

Left with fish too small to sell in Cambodia's Mekong River Basin

The dam is constructed to contain water to generate electricity and is used when necessary. The dam has been used in various countries around the world including Thailand. However, the dam can cause damages to the local community and environment including less profit for the local community, the relocation of the local community, and deaths of freshwater animals.

The major cause of problems in the article is the Lower Sedan 2 which is a dam that has been built by Cambodian government officials and the Chinese state-owned power generation company. Local communities opposed building the dam at the beginning because they worried about their well-being and income while these two organizations still built it. It's a negative development followed by many problems.

Normally, people catch and sell fish to receive their income. They drink water from the groundwater. Moreover, they also grow rice, vegetables, fruits, and forest products for their food and sell. There are several problems of the Lower Sedan 2. The two main problems are forced immigration and the reduction of income. Firstly, thousands were forced to immigrate to the new place, causing well-being problems that led to three main sources being gone. When they were forced to leave their place, it's clear to see that many negative impacts affect their life. The soil in the new place is rocky and dry which makes it difficult to farm leading to a shortage of rice and the water is unsuitable for drinking. It means that they need to buy food and water for consumption which leads to an increase in their expenses. Secondly, the reduction of income came from the plummet in fishery and forest products because the food supply is the main revenue.

Moving to the Economy-Environment interactions, the natural resources that serve as inputs are water, land, and forest to generate the dam which is the Chinese's and Cambodia's infrastructure project. It's clear to see that this project improves the economy which creates air pollution, waste, and water pollution. To illustrate, the villages were submerged by the dam leading to reduce plants and lots of vegetation deaths that absorb carbon dioxide and methane which creates more air pollution.

The key insight from the Lower Sedan 2 is Government failure. Sometimes government intervention also contributes to environmental problems according to this article. The Chinese government intended to invest to create power not only to promote and spur the development of Chinese foreign policy interests globally but also to make Beijing look good to the world. Thus, the Cambodian government proceeds with the dam because the electricity in Cambodia is insufficient and unreliable. However, environmentalists and economists think that the country's geography is unsuitable for hydroelectric power which creates lots of negative environmental problems including emitting carbon dioxide and methane, fish migrating, and disrupting eco-systems. In my opinion, the Cambodian government should handle problems that come from infrastructure by developing a campaign to plant trees to absorb air pollution, providing new skills to produce an income, creating renewable energy that is suitable for the country's geography, and hiring the local communities to support their financial. These solutions can improve environmental problems.

To sum up, the cooperation between Chinese state-owned power generation and the Cambodian government intends to build the dam to produce electricity in order to promote economic expansion. On the other hand, there are various problems that affect the local communities including the reduction of income, migration of the local communities and fishes, pollution, and food supply. The Lower Sedan 2 is a government failure since it exacerbates problems in the local communities and worsens environmental issues.

