



An Overall Study on assessing the Problems of Displaced People in India

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ABSTRACT

Human population displacement from natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences. The focus this study is to focus on mainly farmers and tribes in India. This study also focuses on the effects of modernization on these people especially after the adoption of neoliberal economic reforms. In terms of cultural point of view as well as livelihoods, the displacement of rural people becomes traumatic for themselves. This study aims to look into the challenges of displacement in settlements which have been largely isolated from remaining world. The effects of “development-induced displacement” on rural populations are significant, as evidenced by displacement as well as complaints by the impacted populations. Several problems are faced by displaced people because no serious initiatives are taken by government of India as well as state governments. And above all, women and kids become the worst victims in such scenarios as they are not counted in such policies of resettlement and rehabilitation.

Keywords: Displacement, Internally displaced person, Project affected people, Resettlement, Rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION

The right definition of development is the improvement of society's overall wellbeing in all aspects, including economic, political, as well as social. The term "development" means a state in which the material & intellectual living standards of the masses improve. The most basic purpose of economic development appears to be to improve public livelihood and well-being. (Bhuvandas, 2014) the whole world is going through the process of development which is creating lot of miseries and suffering all over the world specifically to the vast section of population. Several developmental projects have been developed for development worldwide. Some of the developmental projects are: dams, reservoirs, railway, roadways, infrastructure, building, shopping complexes, malls and various other private properties and holders were displaced under the guise of some economic remuneration, which is now past due, and which would not alleviate their economic and other hardships in the future.

For large-scale development projects, millions of people are relocated from their native places and resettled from their homes, huts, livelihoods for the development such large projects are reservoirs, dams, hydroelectric plants, oil, gas refineries and other mining projects. (Dociu, 2012) “Development-induced displacement” is the name given to such displacement projects which forces the human population to dislocate from their native places. These projects only displace people from their homes but it also displaces them from the placed which have been tied by old inherited connections.

Development-induced displacement became a major worry and a barrier to long-term economic development as well as the integrity of economic regimes and programs in the 1990s. (Garrett, 2010) The worry stems from a major increase in development-induced displacements in the late 1970s and early 1980s, driven primarily by a worldwide infrastructure boom and harsh developmental plans, as well as painful and poor resettlement consequences. Strikes, movements, and opposition in response to public policies and economic regimes have called into doubt the authority of policymakers and planners at various levels. (Li & Ma, 2014) the fresh beginning must be given to the people who have been displaced and relocated due to development projects.

Development oriented Displacement

Displacement is recognized as an essential evil. Particular land and property is necessary in order to create industries, structures like dams, mines, roadways, and electric power



projects that are expected to represent greater benefit, which will disrupt the life ecology of the impacted society. (Tacoli & Mcgranahan, 2015) Displacement is described as the result of a development plan that compels particular technical and commercial choices despite seriously considering the alternative with the lowest economic and social costs.

Developmental projects have not taken their homes from the public but also the place of childhood memories and ancestral bonds. These uprooted houses gives the place to development projects like roadways, railways, dams, reservoirs, industrial plants and redevelopment. (Nagendra et al., 2013)

Since the 1960s, livelihood disruption & dislocation have been a periodic aspect of the Singrauli region of Madhya Pradesh, mostly owing to dam, electricity, and mining construction. The first displacement took place in India in 1960s for the construction of Govind Sagar Reservoir and Rihand dam and thermal power project was also constructed in 1980s which provided expansion in coal mining in the same place. (Jaysawal & Saha, 2015) A chain of displacement is generated by all these activities and also leads to damage of livings of the people in that place.

In recent years, there have been several displacements caused by development in states such as Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal as a result of land acquisition for SEZs in trying to entice thousands of dollars on roughly half-million hectares of land. (Cohen, 2006) This was also reported that these expenditures would generate more than half a million employment, but employment creation was significantly lower than predicted due to heavy mechanisation and automation.

The table below shows the no. of people displaced due to multiple projects being built in various states. The table shows the project name, the state in which it is located, and the number of people who have been displaced.

Table 1: Different projects, states and people displaced

Name of project	State	Number of displaced persons
Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat	200000
Ukai	Gujarat	52000
Karjan	Gujarat	11600
Maheshwar	Madhya Pradesh	20000
Bodhghat	Madhya Pradesh	12700
Chandil	Bihar	37600
Koel Karo	Bihar	66000
Maithon and Panchet	Bihar	93874
Mahi Bajaj Sagar	Rajasthan	38400
Polavaram	Andhra Pradesh	150000
Ichampalli	Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra	38100
Tultuli	Maharashtra	13600
Bhakra	Himachal Pradesh	36000
Pong	Himachal Pradesh	80000
Upper Indravati	Orissa	18500

It is stated that these projects created jobs and enhance services, which contributes to general population development and empowerment. Unfortunately, it replaces people from their homes, communities, and native culture, as well as raising substantial social justice and equality issues. (Kundu, 2007)



Consequences of Displacement

The consequence of the present pattern of development is the continuing powerlessness of the weaker sections due to displacement and without any benefits from these development projects. (Kedia, 2015) Environmental deterioration and contamination have also resulted from changes in land usage, acquisition for urban growth, and loss of livelihood. (Terminski, 2015) In the lack of precise project-by-project data, assessments of the total number of people displaced as a result of planned development interventions from 1951 to 1990 range from a conservative estimate of 110 lakh to a total figure of 185 lakh.

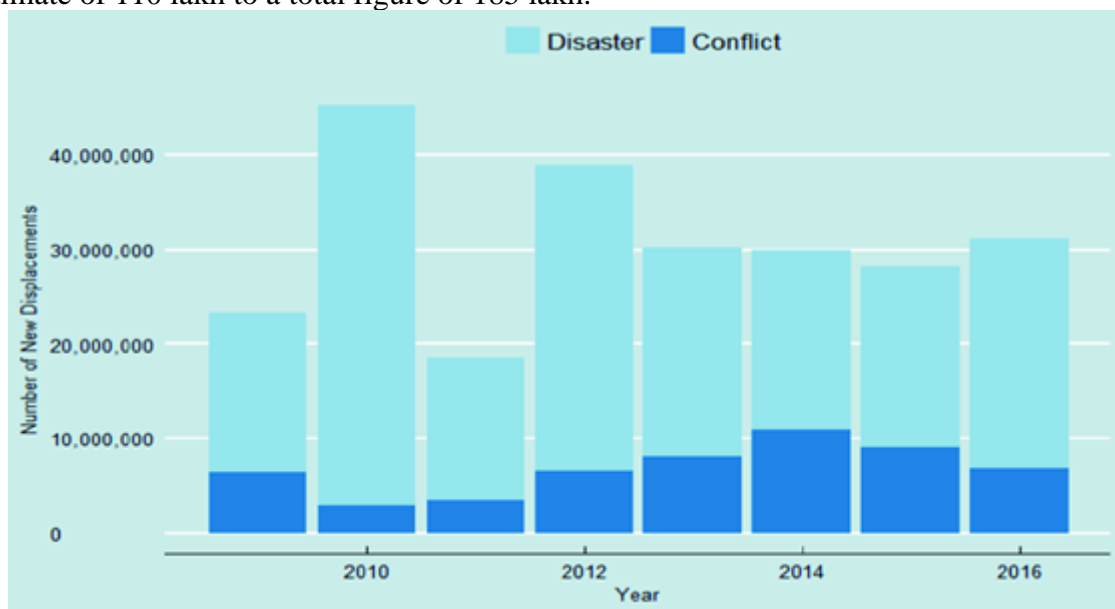


Figure 1: Internal displacement from conflicts and disasters, 2009-2016

The situation is further compounded by inadequate rehabilitation measures. According to several case studies only 25 percent of those displaced have been rehabilitated properly. (Aneesh & Patil, 2015) In most development projects it is found that the attitude of project authorities towards affected people is apathetic and negligent. More particularly, the situation gets aggravated by (a) the absence of a strategy for re-addressing the problems resettlement creates and (b) by inadequate planning and execution.

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.

(Borphukon, 2015) analyzed Development projects are very often linked with the problem of displacement. The development projects of North-East region have directly affected the poor powerless tribal both in the hills and plains. The study has made an attempt to find out the development-induced displacement in North-East India in general and Assam in particular. The main focus is on its impact on displaced persons particularly on displaced women. The sources of data are secondary one. The secondary data are collected from articles, seminars papers, books and news reports published in different newspapers.

(Jaysawal & Saha, 2015) observed Modernization, industrialisation, and the sociocultural process of rationalization are all integrally tied to urbanisation. On a worldwide scale, urbanisation is more than a modern phenomenon; it is a dramatic and historic alteration of human social foundations, in which primarily rural culture is increasingly being overtaken by mostly urban culture. Individuals, corporate, and governmental effort to limit travel time and costs and increase work, learning, residence, and transit possibilities lead to urbanisation. Several people from the countryside migrate to the city in search of better opportunities and



living standards. But the picture of urbanization is not so much glorious as it apparently seems. Secondary sources such as public documents, books, papers, and web-based publications are used to compile the data. For the purpose of describing the trend, data of urban population collected from Census Figures have been compiled. The goal of this research is to examine the effects of rapidly rising urbanisation in Indian society via a multi-dimensional assessment.

(Kedia, 2015) analyzed Forcible displacement, such as that induced by massive hydroelectric dam construction, has serious social and health consequences for the indigenous populations involved. This form of dislocation is especially dangerous for older resettlers. They are subjected to significant change in physical living areas, as well as in the cultural surroundings, lifestyle, eating habits, and healthcare services. In this essay, researchers look at some of the detrimental mental health effects of forced relocation on elder resettlers in North India's Garhwal Himalayas. This study, which focuses particularly on elements of despair and anxiety among elderly resettlers, provides solid evidence of their decreasing mental health.

(Siriwardhana & Stewart, 2013) studied Forced internal displacement has been rising steadily, mainly due to conflict. Many internally displaced people (IDP) experience prolonged displacement. Several of these IDPs are at greater risk of acquiring mental problems, according to study, which adds to the global disease burden. Human and group resilience, on the other hand, may operate as protective factors. There is little research on the impacts of resettlement or return displacement on mental health after long-term forced internal relocation. In addition, the role of resilience factors in instances of extended displacement is yet unclear. Internal displacement's influence on public health is not well recognised. In order to understand IDP mental health, epidemiology and experimental research must move beyond medicalized approaches and consider larger social and cultural factors. A properly specified multidisciplinary strategy is advised, and the resilience element should be included and researched extensively in mental health research among IDP.

(Pandya, 2013) examined the numerous actions of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Gujarat state, western India, for the betterment of impacted tribal individuals in the form of resettlement programmes. The interview session was developed in order to gather information. The major data came from the interview schedule, as well as official and informal encounters with participants and personal experiences. 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.

(Mandal, 2009) examined Internal displacement in India has been impacted by conflicts. Security forces' punitive operations as well as insurgency are a key source of relocation. Civilians have evacuated fighting zones in Kashmir, the Northeast, and other states in central India, and are occasionally specifically implicated by militant groups. Because of lengthy hostilities or unresolved property and land concerns, the majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) have been unable to return for many times. The government response to those escaping conflict is frequently haphazard and woefully inadequate. Conducting surveys in conflict-affected regions to identify the scale of the problem and also the demands of the displaced will be a first significant step in improving aid to internally displaced people.

(Cohen, 2006) focused on to provide a thorough survey of current urban growth outlines and trends in developing countries. Several urban regions have seen remarkable growth over the



last 2 decades which resulted into high population increase and the world economy being revolutionized by a combo of rapid technical and political development. While cities are becoming increasingly important in the global economy as centers of industry and consumption, growing urbanisation in the developing world is outpacing most cities' ability to provide appropriate services to their inhabitants. All of the world's population increase is predicted to be centred in developing-world cities for the next thirty years. While most of the current debate about sustainable cities concentrates on the enormous challenges facing the world's greatest urban agglomerations, the major section of the urban people remain in relatively smaller urban environments. Numerous international organisations have failed to notice the expected rapid rise of small & mid cities, as well as the worsening living standards of the urban poor. In Africa, the difficulties of attaining long-term urban development will be extremely daunting.

CONCLUSION

Looking to regime prevailing in the world today and also in the past, it is evident that development induced displacement is inevitable. Unfortunately, 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 first and only way to offset the bad effects and alleviate the sufferings is for the government to respond. Regarding displaced families, suitable reimbursement and rehabilitation mechanisms should be implemented. Dislocated individuals should be supplied with medical, sanitation, and educational services so that they do not experience the same level of ignorance as the rest of the worldwide people.

It is clear from the above analysis that, the state has not taken this enormous problem seriously. In all the projects, the organisation and implementation of rehabilitation programme was the least thought out aspect. The continued existence of the above mentioned problems highlights the absence of an effective R and R policy, and thus calls for in-depth research which in turn would improve the formulation of development and resettlement policies.

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