



An analytical study on needs of displaced people in different regions of India

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ABSTRACT

Development projects are very often linked with the problem of displacement. Following independence, India concentrated on different development projects as well as dam construction. These were seen as symbols of modern India, despite the fact that they all contributed significantly to India's development. However, millions of people were displaced from their ancestral lands as a result of all these major projects. The poor planning and management of numerous relocation and rehabilitation policies made life even more difficult for displaced individuals. No one from the relevant government enquired about their well-being after they had been rehabilitated. People were completely cut off from God's kindness. The relocated people have suffered a slew of issues as a result of the state government's failure to address their concerns.

Keywords: Development, Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation issues, Indigenous People, India.

INTRODUCTION

One of the major challenges of today is the growth of the number of internally displaced person (IDPs) worldwide. (Siddiqui, 2012) Internally displaced persons constitute one of the largest excluded groups in the society. Displacement from someone's home as well as habitat is tragic because it results in massive losses of life-sustaining resources such as social networks, neighbours, as well as access to common property resources when people are forced to leave their homes and habitats. (RAO, 2013) Moreover the plight or status of the internally displaced women is even worse than man. As women are largely engaged in informal sector- gathering forest produce, working in the fields or selling produce, dislocation can result in loss of livelihood, adding to women's economic hardship. Poverty increases and opportunities shrink.

Displacement, regardless of direction, can also be voluntary or involuntary (forced displacement) depending on the circumstances. The displacement driving force will either be a pull or a push element, or both. (Fernandes, 2000) The causes for voluntary displacement are mostly pull considerations. Better work opportunities, a more quality of life, better municipal amenities, a more environmentally friendly climate, and so on are all examples of pull forces.

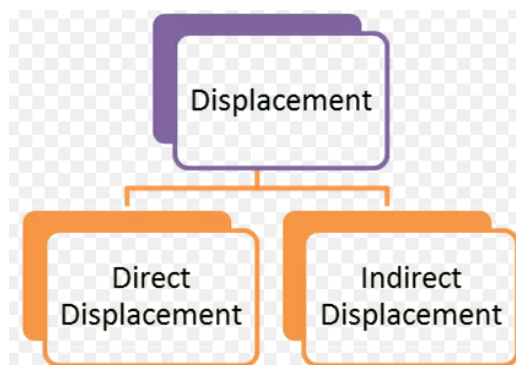


Figure 1: Types of Displacement



Impact of Development-Induced Displacement:

Development projects cause socio-economic displacement such as, inducing poverty, forcing the poor and the moderately poor to the lowest level, increasing morbidity levels. Most development projects induce displacement of people from their traditional habitats.

Development induced displacement has a gender dimension. Joblessness, income loss, and falling below the poverty line have an impact on the entire family. While the access of the whole family declines, that of women declines more than that of men. If the project gives jobs, except in women headed families they go almost exclusively to men considered head of families. (Patil & Ghosh, n.d.) If men are rehabilitated, they are awarded land. As a result, domestic power is fully transferred to the men, as well as from him to his son.

As a result, women are more likely than males to be jobless after being displaced. It reduces women to being house-wives also depending on man's single salary. But most of the men spend a part of their salary on alcohol. One of the results is rise in domestic violence. According to a research conducted by India's National Commission for Women on the effects of displacement on women, violence against women and alcoholism are direct consequences of development-induced displacement in India. (Cernea, n.d.) Displacement made men feel helpless and turned women and children scapegoat.

Sanitation is a major problem specific to the displaced women. But since this problem peculiar to women, it seldom draws attention. Furthermore, water collection is usually always the task of a woman. Dams that take over water sources or 'development' projects that pollute water have the greatest impact on women's lives.

The transition period between actual displacement and resettlement is a difficult phase, in which, again, women suffer somewhat more. In the absence of sensitive handling and supportive atmosphere, the oustees found it difficult to shift to new site. Many, therefore, continue to maintain two homes-one of the submerging village and the other in the resettlement, resulting in fracturing of families. Most often, it is the women, the old and the children who left behind. (Lizamit & Centre, n.d.) Moreover, it has been seen that whenever there is unemployment, i.e. jobs are scarce; the first ones to lose are the women. This is not because they lack the skill, but more because they have to make way for the men.

Magnitude of Displacement

Displacement has become a major problem all across the world. Since independence, many development projects have forcibly relocated lakhs of people from their homes. It was discovered that no accurate data on displacement, relocation, or rehabilitation exists. According to certain research, government sources are underestimating the number of persons displaced by the dam project. Annually, more than one crore people are displaced by various types of projects for example coal mining, dam constructions, roads, defence, and irrigations, with the majority of those displaced belonging to the marginalized part of society. Millions of citizens were displaced in India as a result of various initiatives, and only a small percentage was rehabilitated, as shown in the table given below. Resettlement and rehabilitation has become a one of the biggest issues among the displaced people and for the government authority. (Borphukon, 2015) Till 1990, more than two crores people were forcibly displaced by dam's projects in India. The majority of them were from native communities, and only 24.9 percent have been rehabilitated, with 75.1 percent still waiting. Since independence, up to 60 million people have been displaced, the vast majority of whom have yet to be effectively rehabilitated. People have been known to be displaced several



times throughout their lives. (Yadav, 2015) Since the previous 30 years, development projects such as the Rihand Dams project have relocated people 4 times in Madhya Pradesh. Researcher further claimed that the Soliga tribals in Karnataka have been displaced twice by Kabini dam construction and the Rajiv Gandhi National Park.

Table 1: Estimate of Tribe's and other People Displaced by Development project in India during 1951-1990 (In Lakhs)

Type of project	All DPs	%	Resettled	%	Backlog	%	Tribal	% of all DPs	Resettled	%	Backlog	%
Dams	164.0	77.0	41.0	25.0	123.0	75.0	63.21	38.5	15.81	25	47.40	75.0
Mines	25.5	12.0	6.30	24.7	19.20	75.3	13.30	52.2	3.30	25	10.0	75.0
Industry	12.5	5.9	3.75	30.0	8.75	70.0	3.13	25.0	0.80	25	2.33	75.0
Wildlife	6.0	2.8	1.25	20.8	4.75	79.2	4.5	75.0	1.00	22	3.50	78.0
Others	5.6	2.3	1.50	30.0	3.50	70.0	1.25	25.0	0.25	20	1.0	80.0
Total	213.0	100.0	53.80	25.0	159.2	75.0	85.39	40.0	21.16	25	64.23	75.0

Consequences of Displacement

India is one of the world's leading dam-building nations. In India, there are 4291 dams. There have been 3596 dams built, with 695 more under construction. Displacement is frequently thought of as a one-time event in which a person is compelled to leave his or her original location and relocate. According to World Bank report, dam cause the largest dislocation. (Kalin, 2008) Dams displace over 66 percent of the population and drown enormous swaths of agricultural land. It causes unemployment and, as a result, social pressure among the villagers' oustees. It has also been observed that displacement of human population has always been traumatic, dismantling the agricultural production system, loss of employment, disorganisation of social systems and breakdown of associations. The current study attempt to highlight some displacement related issues.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been many literatures explaining the problems of development induced displacement. Displacement caused by the developmental projects not only cause environmental degradation but it also affects the society socially and economically. Literatures indicate that the vulnerability associated to forced displacement are common among certain socio-economic groups. The current study focused on identifying the migrants in India and tried to understand the economic and social class differences associated with them in order to discover policy implications that would target the most vulnerable groups in light of the various processes that cause displacement.

(Aneesh & Patil, 2015) analyzed large dams built for hydropower, irrigation, water storage and/or flood control have led to the involuntary displacement of millions of people over the last century. Governments and foreign donors have established policies and ways to ensure that human rights are respected, that adequate compensation is provided, and that livelihoods are restored. Throughout the last 50 years, social scientists and anthropological scientists have published



numerous articles that have examined local outcomes in both snapshot as well as long-term studies. It does not look at the grey literature produced by multilateral, multinational, or national organisations that may have released non-peer-reviewed material in this topic.

(Kedia, 2015) discussed the impact of displacement on the civil and political rights of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Dolakha District of Nepal with special reference to the displacement caused by the 2015 Nepal Earthquake. The discussion has focused on studying the answer for whether the disaster-induced IDPs enjoyed the civil and political rights particularly during the Federal, Provincial and Local elections in Nepal. The findings are based on the primary data collected from the respondents, IDPs and the people's representatives, who are the key aspect of the real time empirical familiarity, and of course supported by secondary data. The main issue in the paper is whether the IDPs could enjoy the civil and political rights during the tri-phases of election in 2017 in Dolakha District of Nepal, and the claim is that some of the civil and political rights of the IDPs were unconstructively impacted because of their status of being displaced.

(Yadav, 2015) studied the recent surge of Syrian internally displaced persons (IDPs) as refugees into the EU, particularly Hungary and Greece as transit sites and Germany, France, and the United Kingdom as final destinations, has resulted in compassion fatigue. However, in the neighborhood of South Asia though not even a single nation has signed and ratified the 1951 "Convention on Refugee Rights" and by implementing Principles and National Laws, such as SAARCLAW and Model National Law, it also has done noteworthy effort in hosting and giving legal and physical security to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

(Borphukon, 2015) observed Development projects are very often linked with the problem of displacement. The poor powerless tribes in the hills and plains have been directly impacted by the North-East region's training programs. Absence of satisfactory "resettlement and rehabilitation policy" for the displaced has led to further pauperization marginalization and helplessness among oustees. The study has made an attempt to find out the development-induced displacement in North-East India in general and Assam in particular. The main focus is on its impact on displaced persons particularly on displaced women. The sources of data are secondary one. The secondary data are collected from articles, seminars papers, books and news reports published in different news-papers.

(Kumar & Binod, 2014) suggested Displacement or up-root of settled people is common as well as hanging problem in any coal mining area and obviously treated as an age old problem of coal mining area worldwide. Gaining access to a resource requires displacing local populations. Displacement can result in the destruction of all the natural resources for local populations, including homes, productive land, and access to traditional lands, resources, cultural sites, social structures, and income-earning assets. Local inhabitants may become jobless, homeless, isolated, and unable to access traditional food supplies; all while losing social cohesiveness as well as having to deal with disruptions in cultural and educational activities. Changes in population dynamics, health effects, dependencies, economic inequity, and aggravation are some of the demographic, social, and cultural difficulties caused by mining-induced displacement and resettlement. All of this has an impact on not only economic but also social, moral, and cultural degradation, which is reshaping the current way of life in a holistic way.

(Pandya, 2013) examined the numerous actions of NGOs in Gujarat state, western India, for the betterment of impacted tribal individuals in the form of resettlement programmes The designed questionnaire was developed in order to collect information. The major data came from the



interview schedule, as well as official and informal encounters with respondents as well as personal observations. The information offered indicates the involvement and contribution of NGOs in the implementation of the national programmes. Several representatives of NGOs, academics, as well as think tanks were called and interviewed in informal meetings using the interview schedule in order to get replies. This article provides a brief summary of the current activities of NGOs in enhancing the development of internally displaced people (IDPs) and preserving human rights. The roles of NGOs in development activities for affected areas are described. The importance of NGOs in Gujarat is highlighted by the findings of a survey performed in the Vadodara area.

(Terminski, 2013) discussed that following independence, India concentrated on different development projects as well as dam construction. These were seen as symbols of modern India, despite the fact that they all contributed significantly to India's development. However, millions of people were displaced from their ancestral lands as a result of these infrastructure projects. The poor formulation and management of numerous relocation and rehabilitation policies made life even more difficult for displaced individuals. No one from the relevant government enquired about their well-being after they were rehabilitated. They were completely cut off from God's kindness. This research is based on secondary sources and attempts to investigate a variety of concerns among displaced families as well as their challenges. In this study, it is shown that displaced persons have experienced a variety of issues as a result of the state government's failure to address their concerns. The majority of those who belong to the weaker sector of society are harmed in the name of development.

CONCLUSION

The developmental projects are very essential for achieving economic growth of the country as well as for providing and enhancing basic amenities of people. At the same time, the adverse impacts of developmental projects on the displaced people and their human rights cannot be ignored. The basic rights like right to life, live with dignity and right to livelihood are often violated due to major developmental projects. Therefore it is very essential to include specifically, rehabilitation and resettlement policy in the plans of developmental projects. There is a need to strike a balance between the developmental concerns and the human rights of displaced peoples.

Even after the revision of 1984, the Land Acquisition Act (1894) does not acknowledge the right of land losers to rehabilitation. It only pays monetary compensation to disperse them. Major revisions to the Act and policies governing land acquisition are required in order to make them more welfare-oriented.

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