



## **A Study on Problems related to Resettlement and Rehabilitation in India**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Despite the vast national and international experiences in, and the existence of several guidelines on, managing involuntarily displaced persons (IDPs), resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of displaced populations continue to be a difficult problem. Dams for agricultural activities and electricity are frequently associated with large-scale rural community displacement. It is important for the planners of development programs to focus on the welfare of displaced people along with the economic benefits by such projects. As a result, the main question that arises is, "What constitutes a successful resettlement and rehabilitation scheme?" As a result, this study aims to investigate these barriers to an effective Resettlement and Rehabilitation programme, as well as to implement some best practices for assuring a successful R & R programme, by reviewing the R & R programmes of some of its projects in India.

Keywords: Resettlement and Rehabilitation, Displacement, Displaced people, Involuntarily displaced persons, Project Affected People, Inclusive Growth.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Development must be defined as the development of whole society which includes not only the economic benefits but also the structure of social relationships, nature of values and culture and livelihood of the people on the basis of their principles and beliefs as well as the society. (Sheehan, 2008) Economic growth is viewed as critical to a country's growth and prosperity. Since, without development, there can be no progress and growth. It raises the living standards of people so that they are better off from their previous state. (Terminski, 2013) Economic progress, in actuality, has both beneficial and detrimental effects, such as forced displacement and forcible resettlement of impacted people.

For the national development, India started investing more on heavy infrastructures with the time and these heavy infrastructure developments were started considering as a sign of technological advancement. The first generation leaders of India such as Rajendra Prasad, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru started considering these hydropower projects as temples of modern India. Only monetary compensation was provided to the displaced people who were displaced in the name of development projects from their native places. (Dociu, 2012) It is clear that India's economic growth policy benefits the Dalits disproportionately, with tribals & lower castes accounting for the majority of the sufferers. People were forcefully relocated from their native places, their ancestral homes, family structures, disrupted their social relationships. These people were taken away from their forests, traditional places, holy rivers and places of worship. For all the developing countries in the world, displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation are the key concerns today. (Concept & Urbanization, 2001) Since, last 60 years large numbers of hydropower projects has been constructed and more than 50 million people have been displaced and only 25% of displaced people were rehabilitated. (Mohan, 2004) A huge number of infrastructure projects have been found to be inadequately planned and implemented, leading in an unfavorable influence on the environment and lowering people's standard of living.(Elmqvist et al., 2013)



### History of resettlement and rehabilitation in India

Some of the factors which greatly affects the displacement of people in India such as natural disasters, development and infrastructure projects, establishment of Protected Area Networks as well as political conflicts. According to the study conducted in 2007 by “International Displacement Monitoring Centre”, it was observed that 50 million people have been displaced in India due to developmental projects in last 50 years. (Li & Ma, 2014) And according to other study, from 1947-2000, 60 million people have been displaced from their native places in India. (Kundu, 2011) And in April 2015, 6,16,140 people have been internally displaced in India according to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). However, these figures are not exact and no department can provide the exact number of displaced in India and also the number of people who have been relocated and resettled to other place. The main objective of this study is to provide the issues related to resettlement and rehabilitation mainly focusing upon the causes, political conflicts and developmental projects.

Sl. No.	Causes	% age
1.	Creation of dams and reservoirs	(26.6%)
2.	Development of communication networks	(24.6%)
3.	Water supply	(12.3%)
4.	Mining/extraction of mineral resources	(10.3%)
5.	Development of urban infrastructure	(8.2%)
6.	Irrigation projects and artificial channels	(4.8%)
7.	Creation of national parks and reserves	(3.4%)
8.	Development of industry	(2.7%)
9.	Deforestation	(1.4%)
9.	Other causes	(5.5%)

Figure 1: Causes of Development-induced Displacement and Resettlement (as on 2000)

### Rehabilitation and Resettlement Issues in India

Post-independence economic progress in India has been focused on massive dam projects and massive enterprises such as coalfields, roadways, and power stations, all of which have resulted in extensive displacement. Majority of development projects have resulted changes in the land use pattern, water and natural resources and displacement of a large number of people from their original places of habitation. (Moore et al., 2003) In the lack of a national Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy, state government or even specific project authorities introduced their own principles and handled the R&R of the displaced by way of ad hoc plans. Most state and local governments, depending on the LAA of 1984, established rehabilitation programs and strategies that accepted a relatively narrow approach to compensation. There would be no such programme for displaced individuals from the 1950s through the 1980s, according to research. The displaced persons and civil society's resistance to the immoral rehabilitation began in 1946 with the Hirakud dam in Odisha. However, opposition gained popularity in the late 1970s with the Narmada dam, which later became known as the Anti-Dam movement, and played a significant role in pressuring the state to change their resettlement and rehabilitation policy. (White et al., 2009)

In 1985, Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy was first introduced by Ministry of Welfare. They took almost 20 years to draft the policies regarding it. The National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) for displaced families in 2003 came into force in 2004. But, there was a need



to make this policy more participatory and transparent and to reduce the adverse impact of displacement. Hence, the national policy of R&R was revised and the R&R bill came out in 2007. But, this policy again failed because gender factor was ignored. (Bhuvandas, 2014) From 1985, the policy of relocation and rehabilitation has remained a topic of debate. Further concern in India's resettlement and rehabilitation programme is a lack of accountability; a review of the literature reveals that government officials, NGOs, and scholars all present inconsistent data on displaced persons. Though involuntary resettlement is a very sensitive issue still the government authorities do not pay adequate attention towards resettlement and rehabilitation policy. (B. Cohen, 2006)

As a result, the displaced people who have been farming forest land suffer much more, as the government refuses to compensate them in either land or money. Because the government announced the land farmers were cultivating as government land. It was a huge burden for the resettled, who were already going through a lot. (Kundu, 2007) The next section of this paper focuses on various studies and researches conducted by the researchers on the impact of resettlement and rehabilitation in India.

### **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) studied 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. Therefore, it has a mixed result in terms of water's usage, misuse, energy, and contamination over the planet. Getting started from the beginning to the end and throughout the construction of the project, the framework generally has some appropriate aims to accomplish and resources to accomplish these through various strategies and procedural procedures which mostly involve acquisition of land, displacement, reimbursement, resettlement, and rehabilitation. Moreover, the resettlement and rehabilitation programme appears to be addressing the human displacement against economic development dilemma, but the measure to which this is true remains a major research question. 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 in the country.

(Li & Ma, 2014) Concerns of urban development-induced displacement as well as relocation, as well as the impacted population's long-term quality of life are drawn by the author. This study reviews about the settlement strategies of Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project which explores the recollection of residents of the relocation process and compares the situation over time of these groups of low-income households. These two groups are: Those who declined a resettlement package & stayed in their canal-side huts; as well as those who approved the deal and moved into new government-provided flats. Various issues are highlighted in the present study such as: sanitation issues, livelihood issues and social cohesion issues to analyze whether those groups have experienced any improvements in their lives.

(Bhuvandas, 2014) evaluated Industrial revolution has provided economic stability; nevertheless, it has also resulted in increased population, urbanisation, and visible stress on basic life support



systems, while also pushing environmental effects closer to the threshold limit. In industrial development process, environmental sustainability is becoming very significant with the growing industrial growth and relatively low land masses. Increasing data suggests that converting existing industries into eco-industrial networks through successful application of green techniques is a potential alternative for preserving the region's natural resources while also enhancing the regional economy on a long-term basis. On the basis of ground realities, the empirical knowledge on affected area helps in understanding the local context and developing context. The study was performed in Pondicherry on the current industrial pollution and environmental setting. Severe impacts of industrialization on local environment are indicated through a causal chain analysis. Moreover, this study also highlights the immediate and root causes. The findings serve as a foundation for proposing long-term remedies to the region's rampant pollution, as well as analogous problems around the world.

(Pandya, 2013) The author of this study observed various activities conducted by NGOs for the upliftment of people affected due to displacement and resettlement programs particularly in Gujarat. Interviews were conducted by the researcher to collect the data. Formal as well as informal meetings were also performed with the respondents for personal observations and for gathering information. The data presented demonstrates the role and contribution of NGOs in the implementation of the government schemes. In order to obtain responses, various representatives of NGOs, academics and think tanks were contacted and questioned in informal meetings with the help of the interview schedule. This paper provides a brief overview of the roles that NGOs currently play in improving internally displaced persons (IDPs) development and protecting human rights. The functions of NGOs in the development activities for affected communities are described. The contribution of NGOs in Gujarat state is focused on the views from the survey conducted in the Vadodara district highlights.

(Goswami, 2011) Author observed the new Bill published in 2011 about “Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement” which explores the major problems faced by people in the context with land acquisition in India. The main objective of this bill is to provide the solutions regarding various issues such as rehabilitation, resettlement, safeguards, compensation process, environmental issues, applicability of proposed enactment areas as well as important regions of non-applicability. This study conducted by the author also demands for the legal and political questions about land acquisition to the Bill’s implications for federalism and asks conducted detailed analysis of the most recent pronouncement of the Supreme Court. The potential scenarios are also observed in the present study as well as its consequences in future urbanization pattern in India.

(Baird, 2008) evaluated Dam construction is invariably followed by large-scale displacement and resettlement, resulting in complex socioeconomic consequences for the host community. The purpose of this study is to look into the social effects of dam-induced relocation and resettlement in China using a qualitative approach study that looked at both the control group & experimental group. Data was gathered using a combination of questionnaires, archival files, and in-person interviews. The findings demonstrate that dam-induced displacement & resettlement aided in improving living conditions but also promoting rural collaborative medical insurance adoption. However, it had a negative effect on economic growth, family income and income sources, as well as overall happiness. In the end, there are implications for theory and practice.



### Examples of resettlement and rehabilitation

- Displacement due to dams: Several hydel projects as well as dams have been constructed in India. More than 20 million people have been affected due to construction in last 50 years. Due to construction of Hirakud dam, 20000 people have been displaced from around 250 villages. In 1950s, Bhakra Nangal dam was constructed and displaced a number of people. Till now, various people have not rehabilitated.
- Displacement due to mining: Due to possibility of the accidents or sinking of the land, people have to be displaced in and around the mining area. Mining take up several hectares of land thousands of people have to be evacuated. Years earlier, the subterranean fire in the Jharia coal fields presented a nuisance for local communities. It became difficult to identify an alternative site for the 3 lakh individuals who were to be relocated.
- Displacement in Japan due to nuclear crisis: Everyone is aware about the recent nuclear crises happened in Japan in Fukushima city. Three reactors have been exploded due to tsunami. Because of this disaster, 2 million people have been displaced from their native places and still they are unable to settle at any other place. Number of people were evacuated from their places so that they can be saved from the exposure of nuclear hazard. People were suffering from hunger because they were unable to get food and the supply was interrupted due to contamination by radiation.

### CONCLUSION

India is a developing country and every year, a large number of developmental projects are being undertaken. Landlessness, homelessness, unemployment marginalisation, poverty and food shortage, increased illness, loss of access to common property resources, and social disarticulation are all consequences of displacement. The majority of those displaced and harmed by the project are members of the underprivileged and powerless classes, as well as landless labourers and tiny marginal farmers with no possessions. According to numerous impartial analyses, relocation has made displaced people's lives much worse by lowering their standard of life.

Aside from that, the effects of the resettlement and rehabilitation programme must be considered from a gender viewpoint. There must be some measures in place to ensure that everyone has full access to and pleasure of all project-related benefits. There must be no relocation until persons have received a thorough and complete rehabilitation.

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