

A Study on Impact of Displacement on Urban Development in India

Dr. Ankur Pare*

*Post-Doctoral Fellow, ICSSR, Ministry of Human Resource Development

ABSTRACT

Thousands of people are uprooted as well as resettled every year from their homes, territories, and livelihoods to pave the way for large-scale development projects like dams, reservoirs, power plants, highways, plantations, urban redevelopment, and oil, gas, and mining operations. Development-induced displacement is the term for this type of forced displacement. People have been uprooted not merely from their homes, but also from homelands to which they may have ties from their ancestors. People who are displaced lose many things, includes their homes, productive assets, traditions, livelihoods, environmental factors that are appropriate to their skill and practices, community networks, as well as a sense of belonging. 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 process and the relocation can be justified if sufficient compensation is offered in the form of economic incentives and rehabilitation.

Key Words: Development, Displacement, Land, Projects, People, Urban development

INTRODUCTION

The economic benefits of urbanisation are widely recognised at the national level, while the financial and sociocultural benefits of displacement and remittances for rural areas are also recognised. Nonetheless, there is widespread anxiety about the rate of urbanisation and national and local governments' ability to cope. (Cohen, 2006) Rural–urban displacement is considered as leading to shortfalls in the provision of suitable housing, basic services, and amenities, as well as overcrowded and congested, and increased exposure to environmental risks, particularly in low-income countries. There's no denying that a fast rising urban population can provide significant problems to national and, particularly, local administrations. Unfortunately, the distinction between urbanisation (the fraction of the total national population residing in urban regions) and urban expansion is frequently misunderstood (the absolute number of people living in areas classed as urban). (Moore et al., 2003)

Displacement is regarded as a necessary evil. Specific land and property is needed in order to create industries, infrastructures such as reservoirs, mining, roadways, and power plants that are expected to represent greater welfare, which will disrupt the life ecology of the impacted society. (Beigi, 2017) Displacement is considered as the result of a development plan that compels certain technical and commercial choices without seriously considering the solutions with the lowest impacts on the environment. There is no clear statistics on the number of people displaced as a result of development in the world. Unlike for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), there are no institutions or publications dedicated to tracking and estimate overall development induced displacements, either at the global or at national levels. (Li & Ma, 2014) For an indication of magnitude, most scholars, policy-makers, and activists rely on the

World Bank Environment Department’s (WBED) estimate that roughly presents, that 10 million people are displaced each year due to dam construction, urban development, and transportation and infrastructure programs.(Jaysawal & Saha, 2015)

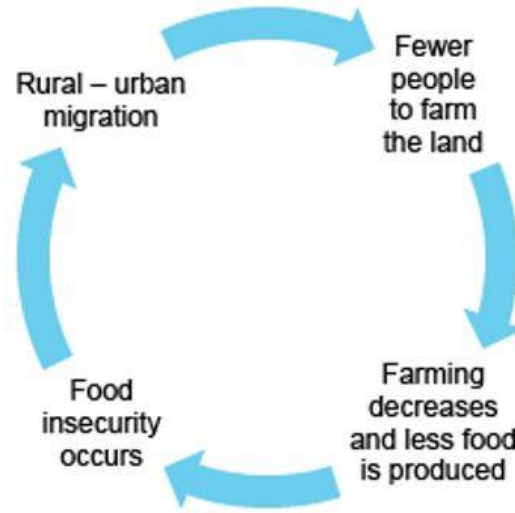


Figure 1: Causes of Urban development

Displacement due to urban development

Urban displacement encompasses forced movements from rural to urban areas; between urban areas, referred to as inter-urban; and within urban areas, referred to as intra-urban. Towns and cities are common destinations for people fleeing conflict, violence, disasters and development projects, but also dispossession and loss of income in rural areas. Throughout this century of urbanisation, a greater proportion of displacement will begin and end in the same metropolis. (Polprasert, 2015) The ability of urban centres to deal with the problem varies greatly depending on their size and income, as well as whether they are primary or secondary cities.

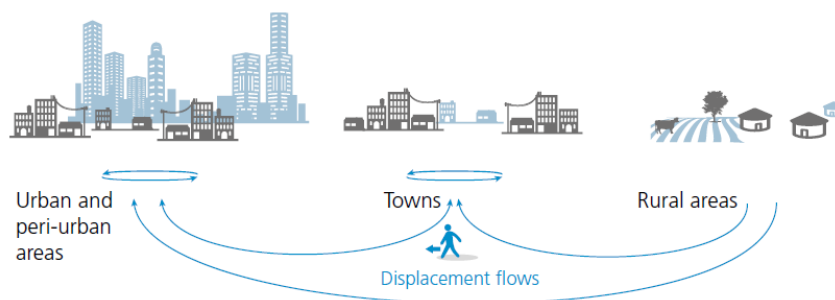


Figure 2: Urban Displacement Flow

Urban displacement is a complex topic that touches on a wide range of issues. The close relationship between rapid and badly managed urbanisation and heightened disaster risk is well recognised. When hazards hit urban areas, the concentration of people and assets and the vulnerability of residents and the built environment can lead to catastrophic outcomes. Displacement associated with disasters has only recently been acknowledged in national policies and international frameworks.(Chopra, 2016)

Beyond hazard intensity, urban disaster displacement risk is largely determined by the way cities are planned, developed and built. Urban poverty and inequality play a significant role in the dynamics of urban disasters and the distribution of displacement risk. In cities such as in Mumbai and Kolkata in India, high levels of exposure to hazards such as floods combine with high levels of vulnerability, poor education and limited access to critical infrastructure and livelihood opportunities. (Nagendra et al., 2013) This not only increases displacement risk and impacts. Recovery also takes longer if people do not have the financial resources to rebuild or move elsewhere and impoverishment contributes to making displacement protracted. (Singh, 2017)

LITERATURE REVIEW

(Jaysawal & Saha, 2015) Urbanization is closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization. On a worldwide scale, urbanisation is more than a modern phenomenon; it is a tremendous and historic alteration of human social foundations, in which primarily rural culture is quickly being displaced by primarily urban culture. Personal, commercial, as well as governmental attempts to reduce travel time and expense and increase work, education, residential, and transit possibilities lead to urbanisation. Many people from the countryside migrate to the city in search of better opportunities and social mobility. However, the picture of urbanisation is not as rosy as it may appear. Due to rapid industrialisation, modern cities have evolved in a haphazard and unorganized manner. Partially as a result of population growth throughout the decades, as well as partially as a result of displacement, cities in emerging countries become congested and overcrowded.

(Patel et al., 2015) Globalization as well as neoliberalism transformations of local administration in Indian cities have reshaped the physical and socio - economic landscapes of the country's cities, creating contestations between the affluent and the dispossessed. In Ahmedabad, India, this research examines the effects of mega-urban regeneration and infrastructure development on disadvantaged households, as well as displacement and resettlement procedures. The results indicate that the relocated low income households have become even more destitute as a result of policy and local government practices that pay little attention to the potential of degradation.

(Steinberg, 2014) Today, half of the world's population is living in cities. This has impacts for land conversion, use of natural resources, and the absorption of rural labor to cities. Cities as well as rural areas are linked by economic development, livelihood, and environmental strands. Rural-urban links are becoming increasingly significant for economic development methods, poverty alleviation measures, and governance due to a growing interdependence of rural and urban people on resources and markets that provide for one other. Emerging livelihood patterns based on diverse income prospects and transportation signal changes and new opportunities for city dwellers as well as the populations of rural hinterlands as rural-urban linkages expand and strengthen. Such new livelihood forms arise as a result of agricultural product expansion and manufacturing, as well as new industrial and service possibilities.

(Ghosh & Kansal, 2014) This report discusses India's urbanisation difficulties and the steps taken to address them. In India, urbanisation is characterized by unbalanced urban expansion between cities due to huge population influxes, resulting in distinct differences in urban form and services between the centre and periphery of cities. Growth of slums, insufficient solid waste management, decreased per capita water availability and inconsistent water quality, poor sewer coverage, and decreasing ambient air are all major concerns. However these difficulties are neither new nor unique to India, the forces and pressures that underpin them seem to be. The study depicts the constraints of Indian urbanisation in terms of resource inefficiency, resistance to adopting emerging technologies that do not provide direct cash rewards, insufficient law enforcement, as well as regulatory framework inadequacies. It also includes examples of the non-profit and formal sectors working together to address sustainability issues. There is also an acknowledgement that municipal administrations are dealing with numerous climate adaptation sustainability agendas. Planners as well as city administrations will have a decision-making dilemma as a result of this. Advantages that aren't directly related to a strategic goal can assist motivate policy implementation and sustainment.

(Dociu, 2012) The urbanisation process refers to the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities as a consequence of displacement from rural to urban areas. Urbanization is widely acknowledged as a process with a variety of social, economic, as well as environmental effects, and it is most common in developing countries. This complicated process has a strong global component that transcends spatial limits, operating as true engines of progress with enormous implications for natural resources as well as life quality.

(Kundu, 2007) Displacement and urbanisation, especially in the current phase of globalization, are direct representations of the process of economic development in space. Recognizing the cause and effects of the aforementioned in terms of changes in population and economic activity distribution, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of state and other organisation initiatives, would be critical for assessing policy options as well as discovering areas of possible strategic intervention.

CONCLUSION

Development-induced displacements and resettlements in the rapidly developing cities are an important socio-political issue. In India, evidence of large-scale displacements of the urban poor in all major cities is emerging, spurred by gentrification and infrastructure projects to create world-class cities.

The development of projects such as dams, power plants, irrigation canals, and several other infrastructures is a critical and fundamental prerequisite for economic and social progress. However, the effects of development project building are multifaceted and terrible, evicting a substantial portion of the population from their homes and limiting their development and growth opportunities. As a result, the situation is contradictory. Both of these items must be eliminated as a punitive strategy. The only way to offset the bad effects and alleviate the sufferings is for the government to respond. For displaced people, suitable compensation and rehabilitation mechanisms should be implemented. Dislocated individuals should be supplied

with medical, hygiene, and educational services so that they do not experience the same level of ignorance as the rest of the world's population.

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