

A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF RAJAGIRIYA FLYOVER ON NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

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Industrial development and expansion of businesses to the districts might have caused such traffic congestion along with enhancement of affordability for use of private vehicles. Therefore, the traffic congestion has increased due to lack of proper and efficient traffic management systems. At present, the road junction in Rajagiriya is experiencing traffic congestion during the daytime. The main objective of this study was to identify the impact of Rajagiriya flyover on neighboring communities. Hence to achieve the target, 50 commuters, 25 traders, both permanent and mobile, surrounding the flyover and 25 householders were selected through purposive sampling method. Focus-group discussion and questionnaire surveying (2019.05.18 - 2019.12.18, inclusive of weekends excluding Poya Days) techniques were used to collect primary data from the surroundings of the Rajagiriya junction, while other secondary data sources were traffic data and land use data. Descriptive statistics including percentage and mean score measures were used to analyze the data, and Inferential Statistic Methods such as Paired Two sample for Means was used to identify the peak time. The study identified that there was heavy traffic congestion along the Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha in the morning peak time between 07:30 - 09:00 h and in the evening between 16:30 - 19:45 h. Majority of the sample was daily routers. Half of fixed merchant's sample had mentioned that the construction of flyover as an existing issue. Also, all fixed merchants undertook business in pre-construction period of flyover and after. The present study found that the number of vehicles is higher than earlier after the construction of flyover. For that reason, the traffic congestion had also increased. Moreover, the results of the present study demonstrated that the construction of the flyover is a failure due to insufficient feasibility study.

Keywords: Commuters, Flyover, Peak Time, Roundabout, Traffic Congestion