
A study on status of resettlement and rehabilitation in development induced displacement

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Abstract

The development-induced displacement is state induced eviction in the name of development of nation. So, problem of displacement due to development projects are not getting domestic attention in public sphere while compared to the displacement due to conflict and disaster. The involuntary displacement leads to the loss of neighborhood, kinship and cultural ties among the displaced people. Bridge between the economic and sociological perspective in the displacement issues and rehabilitation is essential for a better development paradigm. The objective of this study is to study the impact of displacement on displaced persons. It is found that displacement made a mixed impact among the DPS after resettlement. The people who owned less land and especially SCs who lived in Dalit colonies has gained more land and amenities in colonies compared to previous residential area. But people who owned agricultural and more land than offered land under resettlement and rehabilitation underwent to impoverishment.

Keywords: *Displacement, Resettlement, Rehabilitation, etc.*

Introduction

Development:

The term “development” has a comprehensive meaning. The meaning, nature and appropriate means of development are an ongoing discourse. After industrialization in England in eighteenth century, economic growth became the core meaning of development. Broadening of political modernization with economic growth leads to the nation building, state capitalism and free enterprises (Pieterse, 2010).

The age of present development began on 1949, when US president Harry S. Truman used the term “underdeveloped area” in the context of newly independent nations in Asia, Africa and South America. Truman substituted the term like “backwardness” and “poverty” by “underdeveloped”.

Gustavo (2010) argues that “underdevelopment was the creation of development”. Label of underdevelopment led to the intervention of north (industrialized) on underdeveloped south (third world countries). Sachs (2010) observes that “development’s hidden agenda was nothing else than the westernization of the globe”. Diversity of culture, societies, language, customs and gestures, clothing etc. were lost by the south development concepts. Mental space of people’s dream act is occupied by western imagery and caught up by the western reality. World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other north dominated development agencies implement the western development agendas, especially that of US through the academic knowledge and as donors of development policies.

In the 1960s and 1970s writings of scholars in political and economic perspective has challenged western model of mainstream capitalized development, which persuaded Least Developed Countries (LDC) to follow industrialization for a modern state (Rostow, 1971). Mainstream concepts of development were criticized and challenged by the dissents and post development thinkers like Arturo Escobar, Gustavo Esteva. Modernization and economic growth theories raised many questions on the definition of real development.

Modern states act as an agent of development and to achieve economic development. “Development comes to all, sometimes as part of a package that includes idea of the nation-state at the price of all social change, a full-blown theory of progress through historical stages, and large -scale massification through urbanization and industrialization” (Nandy, 2003, 173). They legitimize rapid urbanization and industrialization through their policies. This is being carried out by construction and extension of infrastructure and transportation facilities like highways, industrial corridors, manufacturing zones, smart cities, SEZs, airports, ports etc. Most of these initiatives require large tracts of land and in order to collate them.

In India, the origin of eminent domain law can be traced in the colonial law of Land Acquisition Act (LAA), 1894. Independent India needed rapid industrialization and infrastructure projects for development, which demanded more land. For this, a readymade law was essential to acquire land immediately and that forced India to follow LAA implemented in the year 1894, without any change. Independent India, upward of 50 million acres of agricultural and non-agricultural land may have been converted and nearly 60 million people might have been affected (Chakravorty, 2014).

Development – Induced Displacement:

The word displacement can have distinct meaning in different contexts. But in the present study context, more appropriate dictionary meaning of displacement is „the removal of someone or something by someone or something else which takes their place“ and „enforced departure of people from their homes typically because of war, persecution or natural disaster“ (Oxford online dictionary, n.d.).

Penz, Drydyk, & Bose (2011) for clarifying the concept on development related displacement states two expressions: “displacement for development” and “displacement by development”. “Displacement for development” means “exclusion of people from one or more current uses of particular area, usually land, for the enhancement of the production or distribution of perceived public or private goods”(Penz et al, 2011, 44).

“Displacement by development” is indirect form of displacement. Implementation of Development policies can cause competition in market and reduction of earnings of people that lead to change in their position which in turn leads to displacement.

The people who are dependent on land, forest and natural resources are disposed from their subsistence by displacement (Mohanty, 2005). Dispossession of agricultural land and transformation of acquired land in to the business or industrial assets in the name of public interest leads to the marginalization of farmers, agriculture labourers and entire agrarian society.

Loss of grazing land will affect the cattle rearing and livestock capital of Displaced Persons (DPs). Loss of livestock leads to the change in the consumption pattern and food habits among the DPs. Loss of cattle and agriculture land negatively affects the income level DPs which will lead to the economic marginalization of DPs. Loss of natural food habits and reliance on market products may lead to their food crisis and starvation among the DPs. The transformation of agrarian society to a community which is highly dependent on market and industries will make it socially, economically and culturally marginalized.

Magnitude of Displacement:

Generally, macro developmental projects and optimum infrastructure development are considered as means for economic development of a nation. Since independence, the model of development, initiated by our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, has adopted trickle down approach of development. Construction of big dams and macro developmental projects were considered as an icon and means of development growth. These development projects were built in marginalized area dominated by tribes, pastoralists or subsistence agriculturalists (Mathur & Marsen, 2000).

Magnitude of displacement in India is not by analysing the total number of Displaced Persons (DPs) or Project Affected persons (PAPs). Fernandes indicates that institutionalized attitude of neglect makes it hard to define and analyse various aspects of displacement due to the lack of reliable statistics of DPs in most projects (as cited in Padel & Das, 2011, 153). Magnitude of displaced people in India is an ongoing debate. Various literatures have quoted different numbers when it comes to the aggregate of DPs in our country.

Literature Review:

In 1980s, Indian economy experienced three new features. Firstly, massive increase in the fiscal stimulus to the economy by the spending of government and gross fiscal deficit increased due to lack of share of public savings. Secondly, substantial liberalized imports of capital goods for luxury consumption. Thirdly, shift to relying on external commercial borrowing from abroad by the state to deal with fiscal and current account deficit (Chandrasekhar & Ghosh, 2009). Scandals of corruption and political opposition within the Congress Party restricted to support private sector to efficient modernization of capital goods and high technology business. Indian leaders were not able to go back to the socialist and self-reliant economic policies due to change in global economy based on free market and competition (Frankel, 2012).

According to the World Bank, during the period of 1980-2000, every year, about 10 million people have been affected by development induced displacement globally (Kabra & Mahalwal, 2014, 217).

Wet (2001) documented that during the last two decades of the previous century, the magnitude of displacement triggered by development programmes were of 10 million people each year, or 200 million people globally during that period. It is estimated that about 100 million people, were around

the world, were displaced over the past decade as a result of large scale development and India has the highest rate of development -induced displacement in the world (Dias, 2000).

Polavaram Dam, the large multipurpose constructed in Andhra Pradesh has displaced 42,701 families and 53. 17% of the displaced people belongs to STs and 12.58% belongs to SCs (Mariotti, 2015).

Coal mines of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) had affected 2737 families and 2197 families are living in mine quarters, 742 families were resettled as per their own choice, and remaining families resettled in 7 resettlement colonies in Talcher and Ib valley and provided employment to 5277 land losers under R&R schemes. Talcher Super Power Project (TSPT) has acquired 3,614 acres of land and affected 940 families from 53 villages (Somayaji, 2008, 692,694).

In villages, productive land is a collective source of livelihood and agricultural labourers and village servants indirectly depend on this land(Sharma, 2003). Loss of land led to loss of food security and transformed their self-sufficient life in to a life dependent on supply of labouring jobs (Padel& Das, 2011).

Rationale of the study:

In the last two decades, the magnitude of forced displaced population by the development projects in all over the world is 200 million. The growth based development and related macro developmental projects have increased the number of development project affected persons in the world. In the last five-year decades in India, fifty million people are estimated to have been displaced. by the construction of power plants, dams, highways and other such infrastructure development projects (Roy, 1999)

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perspective in the displacement issues and rehabilitation is essential for a better development paradigm. Hence, it is important to study the gap between the resettlement and rehabilitation policies of project agencies and real practice in implementation.

Objective of the study:

The Objectives of the study are:

1. To study the impact of displacement on displaced persons.
2. To examines the effectiveness of resettlement and rehabilitation in diminishing the impoverishment risk of displaced persons.

Research Design:

The research study is based on descriptive research design. The study investigates and describes the socio-economic and cultural impoverishment inflicted among the re-settlers

Methods of Data Collection

The researcher adopted census method to identify the respondents and collect data from displaced households by using an interview schedule. Subsequently, 258 displaced families in resettlement colony had been identified. Out of 258 families, data had been collected from the 200 families who were agreed to respond. The collected data have been analysed quantitatively and qualitatively. The primary data was collected from the respondents by conducting a household survey with the use of interview schedule.

Sampling Technique:

In the present study, multi state sampling technique has been used to collect the data from 201 families who resettled.

Data Analysis:

In the present study socio-economic profile of the respondents helps to analyse the demographic features of the respondents. Especially, effects of displacement and impact of resettlement and rehabilitation are dependent on gender, class, caste etc.

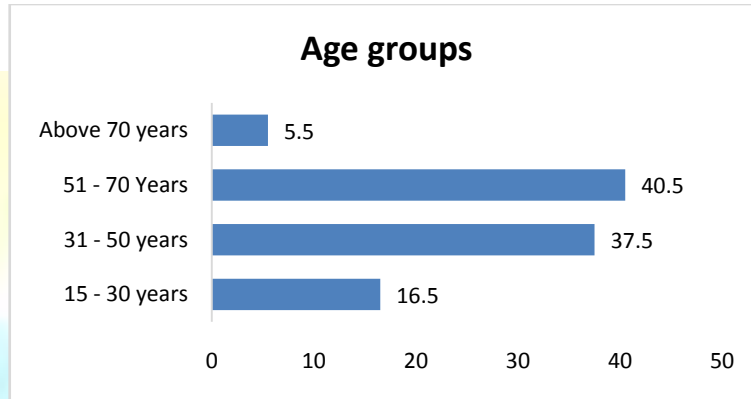


Figure 1 Age of the respondent

From the figure 1 it is found that majority of the respondents i.e. 40.5% belong to the age group of 51 – 70 years, followed by 37.5% of the respondents who belong to age group of 31-50 years. 16.5% of the respondents are of the age group of 15-30 years and remaining 5.5% of the respondents are of the age group of above 70 years.

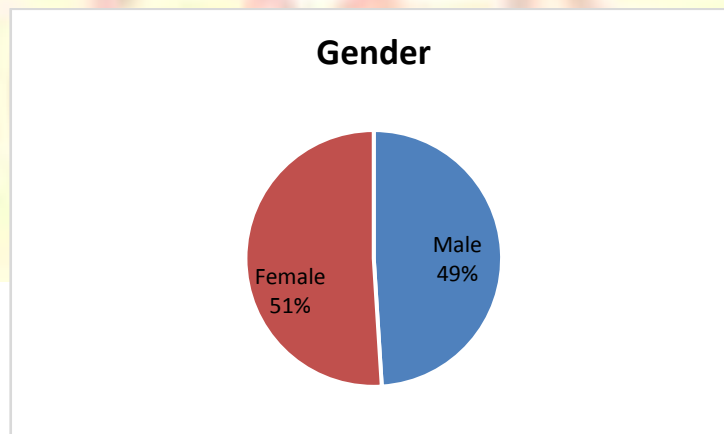


Figure 2 Gender of the respondents

Figure 2 shows that 51% of the respondents are female and remaining 49% of the respondents are male. The gender representation is almost equal is the study population.

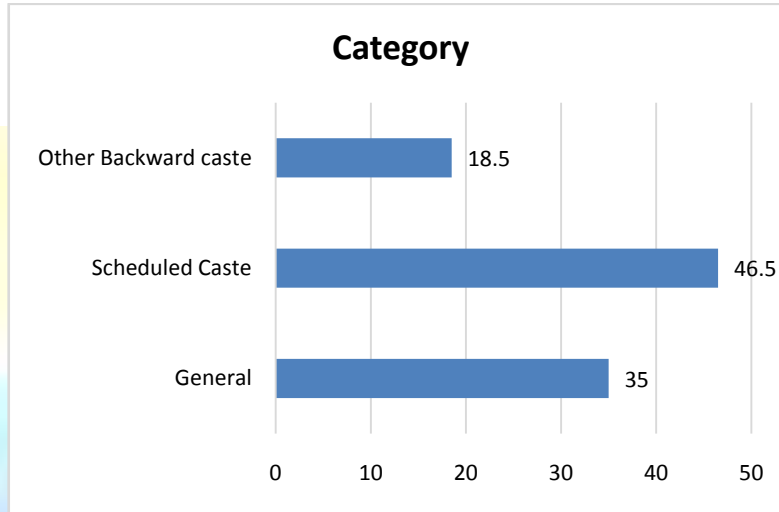


Figure 3 Category of the respondents

Figure 3 represents the social category of the respondents, it is found that majority i.e. 46.5% of the respondents belong to Scheduled Caste/Tribe, followed by 35% of the respondents who belong to General category and remaining 18.5% of the respondents belong to other backward caste.

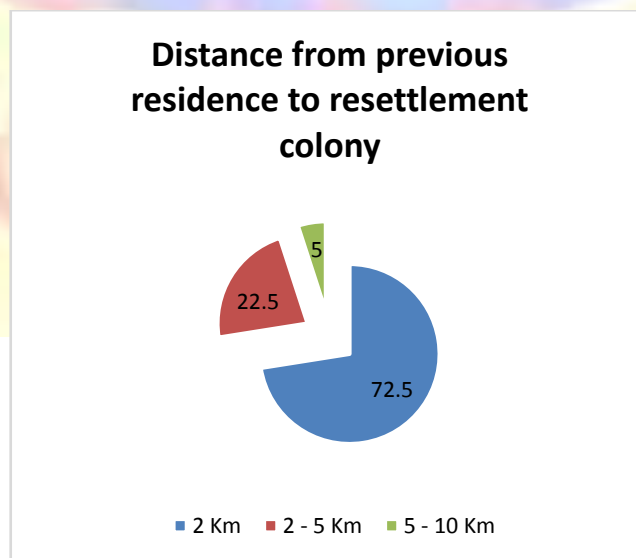


Figure 4 Distance from previous residence to resettlement colony

The distance of the resettlement area to previous residing place is an important factor that influences the degree of effect of displacement and resettlement process. It is found that majority i.e. 72.5% of the respondents are resettled within 2 km from their previous residence, 22.5% of the respondents are resettled within 2 – 5 kms and only 5% of the respondents are resettled between 5 – 10 kms from their previous residence.

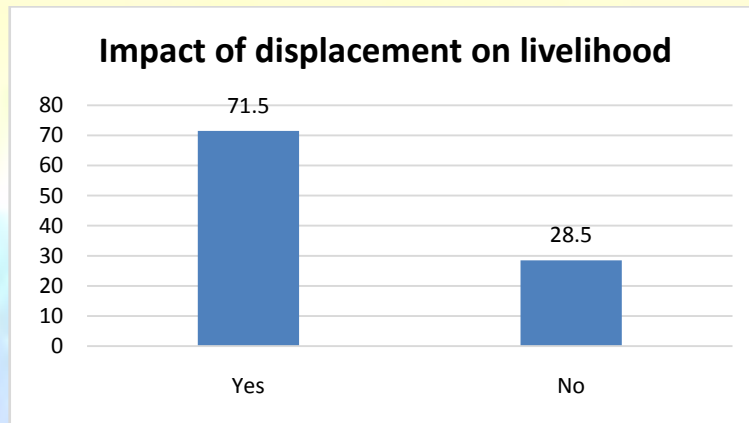


Figure 5 Impact of displacement on livelihood:

Figure 5 represents that after resettlement, the means of livelihood of 71.5% of the respondents i.e. some were doing agriculture, some were self-employed, some were manual labour and some had government jobs has been affected by displacement. Only 28.5% of the respondents said their livelihood has not been affected.

Table 1 Social Impact of displacement

Social Impact	Yes	No
Impact on Education	8.5%	91.5%
Impact on Health	5.5%	94.5%
Impact on family structure and relationships	42.5%	57.5%
Impact on Socio-Cultural life	67.5%	32.5%

Table 1 represents the social impact of displacement on various factors, it is found that majority of the respondents agree that there is no impact of displacement on their education level and health of the respondents however there is some improvement in expenditure on education and health. However, the impact is found to be high in socio-cultural life of the respondents due to loss of neighborhood, loss of cremation ground, loss of worship place and loss of community place. 42.5% of the respondents agreed that displacement has impacted their family structure and relationships as displacement as created nuclear families out the joint family, there is decreased affection among family members and relatives due to displacement.

Findings of the study:

The major findings of the study are:

- Majority of the displaced persons suffered temporary homelessness in resettlement colonies. Most of the resettlers have coped with this issue of temporary homelessness by living in thatched shed till the construction of their houses in colonies.
- Some of the displaced persons benefitted under the “land for land” policy and they received land under resettlement and rehabilitation package.
- Before displacement, half of the displaced households owned some or the other types of livestock. After displacement, livestock of half of the displaced households who later settled in resettlement colonies were affected due to displacement.
- Displacement and related resettlement have not made any significance effects on the education of majority of the displaced households.
- Results show that displacement has not made any changes on more than half of the displaced households.

Conclusion:

Displacement made a mixed impact among the DPS after resettlement. The people who owned less land and especially SCs who lived in Dalit colonies has gained more land and amenities in colonies

compared to previous residential area. But people who owned agricultural and more land than offered land under resettlement and rehabilitation underwent to impoverishment. “Minor resettlement” has limited impact of displacement on educational facilities, culture and common community services.

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