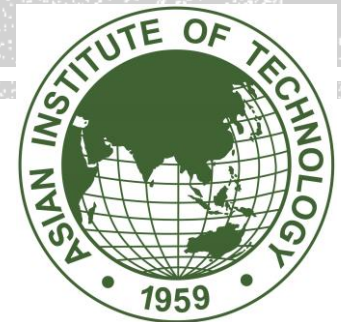


POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF RURAL CONNECTIVITY: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE IMPACTS OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

Expert group meeting on Enhancing Rural Transport Connectivity to
Regional and International Transport Networks

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POSITIVE EFFECTS EXPECTED FOR WOMEN/GIRLS THROUGH RURAL TRANSPORT PROJECTS

- Girls' education
- Access to health services and decrease in maternal mortality
- Access to information and training
- Opportunity for social visits and strengthening their social capital
- Alleviating workload and time burden
- Opportunities for income-generating activities



THESE POSITIVE EFFECTS ARE EXPECTED THROUGH

- Proximity to road
- Shortened travel distance to market/hospital
- Shortened travel time through better road
- To achieve the positive effects, these conditions are helpful. But are necessary conditions? Are these sufficient conditions?





Transport development is a mean and not an end in itself.

If it does not lead to development outcomes such as poverty alleviation and decrease in inequality/ disparity, the task is not yet finished

ROAD CAN MAKE WOMEN LESS MOBILE

- Moving away from road (because of increase in land price and land grab)
- Women do not use road since they do not ride motorbikes → become more stationary
- Women become stationary
 - Increase in men's migration
 - Increased traffic leads to decrease in women's mobility → women become stationary because they need to look after children and animals



ROAD CAN MAKE WOMEN (AND MEN) MORE VULNERABLE

- Road development leading to tourism
- Increase in migration + trafficking
- Asian highways and the creation of source of cheap labour
- Road → wipe out women's small business
- Road development and exposure to other ethnic groups



WOMEN ARE NOT ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ROAD

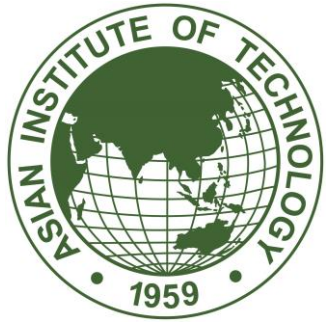
- Road + health center → but not used, because health center is not functioning
- Road → cost of transportation high → still girls do not go to school
- Three villages in Laos next to each other along the same highway, but with different development outcomes



WHAT WE LEARN FROM HERE



- Need for “road +” development
- Need to make sure that
 - Policies to protect indigenous people/ rural poor people’s land rights are secured
 - Gender norms and roles are challenged and made flexible
 - Health and education services are functional and affordable
 - Transport services are offered.
 - Women and men have prepared to be engaged in business (with access to knowledge, information and skills).
 - Better information on safe migration.



THANK YOU

