dr. BDR Tiwari, IAS
Executive Director,
Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
Shillong.

## Annexure 4: List of Participants from the Public Hearing held in Ratacherraon on 10<sup>th</sup>-06-2016.

Public Hearing at Malidor on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point on 10th June, 2016

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Meghalaya Institute of Governance - SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Malidor on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

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Meghalaya Institute of Governance - SIA Unit

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Meghalaya Institute of Governance - SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Maildor on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre ~ Entry and Exit Point on 10° June, 2016

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Meghalaya Institute of Governance - 5IA Unit

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Meghalaya Institute of Governance - SIA Unit

#### Public Hearing at Malidor on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point on 10th June, 2016

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Meghalaya Institute of Governance - SIA Unit

#### Annexure 5: Semi Structured Interview Scheduled for Focus Group Discussion

#### MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

ı	Focus Group Discussion on Land Acquisition for setting up of Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point  at
Na	me: Date:
Pa	rt A: Usage of project site
1.	How many of you use the proposed project site?
2.	How often do you visit the proposed project site?
3.	What is the primary purpose of your visit to the project site (name of project area)?
4.	What kinds of things or activities do you see are carried out from the proposed project area?
5.	<ul><li>What is the problem you faced when using this project site?</li><li>How significant is the problem?</li><li>What cause the problem?</li></ul>
6.	What measure has been taken up to address the problem?

#### Part B: About the project

- 1. How many of you are aware of the proposed entry and exit point to be set up in your village?
- 2. How did you come to know about the proposed entry and exit point?
- 3. How many of you are familiar with the functioning of the entry and exit point?
- 4. When you think of an entry and exit point, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?
- 5. What do you like best about the proposed entry and exit point?
- 6. What is the problem likely to come up with this proposed entry and exit point?
- 7. What measures can be taken up to address the following question?

#### Part C: Impact of the project

- 1. How will the project have an impact on the community safety?
- 2. How will the project have an impact on the community wellbeing and liveability?
- 3. How will the project have an impact on the community resources/ common property resources?
- 4. How will the project have an impact on the environment?
- 5. Any other impact to be faced by the community as a whole?

#### Part D: Others

- 1. Do you feel the need to construct this Entry and Exit Point in another area? If yes, which area is more convenience and why?
- 2. What are your aspiration and fear from the project?

## Annexure 6: Semi Structured Interview Scheduled for Key Informant Interview

#### **MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE**

Key Informant Interview on Land Acquisition for setting up of Facilitation Center- Entry and at				
Name:	Date:			
Part A: Land Owner details				

- 1. Name of Land owner:
- 2. Occupation of land owner:
- 3. Income status of land owner (annum)
- 4. Land size to be acquired:
- 5. Type of Land:
- 6. Usage of land:
- 7. Numbers of trees within proposed area:
- 8. Number of family member dependent on the land to be acquired:

#### Part B: About the project

- 1. Are you aware that the government has proposed to construct a Facilitation Centre- entry and exit point?
- 2. Have you been notified from the government that your land will be acquired from the setting up of Entry and Exit Point?
- 3. Do you want to give the land for the proposed Entry and exit point?
- 4. If yes, why do you want to give the land?
  - Or, what is lacking or the problem you faced from the land to be acquired?
- 5. If no, what are the factors that prevent you from wanting to give away the land?
  - a) How will the person's household be affected from the acquisition?
  - b) How will the person's economic income be affected from the land acquisition?
  - c) How many people are employed from the land to be acquired?
  - d) What is your relation with the people employed?
  - e) What is the income of the people employed from this land?
- 6. What are your aspiration and fear from the project?

## Annexure 7: Check List used for Reconnaissance Survey

## MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

## Interview schedule for the members of Village Authority/Village Council

Place:	Date:			
TOPIC FOR SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:				
Land acquisition of land for Entry and Exit Point and facilitation center at Khanduli.				
Part A: Profile of the Responden	nts			
1. Name :				
2. Age :				
3. Gender :				
4. Ednl.Qualification:				
5. Community :				
6. Designation :				
7. Time of service :				
Part B: Settlement Demographic	c Survey			
Distance of village to nearest u	rban area:			
Distance of village to the neare	est National Highway:			
Land use pattern				
Ar	rea Condition/change			
Village total area				
Agricultural area				
Forest area				
Barren area				
Homestead				
Community area				
1. Project details:				
Description	Details			
Type of investment				
Type of project				
Project area and location				

Project implementing agency	Central	
	State	

## 2. Assessment

## 2.1 Land Assessment

Description	Details
Location of the land required	
Total quantity of land	
required in acres	
Ownership of land	Government
	Private
	Others
Land utility or land use details	Commercial
in project area	Housing
	Agriculture
	Others
Determining the necessity for	
land acquisition	
Alternative, if any	
,	

## 2.2 Assessment of Structure (in numbers)

Description	Details (in numbers)	
Total number of structure that would be disturbed		
Type of structure	Pucca	
	Semi-pucca	
	Kuttcha	
Usage of structures	Residential	
	Commercial	
	Community	
	others	

## 2.3 Socio-economic Assessment

Description	Details		
Name and numbers of			
localities in the project area			
Type of localities	Urban		
	Rural		
Total population	Male		
	Female		
Total household			
Social groups	SC		
	ST		
	OBC		
	General		
Religion	Hindu		
	Muslim		
	Christian		
	Others		
Literacy rate	Male		
	Female		
Occupation details	Agri-labourer		
	Non-agrilabourer		
	Farmers		
	Business		
	Private service		
	Government service		
	Others		
Population of project			
affected families (PAFs)			
Vulnerable families among	SC		
PAFs	ST		
	Women headed household		
	Physically disabled		
	Aged		
Income details of the PAFs	BPL		
	APL		

## 2.4 Community Infrastructure/ public service

Sl.no	Institution	Number of Units	Condition (3A's- available, accessible, & affordable)
1.	Primary School	OTIIIS	decessible, & diffordable)
2.	Secondary School		
3.	Higher Education		
4.	Anganwadi center		
5.	Self help groups		
6.	Public Distribution Centre		
7.	Hospital		
8.	Public Health Centre		
9.	Community Hall		
10.	Library		
11.	Youth clubs		
12.	Traditional healers		
13.	Religious institution		
14.	Accessibility to PHE water		
15.	Accessibility to community well		
16.	Road (Black top and Kutcha)		
17.	Transportation		
18.	Community Forests		
19.	Cremation/burial ground		
20.	Playgrounds		

21.	Market	
22.	NGOs	
23.	Bank	
24.	Others	
	Total	