

EMERGING CONFLICTS IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: ISSUES OF ASKAI MASCOT AND OWNERSHIP OF A LANDFILL SITE

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Abstract

A study was carried out to assess the emerging issues generating conflicts during the implementation of development projects such as solid waste management and disposal facilities. The first issue discussed in this paper is related to a mascot designed to advocate waste management campaign. During months of July and August 2004, everyday some news related to mascot was published in the newspapers in Nepal. Everyone seemed concerned about the issue. In order to provide awareness on Solid Waste Management (SWM) to the communities in Kathmandu Valley, the Clean Kathmandu Valley (CKV) Study team introduced the Askai mascot through a public exhibition. However, after second week of exhibition, the hoarding boards and paintings of mascot were removed all of a sudden and the related activities were suspended. The reason being the protest from Kathmandu Committee of Jyapu Mahaguthi, a traditional community based organization (CBO). The issue was settled down after the redesign of the mascot in which a few sensitive elements were modified. The other issue discussed in this paper is related to the ownership of reclaimed land for the landfill purpose. A sanitary landfill to receive the solid wastes from Kathmandu Valley has been proposed in Banchare Danda of Okharpauwa VDC in Nuwakot District. The landfill site will be reclaimed after the oxbow shaped river will be directly connected shortening its flow path. The river course has been considered as the boundary between two political areas in Nepal. This has resulted a conflict between the two districts claiming the land ownership of the reclaimed land in the landfill site. This issue is yet to be resolved as the Land Acquisition Act, 2034 (1977) does not clarify the ownership of reclaimed land after river gets artificially diverted.

Keywords: *Solid waste management, development projects, mascot, Sanitary Landfill, Kathmandu Valley*