

Lanka Forum on Rural Transport Development



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**Economic, Social, and Environmental Evaluation of
Community Bus Services,
Kosgala Village, Ratnapura, Sri Lanka**

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Introduction

LFRTD was instrumental in introducing a novel concept to address the rural transport needs. Thus a community managed bus service was initiated 10 years ago in a remote village located 100 KMs away from the centre

An evaluation was independently conducted by the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)10 years after the community bus was introduced

The objectives of the evaluation

- To assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of the project on the community
- To assess the management of the project by the community
- To learn lessons for replicability

Methodology (Methods and tools)

CEPA used primary and secondary data indicated below for the study.

Secondary data

- Project documents
- Financial documents
- Past evaluation reports
- Available raw data

Primary Data

- Key informant interviews
- Focus Groups Discussions
- Household interviews
- Vehicle operator interviews
- Observations

Findings of the Evaluation

- The enthusiasm and leadership qualities displayed by the community at the commencement was weaning over time.
- The distinction between other public transport services and the community bus service was very obvious (Ape bus eka- Our bus).
- Buddhist priest was allowed free transport and fares for school children was not
- The success of this community bus service as opposed to a privately owned bus is that they are able to balance both the quality of the service while sustaining its profitability

The impact of the intervention

- **Education**

Children of all communities attend the primary school located within the community and attend schools in the town for secondary education .

- **Health**

- The community accesses Ratnapura for their health needs. using the community bus to visit patients at mid-day as well as during afternoon visiting hours.

- **Generation of Economic activity within the community**

Ensuring the maintenance and long term sustainability

- The expenditure related to bus maintenance and the company is borne from the income received through the community bus service.
- Leadership qualities , the skills and knowledge required for undertaking what can be termed as a business venture

Thank You