

A Study on Economic and Social Impact of Displacement in India

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ABSTRACT

Displacement as a result of development projects including dams, mines, as well as urban development usually results in a loss of livelihood for those impacted. As a result, the challenge is to design programmes that meet national or regional development goals while simultaneously providing beneficial social and economic consequences for displaced people. Local communities may lose physical as well as non-physical resources such as dwellings, productive land, accessibility to traditional territories, resources, cultural places, social structures, as well as income-earning resources as a reaction of displacement. Local inhabitants may become jobless, homeless, isolated, and unable to access traditional food supplies, all while losing social cohesiveness and having to deal with disruptions in cultural and educational programs. Changes in demographic dynamics, harmful effects, addiction problems, income inequality, and dissatisfaction are among some of the demographic, socioeconomic, and cultural concerns that require resettlement. All of this has an impact on not only economic but also social, ethical, as well as cultural degradation, which is reshaping the current way of life in a holistic way.

Keywords: Displacement, resettlement, socio-economic impacts, development, displaced population.

INTRODUCTION

Mines, hydroelectric dams, as well as urban infrastructure projects all have significant ramifications for local populations, ranging from increased employment as well as enhanced public services to environmental destruction, poverty, and relocation. Displacement is a significant element of development projects, as an estimated 15 million people per year worldwide are forced from their homes to make way for infrastructure construction. (Sheehan, 2008) Most incidents of development-induced displacement have resulted in the displaced population's socioeconomic collapse, as displaced groups struggle to rebuild their livelihoods in new—and frequently less beneficial, environmental, social, as well as economic circumstances. Yet cases of successful resettlement illustrate that displacement and socioeconomic decline need not go hand in hand. As a result, the challenge is to design programmes that meet national or regional growth goals while simultaneously providing beneficial social and economic consequences for displaced people. (Singh, 2008)

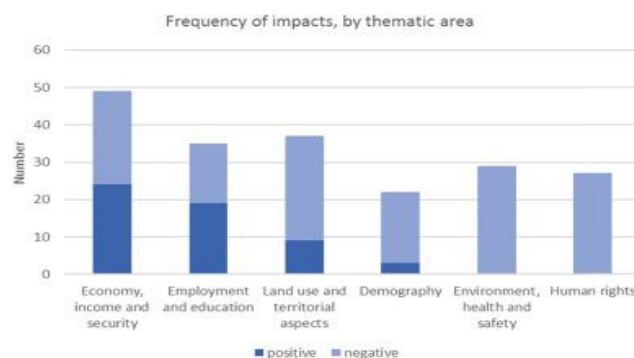


Figure 1: Social impact assessment

Development presently is a very sensitive issue especially in developing and low developed countries. This is because in the name of development millions of people were displaced from their own land; this displaced population caused severe social, economic, cultural and political tension in their own country. Many theories and calculations on the basis of cost – benefit framework tried to prove that development projects are must for a country's economic growth and for this purpose some people must suffer temporarily; the basic idea is for their present sacrifice their future generation will gain more. But a developing country like India, after sixty years of sacrifice (since after independence in 1947) the plight of these people did not improve. They remained marginalized and vulnerable. Eminent social scientist Vandana Shiva termed this development as mal-development and activist Arundhati Roy viewed that this development was for steel tycoons, politicians and land mafias, which according to her was a triangle of land shark. (Lee & Vivarelli, 2006)

Dose displacement has any gendered meaning or signifier? The answer is either yes or no at the same time. It depends how one looks upon displacement – the very perspective of displacement. From economic and political perspective both men and women fall prey to the forces of displacement. But from social perspective women is the built-in-class of displaced in the society.

Impacts of Displacement

The impacts of displacement can be mainly divided into two broad categories – Positive and Negative.

- The positive impacts of displacement, however, affect only a minuscule section of the affected community and comprise of impacts such as:
 - A few persons may experience improvement in their status by way of increase in the size of landholdings
 - A rise in income may occur in certain cases by the employment opportunities created by the Project
 - A break in some oppressive social hierarchies may also result.
- Negative impacts of displacement: However, majorities of the displaced people undergo a process of dispossession and disempowerment. As an outcome of the processes of development, displacement has the potential to dismantle and destroy villages as well as socio-economic and cultural structures of the inhabitants. When people are forcibly removed from their habitat, the following situations are likely to occur.
 - Production systems get dismantled
 - Productive assets and income sources get lost
 - People are transferred to contexts where their productive abilities are less appropriate and resource competition is stronger.
 - Long established residential groups get disorganised
 - Kinship groups get scattered

- Informal social networks and safety nets are broken.

As a result, displacement in usual, and involuntary displacement in instance, is an inconvenient as well as stressful procedure by definition. It puts the displaced people at greater risk of prolonged sorts of poverty, both culturally and economically. (Terminski, 2013)

Economic and Social Impact

Internal displacement can also have terrible consequences for those who have been displaced, their dependencies, their guests, as well as those who remain in their home communities. Its effects on health, livelihoods, safety, accommodation, and infrastructural accessibility, as well as educational, social relationships, and the atmosphere, can harm people's well-being and have a societal impact. Loss of wage employment and shift in the occupational pattern is yet another form of economic dispossession that the displaced people undergo. It occurs both in urban and rural displacement. (Sadashivam & Tabassum, 2016) Different categories of people are involved in the process of joblessness and occupational shifts. Displacement usually also signifies occupational shifts and oustees are forced to shift from the type of occupation they were engaged in before displacement to a different type of occupation post-displacement or resettlement. This shift can create a situation of underemployment that can be psychologically quite traumatic for the affected people.

The traditional social control mechanisms may be weakened and even lost. Consequently, social tensions may increase. Also social support networks tend to disintegrate and that has far reaching consequences for the community. Social networks often help people cope with poverty through personalised strategies such as informal loans, exchange of food, clothing, durable goods, mutual help with farming, building houses and caring for children. Loss of such multifunctional, yet virtually invisible social networks through displacement acts as a hidden but serious cause of impoverishment through displacement. Such loss is higher in projects that relocate people in a dispersed manner rather than in social groups and Units. In such cases, it is very difficult for the oustees to reconstitute similar social structures and networks. (Sonawat, 2001)

Preventing internal displacement and addressing its consequences should therefore be a priority not only in crisis response plans but also in development plans.

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.

(Siddiqui, 2017) Human population displacement from natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences. This research will look into how the modernisation process has impacted peasants and tribal people in India, particularly with the introduction of neoliberal economic policies. The displacement of people in rural areas is distressing from both a socioeconomic 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

effects of development-induced displacement on rural populations is significant, as evidenced by land alienation as well as protests by the impacted communities. Author can't locate a single study that illustrates how these policies affect the rural poor in terms of socioeconomics as well as the environment. The causes for these shifts can be traced in a variety of ways. The most significant among these are rural community displacement, elimination of traditional livelihoods, as well as environmental degradation.

(Bandhopadhyay, 2016) The word displacement in recent time has received attention of the social scientists as in the contemporary history of one hundred years millions of people got displaced for various reasons. This study is not exactly on displacement; this is an attempt to understand how a woman in general suffers when displacement takes place. Any type of displacement affects vulnerable population adversely and women are vulnerable within the vulnerable; so women are most affected people after displacement.

(Randell, 2016) Displacement as a result of development projects such as dams, mines, and urban infrastructure sometimes results in a loss of livelihood for those impacted. As a result, the challenge is to design programmes that meet national or regional development goals while simultaneously providing beneficial social and economic implications for displaced people. The short-term changes in wealth as well as subjective well-being of households relocated owing to the construction of the Belo Monte Dam in the Brazilian Amazon are studied in this research using a longitudinal, mixed-methods methodology. The households were reimbursed for their lost land but also assets in cash or credit, and they were thereafter responsible for choosing them. Author find that income enhanced for the large proportion of the study population and therefore that socioeconomic disparity significantly reduced, as poorer households observed significant improvements in living conditions, assets, as well as property rights, using relevant information from pre- and post-displacement household surveys and semi-structured interviews, as well as data from a small intervention group. In particular, most households' subjective well-being increased, notably for those who did not even own land at baseline, those who received assets such as automobiles, those who stayed closer to the original research location, and those who stayed in close vicinity to other study homes. Moving to a city, as well as moving far away from relatives or friends, was substantially linked to a fall in happiness. These findings imply that allocating appropriate resources to a compensation-based resettlement programme can assist households relocated by large infrastructure projects in the short run, but more research is required when dam building is completed to see if these benefits are implemented as planned.

(Naika, 2016) In the present neo liberal era, countries are moving towards a new model of development which requires investment from different countries. In order to attract foreign investment National governments are offering many incentives and providing land for cheaper price is one among them. But unfortunately, in many regions of the developing world, this development has been forced to confront a wide variety of losses. For instances, the developmental projects that convert the land on which people live into dams and industrial corridors which cause people to lose their land and forcefully displaced. The fact that there are currently no policies or rules for relief and rehabilitation for displaced persons, and that

governments' attempts to establish such policies have been ineffective, is the most critical factor. In reality, India is not an exception to the aforementioned rule, as the current central government has proposed amending the existing land acquisition act to weaken the rehabilitation as well as resettlement contract and to ask states to remove the most important provisions from their land acquisition acts, including such "prior informed consent," "social impact assessment," and many more. In this framework, the interrelationship between land acquisition, development, as well as displacement will be extensively examined in this article. In particular, this article examines displaced persons' rights under Indian and international law, with a focus on recent state land acquisition regulations.

(Sadashivam & Tabassum, 2016) The Globalization has great impact on the country like India, which increases the economic growth of the country, and because of this, we are seeing a growing urbanized India. Previously, India's population has been largely rural, however since 1991, the urban population has grown, and it now accounts for more than 30% of the country's overall population. However, in India, urbanisation has been fueled by significant economic expansion, particularly in the latter decade of the twentieth century, because there has been a shift from a rural economy focused on agriculture and allied activities to a modern one based on industrial activity. Unfortunately, as India's urbanisation process accelerates, people are witnessing negative consequences in the form of a lack of essential amenities such as infrastructure, drinking water, housing, and transportation. As a result, this article aims to highlight the current state of urbanisation in India, as well as the developing concerns and obstacles related with the process, as well as some recommendations for overcoming them.

(Kumar & Binod, 2014) 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 loss of physical and non-physical assets for local populations, including homes, productive land, 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 but also having to deal with disruptions in cultural and educational services. Based on population dynamics, health effects, dependencies, economic inequity, and frustration 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, ethical, and cultural disintegration, which is reshaping the current way of life in a holistic way.

(Ione, 2013) On the one hand, every political policy, socioeconomic, and development initiative provides advantages to some segments of the population, while on the other, it brings misery and despair to others. Thousands of people are evacuated and resettled every year from their houses, lands, as well as livelihoods to pave the way for large-scale development projects like dams, reservoirs, power stations, roads, plantations, urban redevelopment, and oil, gas, and mining operations. Development-induced displacement is the term for this type of forced displacement. People have been displaced not merely from their homes, but also from homelands to which they could have ties from their ancestors. People who are displaced lose

many things, includes their residences, productive assets, traditions, occupations, environmental factors that are appropriate to their skill and practices, community networks, as well as a sense of identity. The extent of their deprivation, affliction, and pains is determined by the challenges they experience and the resources they have access to in their new place. Both the development project and the relocation can be justified if sufficient compensation is offered in the form of economic encouragement and rehabilitation. The study will give an overview of development-induced displacement situations, including how many individuals are affected, what the fundamental causes are, and what the main consequences are. This will also emphasize several recommended methods for long-term development and welfare-oriented development that will benefit everyone equally.

CONCLUSION

Today in India about two-thirds of the people depends on the land. A critical issue gaining ground whether those who lose out in the process of development have been consulted at all. Or they should be entitled to be part while deciding the future management of natural resources, which are integral part of their livelihood and existence. Rural impoverished and indigenous populations are viewed as second-class citizens with no rights, and their livelihoods are taken away without their consent. While most of the jobs on these development projects are filled by outsiders since individuals who lose their property and livelihoods lack the requisite qualifications.

Agriculture plays a significant influence in determining people's socioeconomic and cultural well-being in India's economy. Consequently their forcible relocation becomes a contentious issue in contemporary debates, policy discussions, and, on occasion, in the form of protestors by affected individuals. In fact, the neoliberal reforms have been shift away from land reforms to that of removal of government protection to agricultural land to be used for industrial and commercial purposes.

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