



# **The Social and Behavioural Impact of Displacement on Rural Community in India**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Development is a multifaceted process that involves qualitative changes in socio - economic and political frameworks, popular attitudes, as well as national institutions, along with increased economic development, reduced inequities, and poverty alleviation. It has both beneficial and harmful societal consequences. Establishing industries is necessary to speed economic growth, but uncontrolled industrial development in the name of development has had a negative impact on the community and livelihoods, as well as degraded the surrounding ecosystem. The investigators explored the impact of displacements on people who leave rural areas, emphasizing the destruction of land property in general. Displacement dependent on the natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences. The focus of this study article is on Indian farmers as well as indigenous people. The modernizing process is also discussed in the study, particularly following the introduction of neoclassical economic reforms. Displacement is traumatic for any group or civilization, including both regards of livelihood and culture. Thus, policies based on the development of the manufacturing and agriculture sectors, as well as the ways during which improved rural services as well as higher rural output might unite to generate faster growth and enhanced human welfare in poor nations, require more attention.

Keywords: Displacement, development, human rights, modernization, culture, indigenous communities, rural community

## **INTRODUCTION**

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.(Terminski, 2013) This centralization has a penchant for big landowners, rich peasants, engineers, bureaucrats and politicians.

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. (Sonawat, 2001)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.

The risk of exhaustion caused by large industrial projects in India has led to widespread land deprivation and food insecurity among poor farmers and tribal members. After a colonial-era compensation scheme, farmers receive and use compensation money in a way that does not usually help them rebuild their budgets. (Aghazarm, 2009)These mega projects were considered a symbol of modern India, though all of this was very helpful to India's development. However, these megaprojects have also resulted in the deportation of millions of people from their ancestral lands. Inadequate planning and implementation of various resettlement and rehabilitation measures has aggravated the lives of IDPs. As soon as they were rehabilitated, no one asked their respective governments about their well-being.(Sheehan, 2008) They were absolutely exuberant at the mercy of the Almighty.

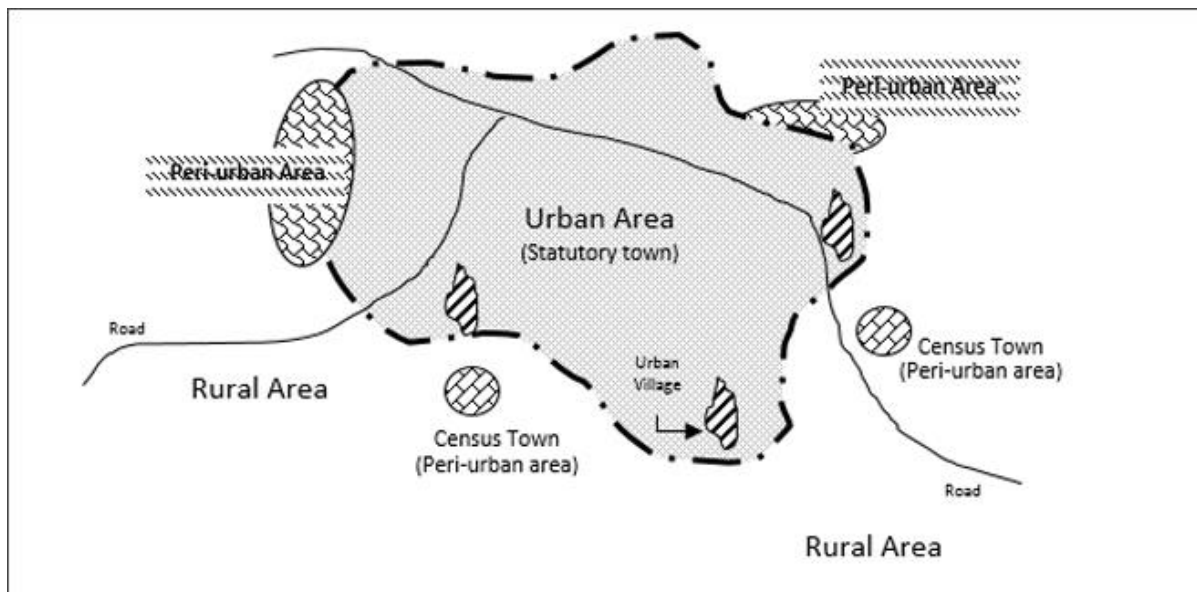


Figure 1: Periurban area of India

Periurban areas are defined as places on the outskirts of cities or adjacent rural areas that are inextricably linked to the city economy, are constantly changing, and have a mix of rural and urban activity. The areas might be seen of as transition zones between rural and urban jurisdictions, populated by both the local population—who are typically engaged in agricultural operations, livestock rearing, and fishing—and a migratory population with non-farm interests. India's existing periurban areas are undergoing a transformation and are under tremendous stress due to pressures created by urbanisation.

Development projects caused socio-economic, ecological and environmental problems in India. Even today, it is clear that India's economic growth strategy is mostly based on the exploitation of marginalized groups such as tribals, Dalits, as well as other lower castes. (Singh, 2014) History shows that most of the projects are located in the most backward areas of various tribal communities, in the forest and mountain tracts, which are the traditional habitats of tribes endowed with rich minerals and other resources and rich flora and fauna. (Venkatesham, 2015)

### **Livelihood of the forest dependent communities**

A large community of Indians lives in close proximity to the forest, and their livelihoods are inextricably related to the forest ecology. In and surrounding forests, there are around 1.73 million villages. Even though there is no official statistics data for the country's forest-

dependent population, estimates range from 275 million to 350-400 million. Forests provide a variety of commodities and services to the people who live in these forest border communities.

Moreover, a significant percentage of the country's underprivileged population happened to be living in its forested regions. (Kniivilä, 2004) It has been estimated that more than 40% of the poor of the country are living in these forest fringe villages. Apart from that, these areas are home to a sizable portion of India's tribal population. Several field investigations have shown that such a dependency pattern has a negative influence on forest quality. (Fred Langeweg, Henk Hilderink, 2000) Forest fringe communities harvest forest goods not only for their own consumption as well as for commercial sale, which provides them with some cash.

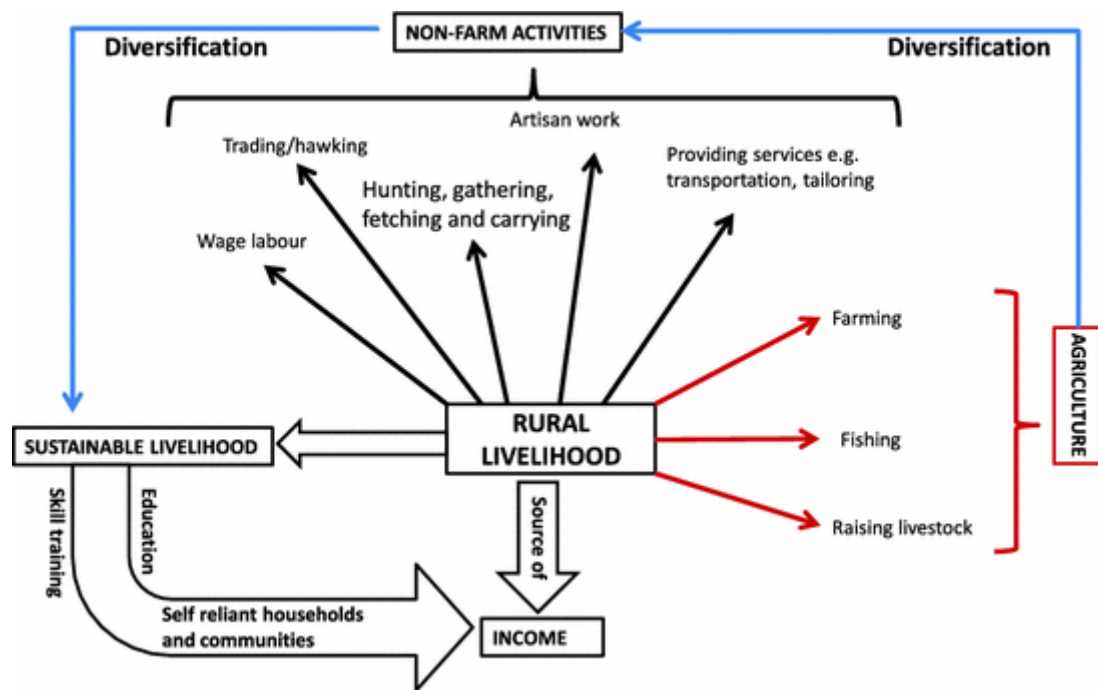


Figure 2: Rural Livelihood

Farming and livestock are two additional important sources of income in forest border settlements, which rely on the forest for a variety of inputs. People raise both bovine as well as ruminant cattle, and grass and tree fodder come primarily from woods and other common property in the area. (Mohan, 2004) Since there is overgrazing due to increased livestock, unrestricted grazing in the forest is the traditional rearing techniques for forest rural communities, and it will have a negative influence on increasing stock as well as forests regeneration potential.



### **Impact of Displacement**

Displacement is not a recent occurrence. During the Gupta dynasty, from the third to the 6th century ad, there seems to be evidence of development-induced relocation. It continued to some extent in the Mughal era and under the British rule. (Tacoli & Mcgranahan, 2015) In modern times, displacement has occurred due to installing major hydropower dam projects, irrigation projects, coal mining, and the widening of national highway, railway lines, parks, sanctuaries and so on.

Displacement is indeed a socio-cultural issue since it disrupts a network of social interactions that underpin an ideology and a ways of living. It affects the entire gamut of traditional activity and an established social order. It forces people to adopt new ways of occupational activities and an unknown environment. (Garrett, 2010) People are frequently evicted from their ancestral homes, resulting in disordered communities, family structures, and kinship systems, among other things. The affected people are alienated from their traditional land, houses, religious places, rivers, mountains and traditional places of worship.(Moore et al., 2003) Culture and way of life are also disrupted. Involuntary relocation can cause psychological depression in those who are impacted, as well as illness, grief, and deaths. Involuntary resettlement is defined as the forcible relocation of individuals without sufficient planning or the participation of displaced persons. Displacement results in a shattered social life of the community. (Nagendra et al., 2013) Displaced people have no access to basic facilities and natural resources and have to face lots of hardship before and after the process. People are internally relocated and forced to live in a new environment, a new location with new people, and new customs and values, resulting in a change in the displaced people's real socioeconomic lifestyle.

Displacement is an inevitable component of the ongoing process of planned growth. (Li & Ma, 2014) The life of people living across the globe is increasingly getting affected by forced displacement to accommodate infrastructure projects such as industries, power plants, roads and irrigation, defence, coal and mines and so on. Annually, on an average, 10 million people are being affected by such projects and a majority of them belong to the poor and marginalized section of the society.



### **Socio-cultural impact**

Another aspect of the debate that is often overlooked is the potential influence on indigenous people's social and cultural lives. As previously stated, indigenous people have their own culture, custom, rituals, and ceremonies that they adhere to religiously. (Cohen, 2006) The native people's forest being designated as carbon storage and being used for emission trading may not only make it difficult for them all to reach the forest, but it may also hinder them from practising their traditional practices system of forest management. Furthermore, it may restrict people from using the forest for traditional ceremonies and rituals.

Environmentalists have started questioning the execution of these developmental policies which are remaining silent about issues concerning ecological balance thereby affecting the human rights of the indigenous community, particularly, their rights on environment. (Elmqvist et al., 2013) The tribal people as well as rural community of India are dealing with the basic issue that their identity is closely linked to the natural resources and the environment amid which they live.

In the review of studies made on the resettlement areas, it has been found that the majority of the displaced people have ended up with lower income, less work opportunities, inferior housing and less access to common resources such as fuel, wood and fodder.(Bhuvandas, 2014) No doubt the government gives compensation in terms of land, monetary support for house construction and for agriculture and so on but the compensation may not be satisfactory because of social and psychological disturbances. The displaced people need to be rehabilitated not only economically but also socially and psychologically.(Kundu, 2007)

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

(Mohanty, 2015) aimed at making a review of the available literature on Displaced Women. The basic purpose hovers around the interest to generate insight into the phenomenon of effective implementation of R&R policy for displaced women and to bring out the correlation between displaced women and social and political harmony, to bring out correction in the implementation of R&R Policy for the displaced women that can ensure social and political harmony.



(Garada, 2015) reviewed the dam project, perhaps the most important development undertaking of contemporary civilisation, handles water for the economic growth of nation-states all over the world. Unfortunately, it has a mixed result in terms of water's usage, abuse, power, as well as pollution over the planet. Beginning from the beginning to the end and then throughout the implementation of the project, the framework generally has some suitable ends to accomplish and way to achieve it via alternative techniques and procedural methods which mostly involve land acquisition, displacement, reimbursement, resettlement, as well as rehabilitation. Furthermore, the developmental plan take their privileges to evict people from their hearths & homes by employing these procedural techniques, oblivious to the fact that project displaced people have few development planning following eviction. Our analysis of dam projects reveals a divergence theory between human displacement as well as economic development, with the potential of convergence. In this setting, Odisha's displacement initiatives have gone through many changes and problems during the last few decades. The article examines the land acquisition, relocation, and rehabilitation challenges that the dam project generated in Odisha. The findings of such research will aid in the resolution of issues linked to resettlement and rehabilitation with in nation.

(Narain et al., 2014) observed Periurban areas are locations on the outskirts of cities. They therefore provide necessary land and water resources supporting urban expansion while also collecting garbage. The concept of periurban expansion encircling five important Indian cities, particularly Patna, Guwahati, Chandigarh, Chennai, and Ahmedabad, is described in this study. So under present government of progressive economic, infrastructural development, especially real estate boom, numerous cities have grown. Periurban areas around such cities have received most of the migrant population as transitional places. While traditional methods to urban planning as well as rural development establish a divide between cities and suburbs, the idea of periurbanism raises concerns about the long-term sustainability and equality of urban expansion, as well as concerns of urban politics.

(Bandraj, 2014) analyzed the process of economic liberalization and associated structural reform would accelerate rural–urban displacement and boost the pace of urbanization. Urbanization is an index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial. The pace of urbanization is now set to speed up as the country sets to a more rapid growth. Modern urban India is dispersed, with a wide range of major and small businesses



scattered around the country. India will most likely continue on the road of a scattered urbanisation model because it suits the country. Requirement for every vital service, such as freshwater, transport, waste management, limited wage, and so on, will rise as the urban population and income rise. India needs to work as several areas to manage its urbanization.

(Banerjee & Madhurima, 2013) aimed India's current forest and tree cover is estimated to be 78.29 million ha, constituting 23.81% of the geographical area of the country. According to the National Forest Commission assessment from 2006, roughly 41% of the country's total forest has already been damaged, 70% of the forests have really no regeneration, and 55% of the forests are vulnerable to fire. People rely on the forest for feed, forage, agriculture, shelter, and a range of marketable minor forest products, all of which have the potential to harm the forest if consumed excessively. Forests provide a variety of commodities and services to the people who live in these forest border communities. As a result, increasing forest degradation is jeopardizing the basic human right to life as well as livelihood of local populations, particularly indigenous populations whose lives are inextricably linked to the supplies and living environment.

(Olimov, 2012) aimed to investigate the relationship between environmental degradation, displacement, internal displacement, as well as the vulnerability of Tajikistan's rural population. These were based on a national public opinion poll as well as quantitative and qualitative studies in four districts with varying degrees of environmental degradation as well as displacement patterns: Environmental migrant workers who relocated in a new location after the floods in 2005, environmental displaced people who resettled in a new location after the floods in 2005, environmental migrants who brought back to their previous residential location after resettlement, as well as labour workers from Jamoat Kulkand who were severely impacted by degradation.

## CONCLUSION

Development initiatives, on the other hand, have a slew of negative repercussions, the most serious of which is the risk of displacement and resettlement. These risks as indicated by most research findings, cause impoverishments and deterioration to the livelihoods of resettled households and vulnerable categories of people such as the women, poor households and the





elderly. The above exploration shows that the state 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. It should be kept in mind that both the central and state governments should work together with regard to resettlement and compensation processes for rural section of society, and special care should be taken so that the marginalized sections of society do not face problems because of development projects in the future.

The study also recommends further research in certain areas such as risks beyond the IRR model and the need to investigate about other reasons contributing to the occurrence and persistency of these risks.

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