

**The Report of the Fieldwork carried out in the Villages that
will Be Affected by the Ilisu Dam in Bismil, Diyarbakir**

Prepared by: Immigrants' Association for Social Cooperation and Culture
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Survey aimed to explore the views of the people who are going to be fully or partly affected by the Ilisu Dam

Survey Area: Villages in the province of Diyarbakır and the district of Bismil:

Sinan, Tepe, Salât, Çöltepe, Bozçalı, Aygeçti, Arıkgöl, Yapraklı, Şahintepe, Yeniköy, Yeniköy Diktepe Mezrası, Aşağı Sazlık, Yukarı Sazlık, İsalı, İsalı İbrahim Mezrası, Sarıköy, Aşağı Sarıköy, Yukarı Sarıköy, Çöltepe Yukarıcırif Mezrası, Kenan, Kurudere, Köprü, Merdan, Ağıl, Ağıl Pınarbaşı Mezrası, Aluç, Karacık Mezrası, Kınık Mezrası, Kışlak Mezrası, Aygeçti Tılşami Mezrası

Survey date : January-February 2006

The number of families interviewed: 614

Analyst and commentator: Sociologist- Specialist of Guidance and Survey **Arslan Özdemir** and archeologist **Necla Akkaya** (also fieldwork researcher)

Preliminary Draft of the Ideas Underlying Goc-Der's Ilisu Dam Project

This research aims to find out the affected persons' knowledge level and views about the Ilisu Dam Project. More specifically, it aims to explore what the local people whose residential areas will be partly or fully submerged under water know and think about the Ilisu Dam Project through a fieldwork in the affected settlements located in the district of Bismil, Diyarbakir. We also aim to discuss the negative consequences of the dam project with the local people, and to inform them about the impacts of displacement on the individuals and the society on the basis of the previously prepared reports on resettlement.

It is known through the past experiences that people who are going to be affected partly or fully by the dam are not well informed about the content and consequences of the dam projects. Among the reasons for such lack of communication and/or knowledge are the economic and educational underdevelopment and the social structure dominated by feudal relations in the region. However, the fact that the relevant authorities have not also directly informed the affected villagers about the impacts of the dam can be regarded as the most important reason.

Local people who will be affected by the dam are dependent on land for subsistence, and they suffer from adverse socio-economic living conditions. Although land is the main source of income in these areas; due to the existing feudal social structure, issues relating to land tenure are fairly complicated and the distribution of the land, mainly determined by landlordism (*toprak ağalığı*), is extremely uneven in the region. As a result, most of the affected villagers, who are already small land owners or own no land at all, work as seasonal agricultural labourers for the landlords or other big landholders for subsistence. While big landholders, some of whom do not even live in the villages, are in support of the Ilisu Dam, villagers are mostly undecided.

Our main reason for doing this fieldwork is the information we received on villagers' lack of knowledge about the Ilisu Dam project, and the fact that they were not even interviewed by an official authority about the Ilisu Dam. State Water Works, the project owner, has so far conducted only a very limited survey, which mainly aimed to determine the expropriation rates rather than share and discuss the impacts of the dam with the locally affected persons.

The studies we have done so far, also in relation to other dam projects, have shown us that affected persons have very limited knowledge about their rights, if they do at all. These people also do neither seek their rights to be informed nor know that they have such a legal right in the first place.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURVEY RESULTS

1- Role of the interviewed person in the family

[1] Mother % 42

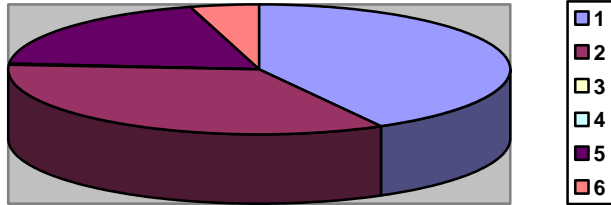
[2] Father % 34

[3] Grandfather % 0,16

[4] Grandmother % 0,3

[5] Child % 19

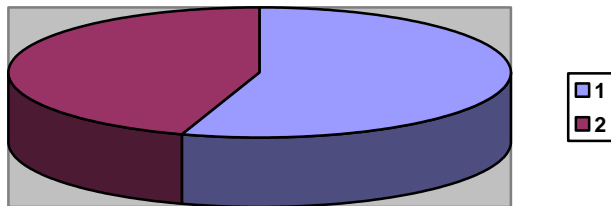
[6] Other % 4,54



2- Sex of the the interviewed person

[1] Female % 55

[2] Male % 45



3- Age of the interviewed person

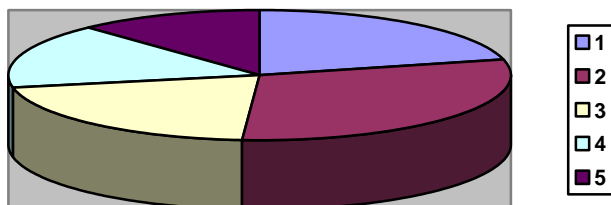
[1] between 18–25 % 21

[2] between 26–35 % 30

[3] between 36–45 % 21

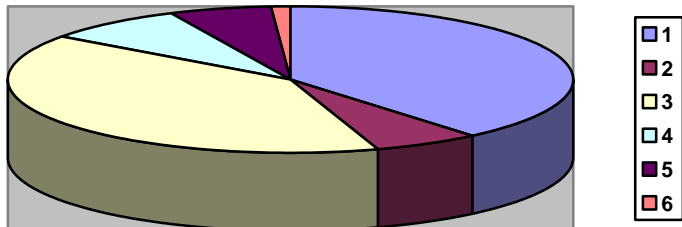
[4] between 46–55 % 16

[5] 56 or more % 12



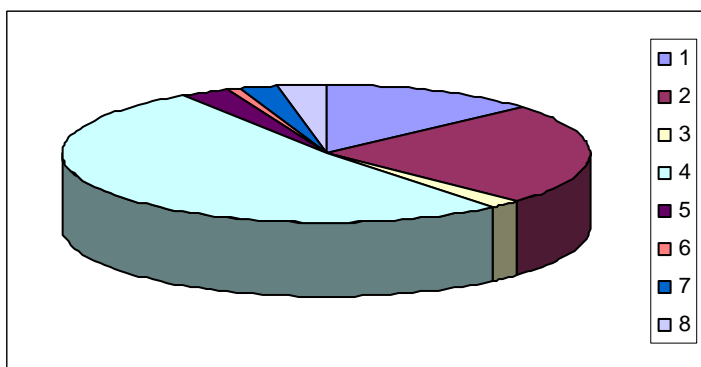
4- Education level of the interviewed person

[1] Illiterate % 39 [2] Literate without any formal education % 6 [1] Elementary school % 40
 [4] Middle school % 8 [5] Highschool % 6 [6] University % 1



5- Occupation of the interviewed person

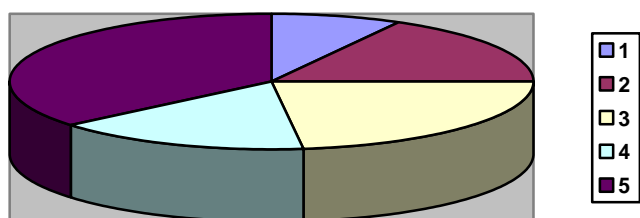
[1] Wageworker % 13 [2] Farmer % 26 [3] Shopkeeper-craftsman% 2
 [4] Family worker without income % 50 [5] Unemployed % 3 [6] Student % 1
 [7] Free worker % 2 [8] Other % 3



6- What is the number of the people living in your household?

A-Woman:

[1] 1 person % 8 [2] 2 person % 17 [3] 3 person % 23
 [4] 4 person % 16 [5] 5 and more persons % 36



B-Man:

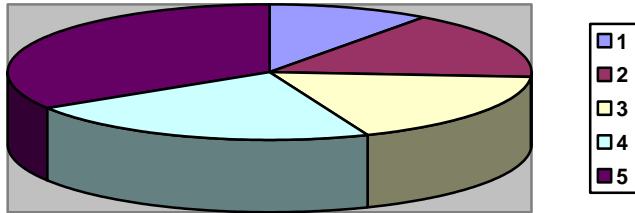
[1] 1 person % 10

[2] 2 person % 16

[3] 3 person % 18

[4] 4 person % 22

[5] 5 and more persons % 34

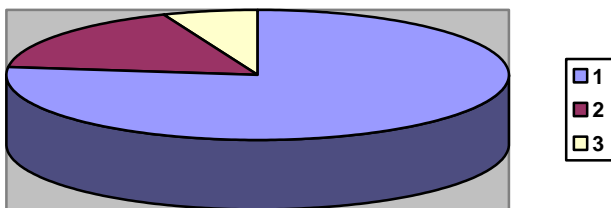


7- How many couples live in the household?

[1] 1 couple % 77

[2] 2 couples % 17

[3] 3 and more couples % 6



8- What is the number of students in your family?

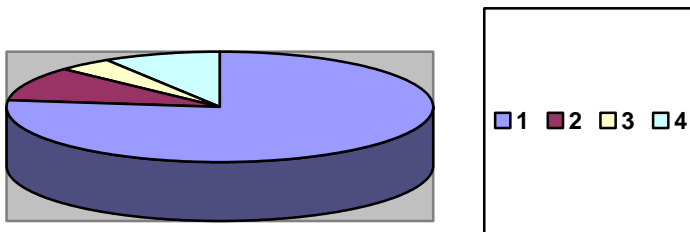
A- Female

[1] Elementary school % 77

[2] High school % 10

[3] University % 4

[4] Not received any formal education % 9



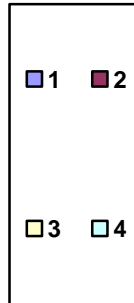
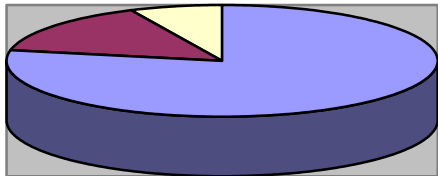
B- Male

[1] Elementary school % 78

[2] High school % 15

[3] University % 7

[4] Not received any formal education % 0



9- What is the average income of the family?

[1] 500–600 YTL % 0,9

[2] 601–800 YTL % 0,1

[3] 801–1000 YTL % 3,5

[4] 1001–1500 YTL % 12,5

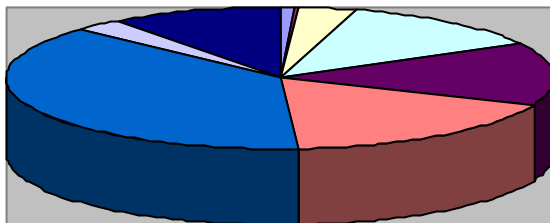
[5] 1501–2000 YTL % 14

[6] 2001–3000 YTL % 18

[7] 3001–4000 YTL % 38

[8] Without any income % 3

[9] Other % 10



10- What is the number of the animals you own?

A- Sheep or goat:

[1] between 1–20 % 14

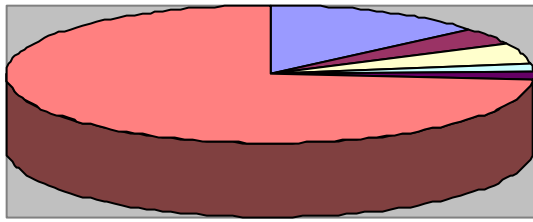
[2] between 21–40 % 4

[3] between 41–80 % 5

[4] between 81–100 % 2

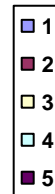
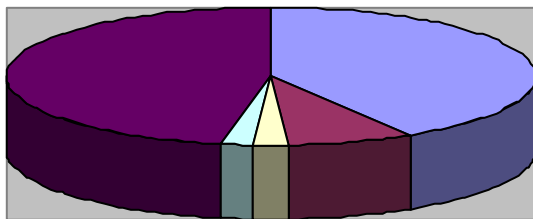
[5] 100 and more % 2

[6] None % 75



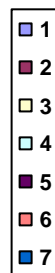
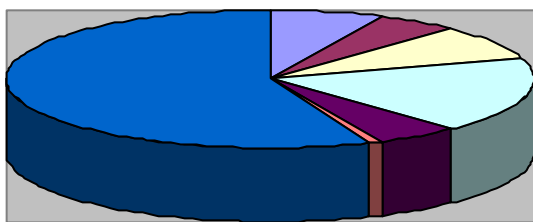
B- Cattle:

- [1] between 1–5 % 41 [2] between 6–10 % 8 [3] between 11–15 % 2
 [4] 15 and more % 2 [5] None % 47



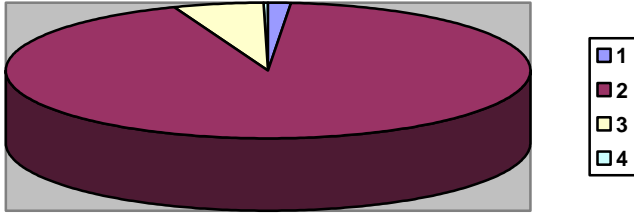
11- How many hectares of land does your family own?

- [1] between 10–30 % 7 [2] between 31–50 % 5 [3] between 51–100 % 8
 [4] between 101–1000 % 18 [5] 1001 and more % 5 [6] Details unknown % 1
 [7] None % 56



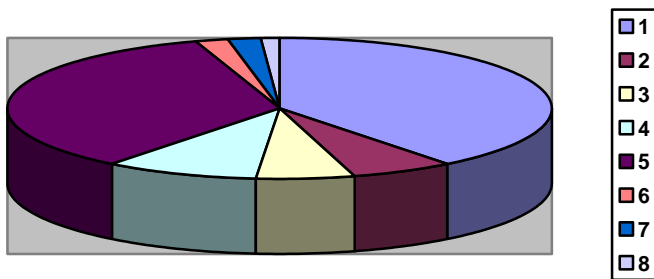
12- How do you use your land? (asked to the person with land)

- [1] Not in use % 1,3 [2] Farming % 93 [3] Gardening % 5,5
 [4] Not known % 0,2



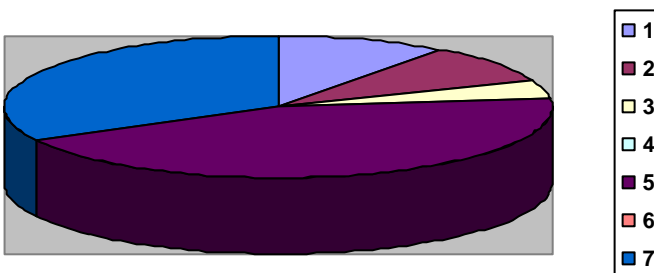
13- How do you earn a living?

- [1] Agricultural Farmer % 39 [2] Farming and animal husbandry % 6
- [3] Animal husbandry % 6 [4] Trade % 9 [5] Agricultural worker %
- [6] On pension income %2 [7] Unemployed % 2 [8] Other % 1



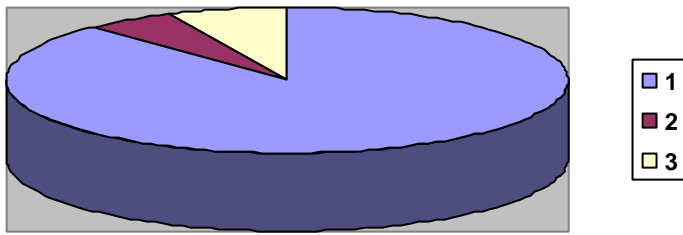
14- Do you have social insurance?

- [1] SSK % 10 [2] Bag-Kur % 9 [3] Pension budget % 4
- [4] Private Insurance % 0,1 [5] Green card % 44 [6] None % 32,9



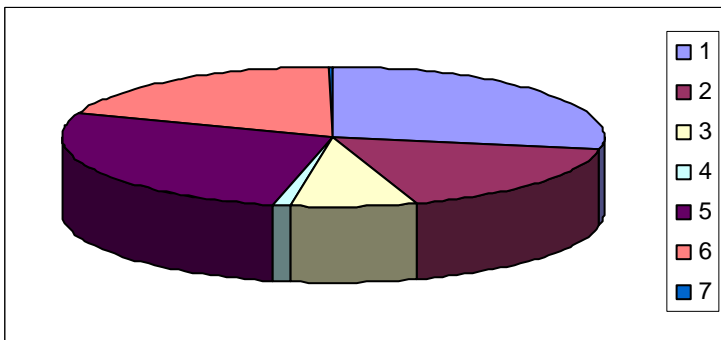
15- Who owns the house in which you live?

- [1] My house % 88 [2] I am a tenant % 5
- [3] Not mine, but I do not pay rent % 7



16- Appliances in the household:

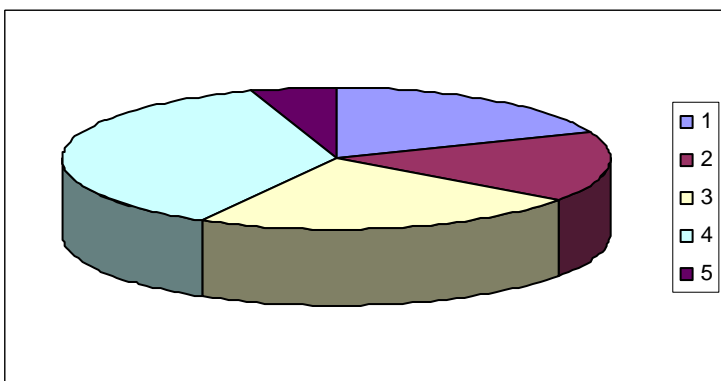
- [1] TV % 97 [2] Radio % 58 [3] VCD % 26
- [4] Computer % 4 [5] Kitchen cupboard % 93 [6] Washing machine % 66
- [7] None % 1



17- How often do you go to the city in a month?

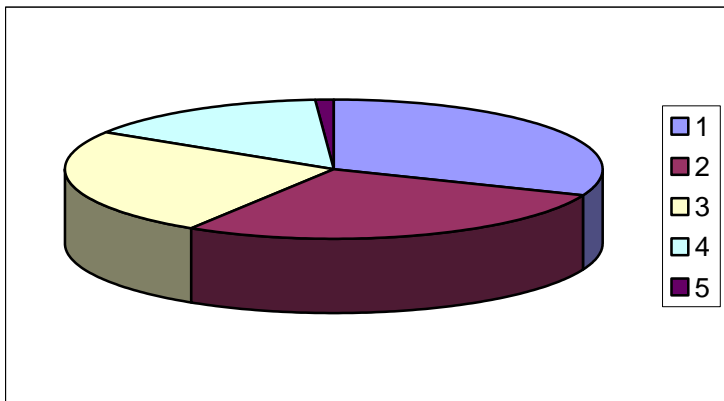
Women:

- [1] Very often % 19 [2] Every week % 16 [3] One time per month % 23
- [4] Seldom % 37 [5] Never % 5



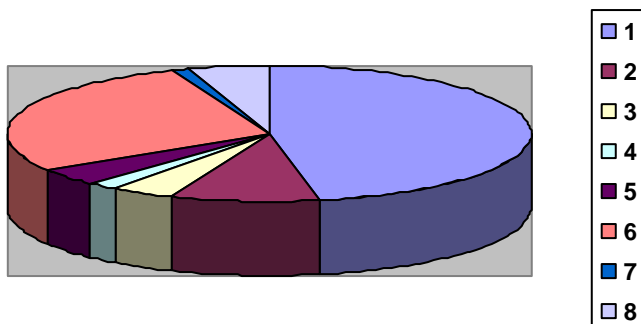
Men:

- [1] Very frequently % 31
- [2] Every week % 28
- [3] Once a month % 25
- [4] Seldom % 15
- [5] Never % 1



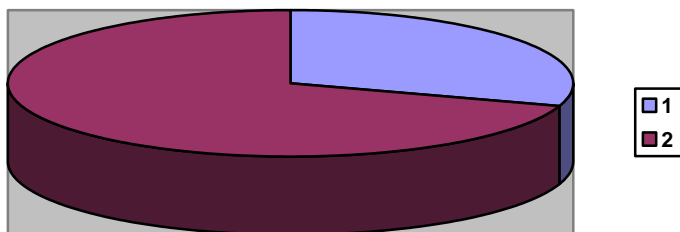
18- Why do you go to the city?

- [1] Buying needs % 47
- [2] Visiting relatives and friends % 9
- [3] Trade (animal, selling produce) % 4
- [4] Travelling and Touring % 2
- [5] Education % 4
- [6] Health % 28
- [7] Never go to cities % 1
- [8] Other % 5



19- Has any of your family members migrated to another settlement before?

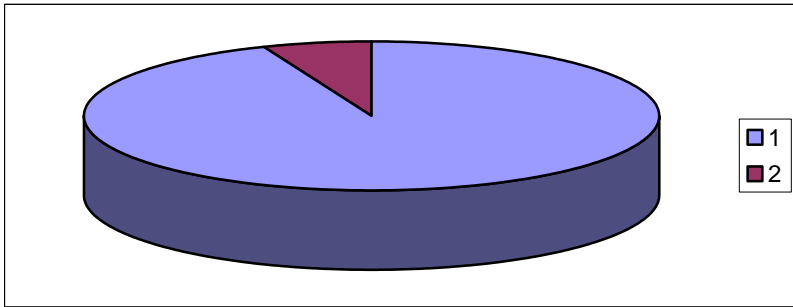
- [1] Yes % 30
- [2] No % 70



20- What was the main reason for their migration?

[1] Voluntary (social, economic, educational, health reasons) % 94

[2] I had to/forced migration/displacement (political reasons, arrests etc.) % 6

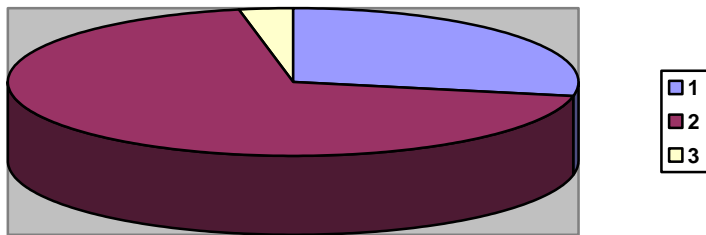


21- Have you ever wanted to migrate to another place at any point in your life?

[1] Yes, but I did not % 28

[2] No % 69

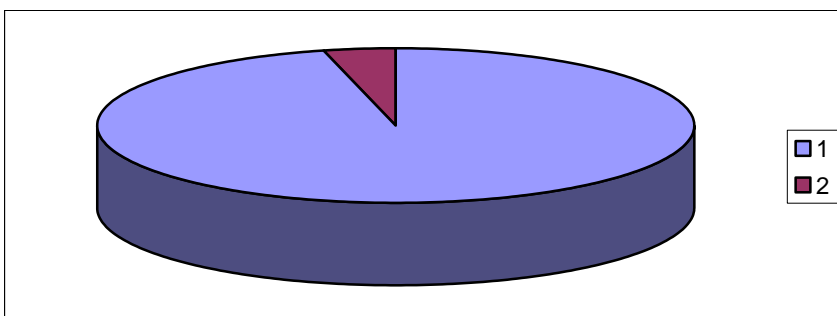
[3] Yes, I also made an attempt, but returned back to village % 3



22- Why did you want to migrate? (asked to persons who said yes to the question no. 22)

[1] Voluntary (social, economic, educational, health) % 96

[2] I had to/forced migration/displacement (political reasons, arrests etc.) % 4



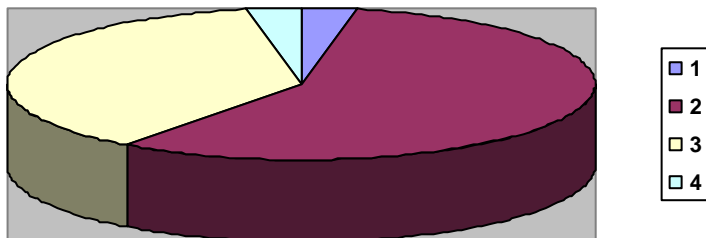
23- Why you did you never think of migrating to another place? (asked to persons who no yes to the question no. 22)

[1] I thought I would have problems adapting to a new place % 3

[2] I did not want leave my land/place and homeland % 57

[3] Economic reasons % 37

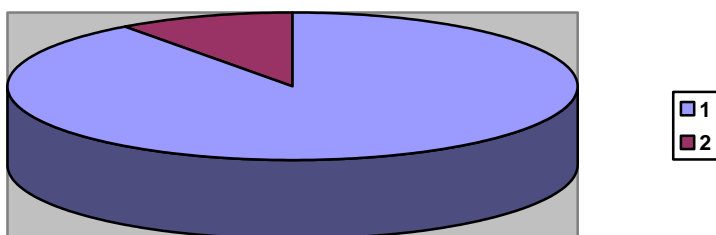
[4] Other % 3



24- Why did you think it would be hard for you to adapt? (asked to persons who said “Yes, I also made an attempt, but returned back to village % 3” to the question no. 22)

[1] Economic and social reasons % 90

[2] Did not want to but had to return % 10



25- Where did you get the information that your village or land would be flooded by the Ilisu dam?

[1] Press-media % 28

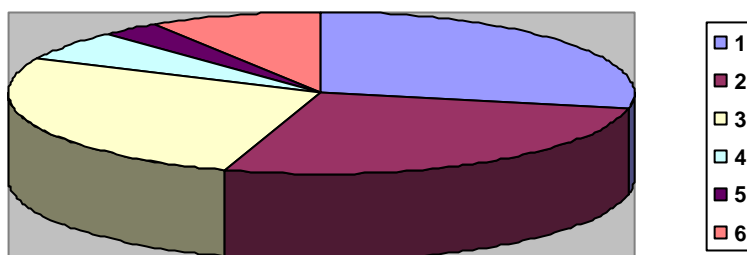
[2] Statements of officials % 27

[3] People in the village % 27

[4] Non governmental organisations % 6

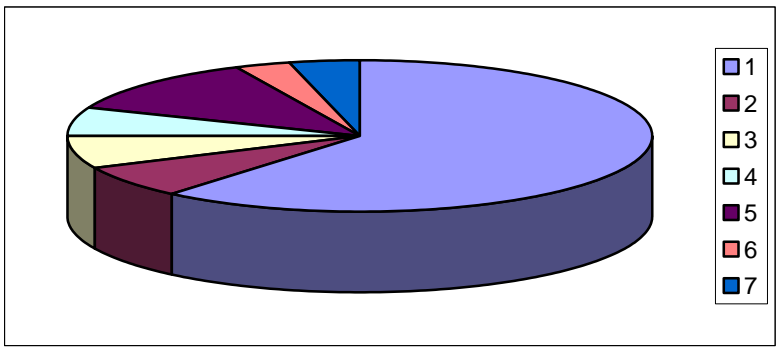
[5] I have no information that the dam will be built % 3

[6] Questionnaire (Encon/DSI) % 9



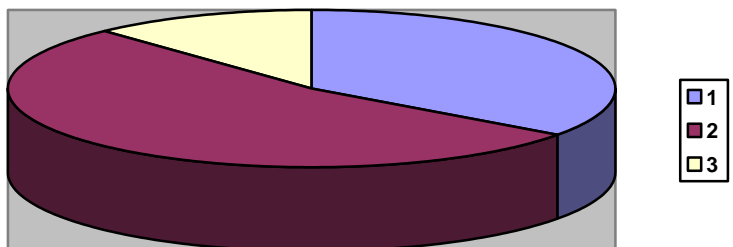
26- What first comes to your mind about Ilisu Dam?

- [1] To be left without a home/place and homeland % 61
- [2] Destruction of historical and cultural heritage % 7
- [3] Getting more money for the land than the actual value % 7
- [4] Development of the region, doing help % 6
- [5] Involuntary resettlement and destruction of historical and cultural heritage % 12
- [6] No idea % 3
- [7] Other % 4



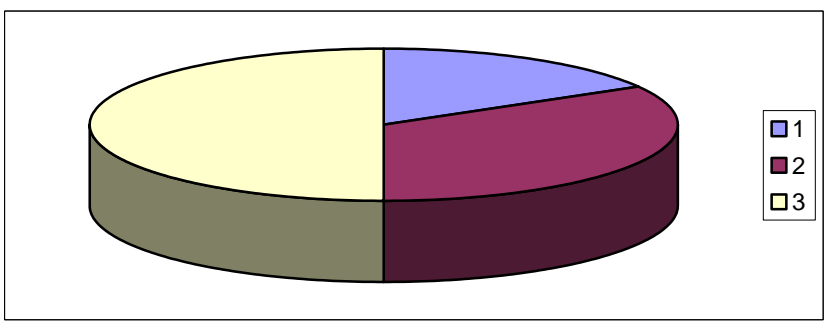
27- Did you ever discuss the dam issue with other villagers?

- [1] Yes % 35
- [2] No % 53
- [3] Partly % 12



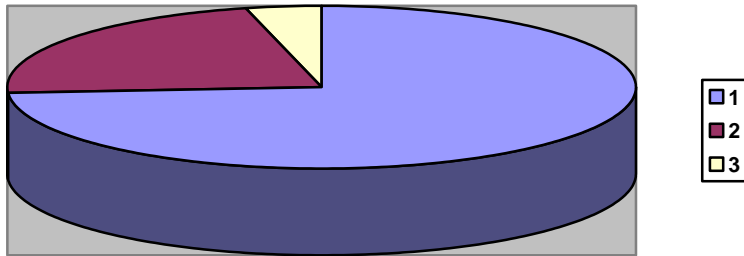
28- What was the general opinion about the dam? (asked to person who said yes to question no. 28)

- [1] Considering the dam positively % 21
- [2] Considering the dam negatively % 33
- [3] Partly positively and partly negatively % 46



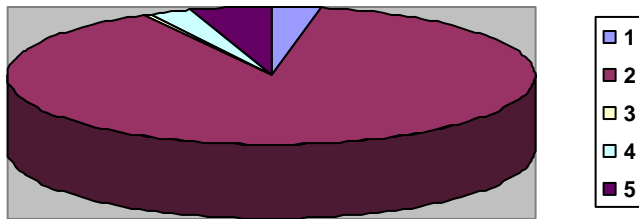
29- Did anyone get in contact with you about the construction of the dam and the expected resettlement?

[1] Yes % 74 [2] No % 22 [3] No idea % 4



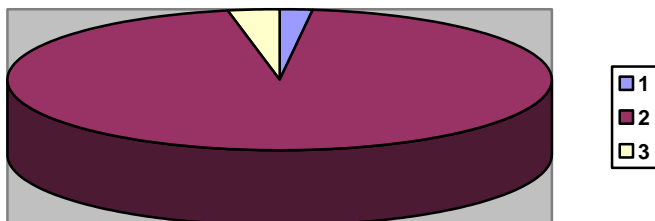
30- Who got in contact with you about the dam construction and resettlement? (asked to persons who said yes to the question no. 30)

[1] State Water Works % 3 [2] Encon % 89 [3] Governor/district officials % 0,4
[4] The dam construction companies % 2,6 [5] Other % 5



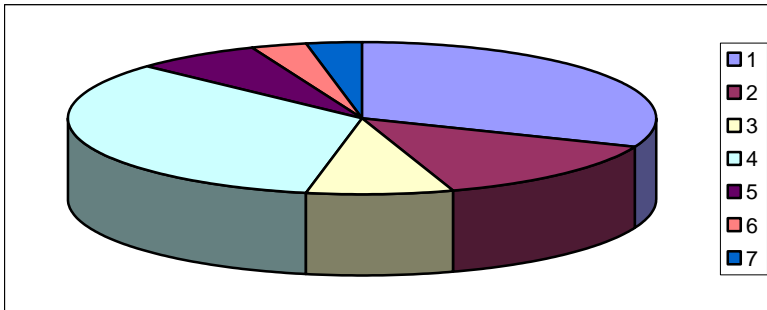
31- When did they get in touch with you? (asked to persons who said yes to the question no. 30)

[1] 2004 % 2 [2] 2005 % 95 [3] Other % 3



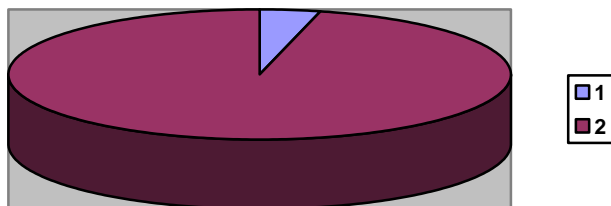
32- What were you told concerning the Ilisu dam?

- [1] More money for the house and land than the real value % 31
- [2] New village will be founded % 14
- [3] It was only said that we have to migrate % 8
- [4] A questionnaire was done % 34
- [5] Consultation with the family head % 7
- [6] Our demands were asked % 3
- [7] Other % 3



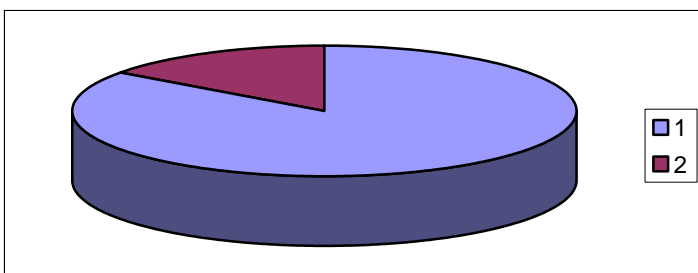
33- Was there any statement that you will be included to the planning process of Ilisu project?

- [1] Yes % 4
- [2] No % 96



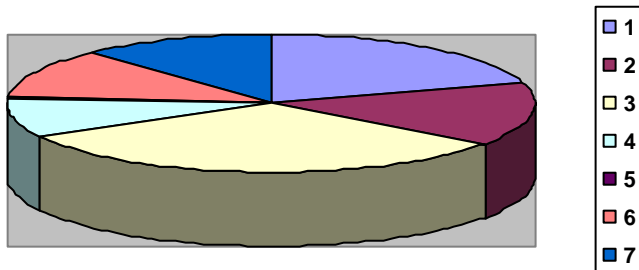
34- Was it mentioned how you would be included in the process? (asked to the persons who said yes to the question no. 34)

- [1] I will get a job % 85
- [2] Nothing was said % 15



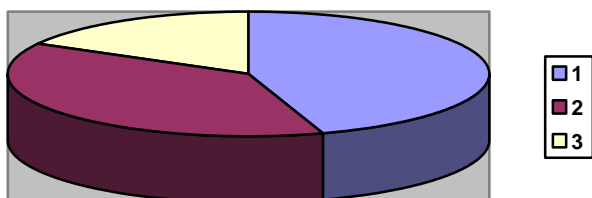
35- Where do you want to be resettled in case that the Ilisu dam is built?

- [1] To other villages % 20
- [2] To the next district centre % 15
- [3] To a nearby province % 32
- [4] To the big metropol in the West % 9
- [5] To abroad % 0,6
- [6] Not sure yet % 11,4
- [7] Will not leave the village % 12



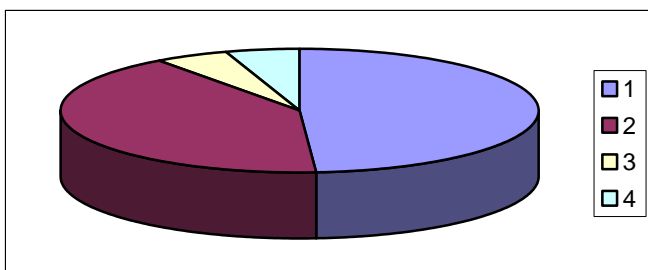
36- Do you have information about the daily life in the city? (asked to persons who want to migrate to the cities)

- [1] Yes % 45
- [2] No % 38
- [3] Partly % 17



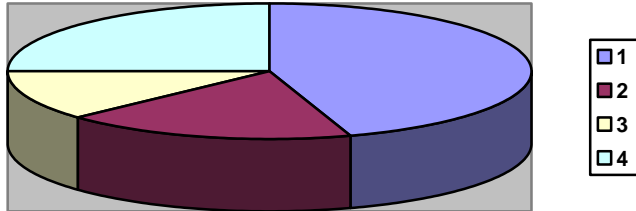
37- How do you think about the life at the city? (asked to the persons who want to migrate to the cities)

- [1] Positively % 49
- [2] Negatively % 41
- [3] Positively and negatively % 5
- [4] No idea % 5



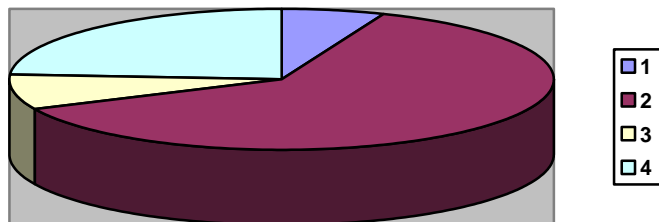
41- How many other family members can potentially work? (asked to persons who said yes to the question no. 41)

- [1] 1 person % 45
- [2] 2 person % 18
- [3] 3 person % 12
- [4] 4 and more persons % 25



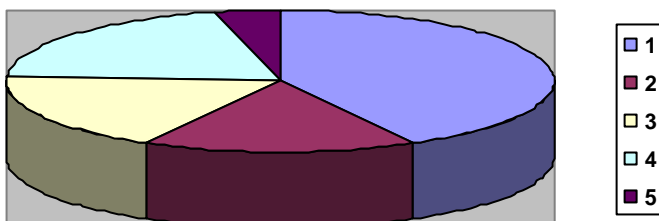
42- Do you think that the expropriation rates will be enough for you?

- [1] Yes % 6
- [2] No % 62
- [3] Partly % 8
- [4] No idea % 24



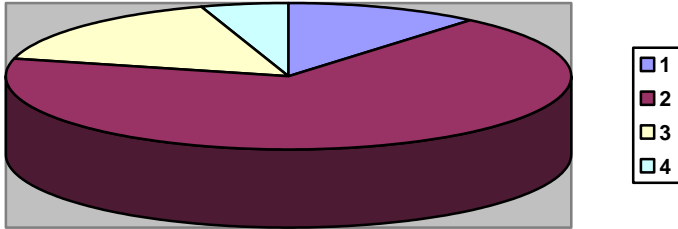
43- What is the first thing you want to do once you are paid the expropriation rates?

- [1] Buy an estate % 42
- [2] Establish a business/shop % 16
- [3] Buy an estate and establish a business % 18
- [4] No idea % 20
- [5] Other % 4



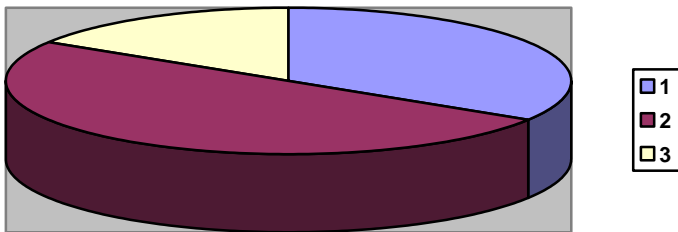
44- How do you think about the dam and the consequent resettlement?

- [1] Positively % 11
- [2] Negatively % 68
- [3] Partly positively and partly negatively % 16
- [4] No idea % 5



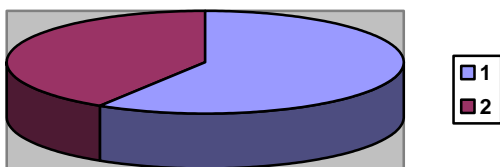
45- Do you have knowledge about the positive and negative impacts of the dam?

- [1] Yes % 34
- [2] No % 50
- [3] Partly % 16



46- How would the construction of the dam affect your lives? (asked to the persons who said yes to the question no. 46)

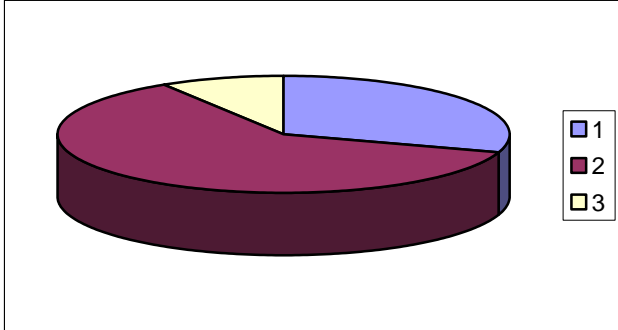
- [1] Positively % 40
- [2] Negatively % 60



47- Do you want the Ilisu dam to be built?

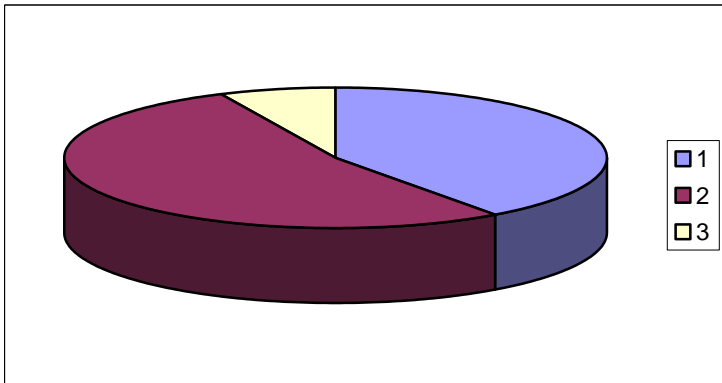
Women:

[1] Yes % 30 [2] No % 61 [3] No idea % 9



Erkekler için:

[1] Yes % 40 [2] No % 53 [3] No idea % 7



Fieldwork Researcher's Preliminary Report on the Survey

This report includes a brief summary and an analysis of the figures in the survey, and the fieldwork researcher's general observations at the fieldwork site.

Education level attained is very low in the villages. 39 % of the villagers are illiterate. While women have higher average education levels than men, only 40 % of all villagers finished primary school. Thus, access to education poses a serious problem for the region. This is an issue that should be urgently attended by the relevant state authorities and NGOs.

Numbers of men and women living in the same household show that households are mostly crowded. Once displaced, crowded families suffer from more intense economic and social problems in the destination of resettlement. This will further intensify the existing difficult socio-economic living conditions in the probable urban destinations of resettlement (a majority of 32 % noted that they wanted to resettle in a nearby city center), which already suffer from previous huge waves of rural migration and resettlement, like Diyarbakir.

While 56 % of the villagers do not own any land, 5 % of all villagers are big landholders who own larger than 100 hectares of land. It should be noted that according to the Ilisu RAP those without title deeds won't be able to receive any expropriation. Thus this 56% won't be able to receive any compensation once they are displaced.

85 % of the families depend on agriculture and/or animal husbandry for subsistence, and 40 percent of the families engaged in agriculture are seasonal agricultural labourers. These agricultural workers form the group that will be affected most from the displacement, as they will immediately lose their only means and skills of living while they will also receive no compensation. Meanwhile, agricultural farmers, who make up 45% of the families engaged in agriculture, also noted that they are struggling with poverty. According to their own statements, these farmers are mostly in debt to the banks or to money brokers and cannot make any profit due to the recent agricultural policies adversely affecting them. On the other hand, landholders who at the same time work for the state will also be excluded from expropriation rights.

Land tenure rights pose an extremely complicated and difficult issue in the region. Apart from the issue of landlordism, it is seen that many families also informally share land use rights, although legally the title deed may be under the name of only one of the family members. Currently, there

exist blood feud cases that are underlined by similar land tenure and ownership issues in the region. It is suspected that processes of displacement and of the distribution of the expropriation rates will result in similar blood feud issues in the region.

Frequency of the access to city can be taken as an indicator of the level of access to social activities and services. It is seen that women in these villages have more restricted access to the city than men, and thus they are more isolated from the everyday urban life and services. This social isolation is immediately implicated in the lives of the women in the region. In the light of the failure of the public campaigns against the widespread polygamy in the region, it can be argued that this social isolation can also be among the factors adversely affecting their capacity and ability to make decisions regarding their own lives. Research has shown that displaced women and children also pose a group at high risk of social isolation and poverty at the urban destinations of resettlement. Social relations dominated by the feudal family structure and their distance away from economic production continue underlying their everyday lives at the city centers. Rather, simultaneously cut off from their familiar everyday social relations and environs, and economic relations (due to their lack of skills), the displaced women at the city centers suffer from a more severe form of social isolation amidst city centers, also commonly associated with related psychological and physical health problems. Thus, these women's current social isolation poses a serious problem that should be taken into account as regards a probable displacement.

Women are against the construction of the dam with rates higher than for the men (% 61 vs. % 53). However, while women were aware of the surveys being conducted in their villages, they also noted that they were not the ones that were spoken to, that were taken as addressees, but their husbands. For example, in Bozçalı village, surveys and informatory sessions were conducted at the village's coffeehouse, which is solely attended by the men. Thus, it can be argued that, methodologically, the survey sample was underlined by a male-dominant, sexist approach that ignored women's right to take part and have a voice in the decision making process of an issue known to affect their lives most.

Ilisu Dam has created mixed expectations in villagers. 50 % of the villagers did not have any idea about either positive or negative effects of the dam. When asked about the first thoughts that came to their minds about the Ilisu Dam, 57 % percent responded saying displacement, or rather 'to be left without a home/place and homeland' in their own words. 68 % identified displacement as a negative effect of the construction of the dam. 69 % percent has noted that they never wanted to migrate to another place at any point in their life. At the same time, 31 % thought that the survey was conducted

to let them know that the state would give them higher rates than the actual for their land and houses. It should be noted that when the Encon surveyor asked the amount of the money they expected to receive for their house or land from the state, most of the villagers thought that the amount they told in response would be the expropriation rate the state would give them in the end. On the other hand, due to the nature of the questions in Encon's survey, 85 % also thought that they would automatically be employed as workers during the construction of the dam.

It is also striking that the villagers did not have a specific plan about how to make a living in the destinations of resettlement. 32 % percent thought they would work without income in the family, in the form of a family business very similar to their socio-economic lives at the villages. 20 % thought they would be wage workers at another business establishment, without qualifying a sector. While only 10 % percent implied that they would engage in trade (most probably in a business establishment of their own), indeed 76 % had wanted to buy an estate and/or establish a business with the money they would receive through expropriation. On the other hand, another 20 % had no idea about how to invest the money at all, while 62 % of the interviewees already thought that they would not be paid proper and fair expropriation rates in the first place. Thus, they had very basic, limited and contradictory ideas about the expropriation rates, how to invest the money and/or make a living in the destinations of resettlement. It is clear that the villagers were not informed well about the expropriation rates and/or the social conditions they would be faced with after the displacement. Their choices or means of living at the destinations of resettlement were not discussed with them in a participatory framework. Given that a majority wants to resettle in an urban destination, there needs to be developed a strategic plan about the lives of the displaced persons, who lack the necessary educational and business skills and life experience that is necessary for them to integrate into the existing competitive economic networks in a city. However, even if proper expropriation rates were paid, this would still not be enough for them to develop a sustainable socio-economic life, as was the case with the previously displaced.

Within this context, it is significant that Encon's survey was primarily perceived by the villagers as the state informing them about the money they would receive or about the immediate job opportunities, but not as a platform to express their thoughts about or discuss the effects of the dam. 74 % percent noted that they were contacted about the issue by an authority before. However, during the survey, although 89 % identified Encon (the research company) as the institution who contacted them, they associated Encon with a state authority, describing Encon as 'one of those that come from the state, a company'. Construction of the dam was not perceived by the villagers as an issue that they had a say on, should discuss among themselves, or an issue about which they had rights to seek

or defend. When asked if the villagers discussed the dam among themselves, it was seen that 53 % did not at all, while 12 % partly discussed. Rather, construction of the dam was regarded as an inescapable process that was already decided and finished at the top, that is at the state level, as an issue that was not open for discussion or negotiation. It should be highlighted that Encon also never directly asked the villagers whether or not they wanted the dam to be built.

As a result, it can be said that Encon's survey in the villages cannot qualify as a form of 'public participation process' by which relevant stakeholders 'engage in an open dialogue, establish partnerships, share information and otherwise interact to design, implement and evaluate development policies, projects and programs' (URAP, p. 27). Rather than forming a platform to discuss the possible effects of the dam and to engage in a mutual partnership relationship, Encon's fieldwork merely functioned to firmly establish the conviction that the construction of Ilisu dam was a precondition for the socioeconomic development and for future investments in the affected settlements. Throughout the fieldwork (through survey, presentations and brochures), construction of the Ilisu dam was presented as a means, and indeed the only means, for the socio-economic salvation of the locally affected people. Providing social welfare for its citizens and securing social and economic investments for its underdeveloped regions, however, is a primary duty of the state, which cannot be presented as dependent on specific preconditions and which should not be planned without the contribution of and/or at expense of its people.

Necla Akkaya