



**Government's Perspective over displacement: An overview of the flaws**  
**Dr. Ankur Pare\***

**\*International Associate Member of ASA, Washington D.C., America**

**ABSTRACT**

The study investigates the dynamics of the problem of Development Induced Displacement, as well as the theoretical, legal, as well as policy issues that have stymied India's ability to implement development projects smoothly. Modern India has become entangled in a battle between the state's macro-development objectives and the unfavorable implications for the people directly affected by the project. Despite the fact that the demands of time and the logic of liberalisation policy need the continual articulation of development initiatives, it is also critical to overcome the disempowering impacts of displacement on its people. Human population displacement from natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences. The effects of development-induced displacement on rural populations is significant, as evidenced by land alienation and protests by the impacted communities. The paper contends that the state must strike a balance between its efforts to promote development and those to make it sustainable, reasonable, and equitable.

Keywords: development policy, resettlement, environment, economics, development, relocation, social problems, internal displacement, sustainable development

**INTRODUCTION**

In the present time, India is in the vanguard of a wave of urban expansion. Urbanization is considered to be an inevitable part of economic development. It has been viewed as an important factor in the area of economic transformation. It is a long term continuous process.(Kundu, 2011)

India is one of the emerging countries in the world, the second-largest country in terms of population and third-largest energy consumer after China and United States. Urbanization and industrialization are one of the common features of economic development. (Bhuvandas, 2014) With the steady growth of the economy, the process of urbanization depends on the shift of surplus population from rural to urban areas along-with the growth of some industrialized urban centers. Urbanization is taking place at a faster rate in India.

Displacement, as a result of large developmental projects has surely resulted in a transfer of resources from the poor class to the more privileged. In particular in India, mega-dams are known to be the major cause for creation of victims of development - especially the indigenous members and farmers who barely participate in development achievements. It can be said that bigger the developmental project, greater is the impact on displacement. Further the federal structure with a stronger centre also plays a role in terms of execution of such large projects in India. This centralization has a penchant for big landowners, rich peasants, engineers, bureaucrats and politicians. (Mohammed, 2019)

After independence India by way of its commitment to build the nation and keep it on a progressive path embarked on a journey to have major constructions project in a systematic

manner through five-year plans. As economic development was remarkably poor until recently, every Government became more focused on economic development, measured primarily by way of growth in Gross National Product (GNP), which considered factors like factories, dams, megaprojects, mines, etc. (Rains, 2018)

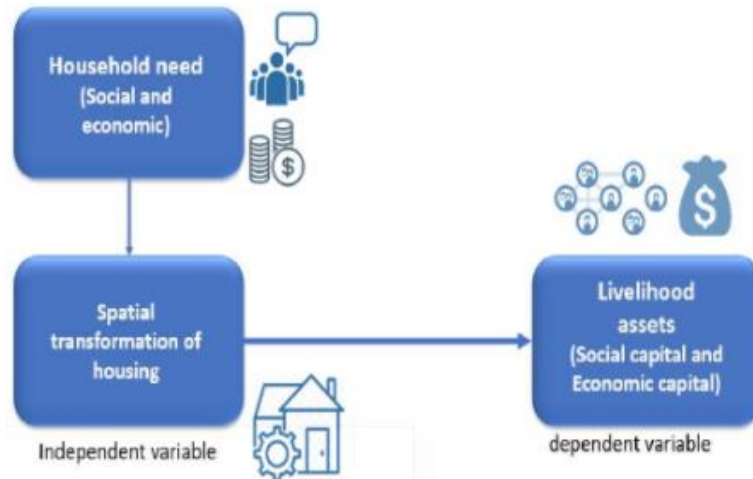


Figure 1: Coping with development induced displacement and resettlement

Displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation are a serious problem for all developing countries, including India. Since independence, many hydroelectric projects have been built and more than 50 million people have been displaced in the last 60 years, and only 25% of them have been rehabilitated. It has been demonstrated that a large number of development projects have been poorly constructed and poorly implemented; resulting in negative environmental affects affecting people's quality of life. Development displacements have led to homelessness, unemployment, marginalization, lack of food security, increased morbidity, loss of common property resources and social dislocation.(Patel et al., 2015)

### Rehabilitation and Resettlement Issues in India

In India, post-independence economic development is based on major dam projects and major industries, such as coal mines and road power plants, which have been accompanied by numerous displacements. The majority of development projects have resulted in changes in land, water and natural resource use, as well as the displacement of large numbers of people from their homes of origin. It is evident that a large number of development projects have been completed without resettlement and rehabilitation policies. (Tacoli & Mcgranahan, 2015) Rehabilitation policies and strategies adopted by most state governments on the basis of the 1984 LAA followed a very narrow approach to compensation. It was noted that no such policies had been adopted for IDPs between the 1950s and 1980s. The resistance of IDPs and civil society to unjust rehabilitation began in 1946 with the Hirakud Dam at Odisha. However, in the late 1970s, resistance grew in importance at the Narmada Dam, later known as the Anti-Dam Movement, to change state policy on resettlement and rehabilitation. It has also put enormous pressure on the Indian government to develop a national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation policies.(Patel et al., 2015)

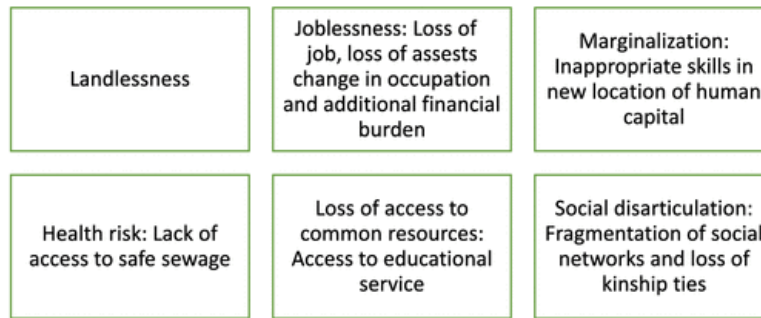


Figure 2: Condition of project affected people

Although involuntary resettlement is a very sensitive issue, government agencies do not pay enough attention to resettlement and rehabilitation policies. There is evidence of how weak the representation of numbers by government agencies is. The number of people expelled from the Hirakud Dam amounted to 1.6 lakh and the number of government representatives to only 1.1 lakh. It was reported that in the case of the Bargi dam on the Narmada River, west of the MP, 101 villages are being submerged. When the reservoir was filled, 162 villages were submerged. It was also observed that in the absence of country by country, a big blow was in balance for displaced people and it was very difficult to buy a piece of land with the meager compensation received elsewhere. As a result, the displaced people who managed the wood suffered more than the government refused to give them compensation in the form of land or money. Since then, lands managed by them have been declared state by the government. This was a huge burden for resettlers, who already had serious problems.(Steinberg, 2014)

### Government Policy on Paper and on Ground

The lack of adequate national policies and gaps in existing policy is a major problem. Apart from that, there are also serious problems in implementation. Most of them as in some cases, there is a big gap between the paper policy and what is really translated. Most government policies or national policies in preparation include land reserves for the balance of land. Due to several shortcomings, however, the affected people are in many cases arbitrary compensation in cash. In Sardar Sarovar, the Gujarat Dam is one of the most advanced rehabilitation programs, but 25% of EU displaced families have been relocated. The reservoir took 15 years and there is a big gap between the big promises and the soil reality. (Mahadevia, 2011)

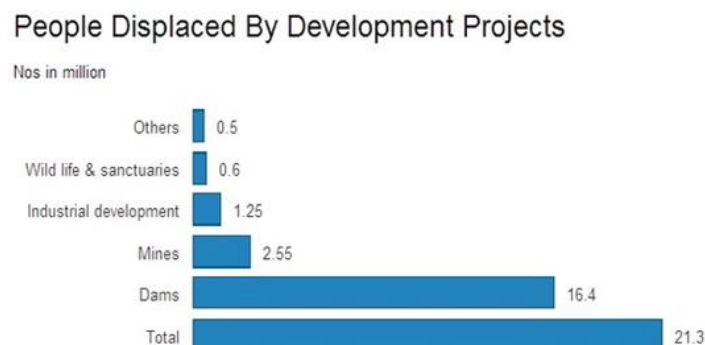


Figure 3: No. of people displaced due to developmental projects (in millions)

The government or the project leader did not provide enough money for displaced people to rebuild their social life, which led to misery and misery. Compensation is based on the value of the property at the time of registration, which can be much lower than the value at the time of sale. Additionally, bureaucratic corruption means that the amount of money that reaches the population is well below the price of replacement land. However, on the late payment of compensation of Indira Sagar Pariyojana, where it was found that out of 91 villages, only 20 villages were compensated and that the rest of the villages were waiting for compensation. The study also revealed that the project leader had misled the displaced people. In fact, the authorities in Narmada said they gave a down-to-earth package. But in reality, there was not such a package. The people received only inappropriate compensation.(Kundu, 2007)

From the foregoing, developmental evictions pose many problems for IDPs. The Law on Land Acquisition, Problems of Gender Equality and Rehabilitation and Lack of Transparency are problems for the Government of India. Since independence, many States have been involved in interstate dam projects, and displaced people are suffering more because these States refuse to assume their responsibilities and hold each other or the central government accountable for compensation and resettlement issues. It has been established that there is no uniform policy on the resettlement and rehabilitation of internally displaced persons in India.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

(Kumar & Mishra, 2018) 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 megaprojects. The poor planning and implementation 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 problems. 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. Women and children are the worst victims since resettlement and rehabilitation strategies do not take them into account. Because women have less property rights on the land, they are not eligible for compensation. The majority of those who belong to the weaker sector of society are harmed in the name of development.

(Siddiqui, 2017) Human population displacement from natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences. This research will look at how the modernisation process has affected farmers and tribal people in India, particularly with the introduction of neoliberal economic policies. The displacement of rural people is distressing from both a livelihood and a cultural standpoint. The purpose of this study is to look into the challenges of displacement in villages that have been largely isolated from the rest of the world. The impact of development-induced displacement on rural populations is significant, as evidenced by land alienation and protests by the impacted communities. I can't locate a single study that illustrates how these policies affect the rural poor in terms of socioeconomics and the environment. The

reasons for these shifts can be traced in a variety of ways. The most significant among these are rural community displacement, loss of traditional livelihoods, and environmental degradation.

(Terminski, 2015) The goal of this study is to depict mining-induced displacement and resettlement as worldwide socioeconomic problems that impacts people in all parts of the world, as a human rights concern, and as a source of difficulties to public international law as well as humanitarian aid organisations. Displacement caused by development is largely a socioeconomic issue linked to the loss or considerable reduction of availability to fundamental resources on which people rely. The loss of access to material resources such as land, pastures, forests, and clean water, as well as intellectual asset such as socio-economic tidbits, must come first. A more in-depth examination has been preceded by an introduction that emphasizes the unique nature of MIDR as one of the internal displacement categories. Mining isn't a statistically important category of development-induced displacement and resettlement at the moment (DIDR). Nonetheless, the societal consequences of exploitation are significant, and this is why the subject need a more comprehensive scientific investigation. Mining was responsible for the first land relocation in the late 1800s.

(Siddiqui, 2012) analyzed human population displacement from natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences. This research will look at how the modernization processes have affected farmers as well as tribal people in India, particularly with the adoption of neoliberal economic policies. The migration of rural people is distressing from both a livelihood as well as a cultural standpoint. The purpose of this study is to look into the challenges of displacement in villages that have been largely isolated from the rest of the world. The effects of “development-induced displacement” on rural populations is significant, as evidenced by land alienation and protests by the impacted populations. Researcher can't locate a single study that illustrates how these policies affect the rural poor in terms of socioeconomics and the environment. The reasons for these shifts can be traced in a variety of ways. The most significant among these are rural community displacement, loss of traditional livelihoods, and environmental degradation.

(Ferris & Winthrop, 2011) People are forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict. Indeed, in addition to losses and duration, one of the indicators of a conflict's severity is the number of individuals who have been displaced from their homes. In a recent survey of 8 conflict-affected countries conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 56 percent of persons affected by conflict had been displaced, with numbers as high as almost 80 percent in Afghanistan and over 90 percent in Liberia.

(Maitra, 2009) The study investigates the dynamics of the problem of Development Induced Displacement, as well as the theoretical, legal, but also policy issues that have stymied India's ability to implement development projects smoothly. Modern India has become entangled in a battle between the state's macro-development objectives and the unfavourable implications for the people directly affected by the project. Despite the fact that the demands of time and the logic of liberalisation policy need the continual articulation of development initiatives, it is also critical to overcome the disempowering impacts of displacement on its people. Despite recent



government initiatives, formal policy declarations and regulations controlling compensation and resettlement issues have been found inadequate. The paper contends that the state must strike a balance between its efforts to promote development and those to make it sustainable, just, and equitable. The study focuses on the issues that arise in the allocation of compensation as well as resettlement in such initiatives. Dam-induced displacement experiences at the Sardar Sarovar Project in the Narmada River Valley Project in Gujarat, India, are emphasized as examples.

(Hemadri et al., n.d.) This article aims to provide some policy and legal standards for displacement as well as rehabilitation in India. It will do so by quickly exploring the actual experience of displacement owing to large dams in India over the last 50 years, as well as resistance to large dams, and by analyzing some of the main issues in India's displacement as well as development discourse. Only a well-implemented and comprehensive rehabilitation programme can address these issues to the extent possible, with the costs of such a programme being entered into CBA. This lacuna also brings us to the very boundaries of what a techno-economic appraisal grounded in neo-classical economics can achieve. Other tools must be developed for use beyond this point.

(Bhagat, 2001) observed Urbanization is a form of social transformation from traditional rural societies to modern urban communities. It is long term continuous process. Using data out from Census of India from 1901 to 2001, NSSO, the goal of this article is to determine the size, trajectory, and pattern of urbanisation in India, as well as the implications in the socioeconomic environment. Natural growths as well as rural-to-urban migration have both contributed to India's urbanisation. Natural growth contributed the most, accounting for 41.7 percent between 1971 and 1981 and 58.7 percent between 1981 and 1991. During 1971-81, net displacement and boundary modifications accounted for 39.4 percent of the total, but this fell to 22 percent in 1981-91. In India, urbanisation is not solely driven by displacement; demographic factors also play a significant role in determining the urban population. According to the findings of the study, the value of Z was around 0.74 in 1991 and 0.69 in 2001, indicating that the distribution of people in urban areas has been more even over time.

## CONCLUSION

The above exploration shows that the government has not paid attention to this enormous issue. For all tasks, the association and execution of the recovery program was the least considered. The ingenuity of the above issues features the absence of compelling R and R approaches and accordingly requires inside and out research to improve the detailing of advancement and resettlement strategies. In India policies towards urbanization have traditionally been negative and since independence no government has ever made any sincere effort to implement a uniform and coherent urban reform policy for better management of this concurrent issue. This must be changed so that the process of urbanization is regarded as a positive force in the development of the country.

Displacement plans should be carried out in a thorough and orderly manner. The private sector must shoulder a sufficient share of the costs of implementation. Resource extraction should be guided by sustainable development principles and be as environmentally benign as feasible.



Another key challenge in the development industry is the fulfillment of corporate social responsibility directives. The monetary recompense should go toward the development of the local area. To avoid displacement, people must have the chance to engage in (and be encouraged to engage in) entrepreneurship. Microcredits can also be quite useful. The private sector and municipal governments should monitor whether development-related displacement leads to homelessness and unemployment on a regular basis.

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( A global perspective ) Bogumil Terminski Abstract :