

DISPLACEMENT, RELOCATION AND WOMEN: A CASE STUDY OF RANTHAMBHORE TIGER RESERVE

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Abstract:

Environmental pressures and vulnerability sometimes leads to mass human displacement. Women have been struggling for their rights since centuries. The state of being displaced is rather more difficult for women in general. This paper concentrates on an empirical description of the change in the status of woman due to displacement in terms of Status in Family, Political Participation, Domestic work participation, Participation in Family Income. The displacement of rural or tribal population wherein they are forced to leave their ancestral home and natural habitat to protect biodiversity in the region impact their overall life leaving strains of economic, cultural, emotional and social changes. A descriptive study of two villages Hindwar and Girirajpura from the core area of Ranthambore tiger reserve of SawaiMadhopur have been undertaken. Woman faced a high risk of losing their social capital such as social relations, their traditional habitat and others due to involuntary displacement. Displacement leads to increase mental pressure of losing social connections and their social relations, which was initially a social security for women.

Keywords: Environmental Pressure, Relocation, Displacement, Women status

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Introduction

Natural environment and its pressure create global flow of human population. Environmental displacement leads to complexity of social relations. There is a breakage in the flow of harmonious collective relations. The motivational factors of displacement could be voluntary or fear of harm. The destinations could be international or internal. If they are internationally displaced, they are termed as refugees and if they are internally displaced they are termed as Internally displaced people (IDP's) [1]. Since independence till 1989 for four decades estimated displaced person was 155 lakh and 75% of them were still need a rehabilitation) [2]. People displaced due to environmental change and bio-diversity conservation are in between 50 million to 250 million [3].

Displacement has increased 8 risks, including joblessness, landlessness, homeless, marginalization, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, loss of access to common property and Services, social disarticulation [4].

As per India's National resettlement and rehabilitation policy 2007, "Land should be allotted on a joint name of husband and wife". Tehri dam project was a multipurpose scheme in which women of three villages had been studied. It was a multipurpose beneficial scheme but not for displaced. As seen that women acted as the only agent to procure services from the natural environment around such as collecting water, fuel, and other daily needs. Minor forest produces also was a source of extra income. Women income in villages fulfilled all basic and nutritional needs of family. Women were the main cultivators in Tehri region and men migrated for daily wage jobs. They were facing water scarcity. Ganga was not a river for them it was a sustainer. It helped them for irrigation, domestic use and food supply. After displacement they live at an altitude of 1500 meters. All they have in the name of water supply is handpumps. Women used to consider natural environment was their support system. After displacement they have lost their social relationship with their kin relatives that was specially built by women. Older women were completely dependent on their social support system now live in isolation without any social security. Their community has been fragmented into numerous parts living at several locations [5]. All major development project on internally displaced population in India posed different consequences, such as degradation in quality of life and reduced potential for physical and environmental growth, family and community life vanished away; less or no cultural activities. Women faced tremendous invasions of their privacy, education for children and basic health care become nonexistent. Relocation breaks up living pattern and social continuity. Rehabilitation resulted in social stratification wherein one stratum dominates the other [6]. It has been noticed in several studies that government starts a particular policy and project for the development which can be beneficiary policy for a particular section of society but not for all. Such projects take away livelihood from poor, marginalized and underprivileged population. However, one side environment-based project saves natural resources and wildlife on the other side it interferes in harmonious relationship between human and environment. These tribals and villagers feel content with their traditional, ancestral and conservative lifestyle [7]. Leaders of tribal resistance had connection from generation to generation to natural resources and this is their traditional

right. If state takes their right in the name of development and conservation projects, they feel homeless and outcasted. They are main agents between natural and human environment and still practices methods which are sustainable and are in a blend with natural environment. They are the first people who raised environment movements against environment degradation [8]. Since centuries tribal population and wild natural environment coexisted on the same land cover without hurting each other but urban conservative environmentalist ideology is against this blend. Authoritarian environmentalist has demanded the restriction of human activities in protected areas. They are against their traditional grazing and agriculture rights within protected areas [9].

Wildlife and human life coexisted jovially in Gir National Park in Junagarh district of Gujarat. There are several tribal communities with the dominant population of Maldharis, Siddis. After displacement women in these tribal communities' are not getting same status and respect as they use to at their old place [10]. Currently, community-based conservation, integrated conservation or ecodevelopment conservation have become prevalent for the synchronization of social activist, environmentalists and conservationists [11]. Human right perspective and state control authority can work together if local communities and government agencies make policy with the help of NGOs and independent researchers. In the relocation of Hindwar and Girirajpura displaced villagers specially women have tormented by multiple problems. In the case study of Chatikota, a resettled village, wherein the rehabilitation is yet to take place, the indigenous people have lost their land and now they turned into low-priced casual laborers. They are not facilitated with civic amenities accept drinking water which affects their social life as well as health condition. Women are facing mental health issues. They are often depressed with little or no interest in their daily activities. Displacement from their homeland is deteriorating their mental health. Daily household fights have become more frequent among the married couples [12].

In Nanda Devi National Park, the villagers of Lata and Gamashli village were displaced for biodiversity and environmental protection. 1.78% of male and 82% of female faced a loss of income due to bar on tourism. 2.25% of male and 57% of female felt that they have faced loss of traditions and customs. 3.48% of male and 80% of female faced change in food habits due to access restrictions. 4.37% of female felt there is more demand of dowry after displacement. These statistics clearly shows women struggled more due to displacement [13].

In a research conducted on Mahanadi coal field region of Ib valley area with an objective to distinguish the social status of displaced tribal people in the post project period and the reasons responsible for their current livelihood standard, woman were found to be struggling most. In the Ib valley area five open cast mining projects were in operation. A total of 90 families were displaced and resettled in Maduban Nagar. Women faced a deterioration in their role because after displacement their income sources stayed in the forest territory. They are now dependent on their husbands for minor financial necessities. Social disintegration emerged through family system and kinship group. The mutual understanding in the community has vanished away after displacement [14]. In Sariska tiger reserve villagers have been displaced from Haripura and Devrivillages. The villagers to be

displaced, had a feeling of resistance towards forest authorities. Rural community is always dependent on natural resources like wood gathering and livestock grazing but after displacement they face financial stress as well. Girls are facing difficulties to inother villages for educational facilities. One can observe a discrimination of parents in spending money over girl and boy child for education. They resist sending their girls to a remote area for education. Education for girl child was never their priority. Even if it was, they do not have enough finances for it. Some villagers were not aware of their compensation rights. Few of them left their place without any compensation [15].

Socio-economic condition of Korku Tribes of Melghatprotected area in Maharashtra hasworsened after their displacement. Melghat region is covered with reserve forest. It has been seen that there is no population growth after displacement and child death rate is highest of this region in all over Maharashtra. From this region 22 villages were displaced and relocated outside Melghat Sanctuary. After displacement forestry operation failed because there were no employment opportunities according to the population needs. Even If public hospital and dispensaries are operational it wouldn't suffice because medical facilities are not sufficient to prevent people from nutritional deficiencies. A balanced diet is necessary for nutritional needs and since they have no income source most of them are facing health issues. Women are facing health issues; this is something that can be treated both by medicines and good diet[16].

Tribal population of Jamshedpur and Hatia village's displaced population faced social disorganization as consequences of industrialization. Their traditional system has weakened because of villagers contact with outsiders or labor class. Women have been more attractive to such jobs in which they are getting immediate cash fora day work or hourly work. Some women in the tribes of Ho, MundaandtheOraon are widows who wereabandoned by their in-laws. These women opted prostitution as an earning source[17].

Women in India have been facing atrocities since centuries. They are often not acknowledged for the contributions they pass on to the society. We have selected 5 aspects to understand women status among displaced population of New Hindwar and Girirajpura including- Status in Family, Political Participation, Domestic work participation, Participation in Family Income.People who are displaced from their homes loose their land, their livelihood changes and their social strata disappear.Women section of society is more vulnerable hence they face more issues than any other section.In the past since the population was not much in the forest, the wildlife was not affected. Now with rapid increase of human and cattle population, there is a continuous loss of green cover due to livestock grazing and fuel wood consumption, hence becoming a main reason of displacement. In this research paper we have analysis status of displaced women of Hindwar, and Girirajpura, their political participation, domestic work participation and their participation in family income.The tiger reserve expands for 1334 sq km and the government is trying to expand this area and keep the available area for the protection of ecosystem. First reason of relocation of villagers was for the protection of wildlife and environment. Although the people did not agree to leave their ancestral home, but due to

government's convincing capability, or their own thought of conservation of animals. During 1947, tiger became extinct from the forests of Rajasthan. Because of which, Rajasthan government through Rajasthan Forest act 1953, gave legal protection to tigers and by 1955, many of forest were declared as protected areas. In 1970 Tiger shooting was banned and Government of India established the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972. In India Project Tiger was launched in 1973, and total 9 protected areas were declared as tiger reserves. Two out of them were selected from Rajasthan including Ranthambhore and Sariska. Initially, Ranthambhore was established as SawaiMadhopur game sanctuary in 1955 by Government of India. In 1973 it become one of project tiger reserve among of 9 tiger reserves of all over India. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is 1394 km². and later on, forest department included core and buffer area thus it is 1700.22 km². Ranthambhore national park covers 392.5 km² which is ecologically a small area. It accommodates large numbers of tigers in the park. The government is trying to maintain the solitude of the ecosystem to balance itself again. For this very purpose the villages in the critical tiger habitat were relocated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ranthambhore National Park was established in 1980. Initially there were two wildlife sanctuaries first one is Kailadevi wildlife sanctuary in 1983 and second is Sawaimansingh wildlife sanctuary established in 1984. Later in 1991 Ranthambhore tiger reserve was enlarged to include kailadevi and SawaiMansingh Sanctuaries.

The villagers who are living in buffer zone are considered as a disturbance to the forest cover and wildlife so on park authorities started displacement of villagers in 1975-1976. There were 16 villages in Ranthambhore tiger reserve when it was under Project Tiger. In 1975-76 shifting and relocation of 12 villages was started by park authorities.

A sample size of 180 households from the combination of villages New Hindwar and Girirajpura were selected. The sample villages Selected for the study includes:

- Girirajpura was composed of Padra, Kalibhat, MorDungri was settled by the government.
- Hindwar village was settled by villagers themselves on the area provided by government as New Hindwar.

We have selected 4 aspects to understand women status among displaced population of New Hindwar and Girirajpura including- Status in Family, Domestic work participation, Political Participation, Participation in Family Income and Domestic Violence.

Chi square test was applied over each parameter and tested in excel using the following formula:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

O = Observed frequencies

E = Expected frequencies

Degrees of freedom(v) = (r-1) (c-1)

The two google earth images shows the location of old villages and the newly created by the forest authorities and the displaced people.



Fig 1. Villages to be relocated, Source- Google Earth



Fig1. The new villages formed after the relocation of old villages, Source-Google Earth

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

While the questions of gender inequality continue to be a mysterious dilemma waiting for a remedy even in the 21st century, it remains to be an important area of exploration in the fields of social sciences in general and feminist studies in particular. The present even setting, women do not have any right to raise their voice in the proper manner in their own lives and they have left the decisions to their male-governed families. Their desires and ambitions were not regarded as well as considered vital enough to be nurtured within and without homes. Moreover, they had been issue to the men in all ways and aspects in their lives; and were limited to the four walls in their duties as daughter, as wife and also as mother and also. We have selected 5 aspects to understand women status among displaced population of New Hindwar and Girirajpura including- Status in Family, Political Participation, Domestic work participation, Participation in Family Income and Domestic Violence.

3.1 Women Status in Family

Table 3.1 women status in the family

category	After Displacement		After Displacement	
	Frequency Of people	Respondents Opinion	Frequency of People	Respondents Opinion
Very low	0	3	50	27.8
low	7	3.9	98	54.4
Midium	27	15.0	17	9.4
High	120	66.7	15	8.3
Very High	26	14.4	0	0
Total	180	100	180	100

In very low category before displacement no one agreed that women status is very low but after displacement 27.8 % of households agreed to very low status of women in the family. In low category before displacement 7% of the households agreed to low status of women and after displacement 54.4% of the households agreed to low status of women. This change has occurred due to their relocation. At their old location women were doing all the agriculture work along with animal husbandry work. Their income was good from animal production. After relocation they do not have animals due to limited space of land. women are doing only household chores. Earlier women were a significant part of financial structure of the family. Financial support was main reason of their status in family at their old location. At their old location they were equal to man now they are deprived of their rights. In medium category, 15.0 % of households' women status was medium before displacement and after displacement 9.4 % of households agreed to their medium status. According to 66.7 % of the households women status was high before displacement but after displacement only 8.3 % of the households agreed to higher status of women. It shows women status was deteriorating after displacement. In very high category 14.4 % of the households said that women status was very high before displacement and after displacement none of the respondents agreed for very high category.

Chi square test was applied over this aspect taking the null hypothesis as ‘Women status was not affected due to displacement’ The calculated value is 2.52;table value is 9.48; Since calculated value<table value; null hypothesis rejected at 95% significance level.

Domestic work participation

Table 3.2 Domestic work participation

Category	Before displacement		After displacement	
	Frequency of people	Respondents' opinion (%)	Category	Frequency of people
Very low	0	0	0	0
Low	3	1.7	66	36.7
Medium	21	11.7	68	37.8
High	117	65.0	46	25.6
Very high	39	21.7	0	0
Total	180	100	180	100

In very low category none of the respondents agreed that their domestic work participation is very low in both of conditions. In low category only 1.7% of households said that domestic work participation is low but after displacement percentage has increased with 36.7% of the households. In medium category before displacement 11.7% of the households agreed to medium domestic work participation after displacement this figure has increased with 37.8% of households. Before displacement according to 65% of the households' domestic work participation was high but after displacement only 25.6 % of the households agreed for high domestic work participation. Before displacement 21.7 % of the households said that women's work participation is very high but after displacement no one agreed for very high domestic work participation of women. At their old location families were living in joint family pattern in which women were more engaged in domestic work as well as agricultural work. After displacement they were divided into nuclear families. Women have lost their work in fields too. They do not have domestic cattle anymore. Due to all these reasons their domestic work has decreased.

Chi square test was applied over this aspect taking the null hypothesis as ‘Domestic work participation among women was not affected due to displacement’ The calculated value is 9.96;table value is 9.48; Since calculated value<table value; null hypothesis rejected at 95% significance level.

3.3 Women Participation In family Income

In the rural area women earns through animal husbandry and agriculture produce. In the agriculture field women are more efficient and capable to work than men.

Table 3.3. Women participation in family income

Before displacement			After displacement	
Category	Frequency of people	Respondents' opinion (%)	Category	Frequency of people
Very low	0	0	60	33.3
Low	2	1.1	90	50.0
Medium	9	5.0	30	16.7
High	57	31.7	0	0
Very high	112	62.0	0	0
Total	180	100	180	100

Before displacement no one said that women income participation is very low but after displacement 33.3 % of the households agreed to very low-income participation. In low category 1.1 % of the households agreed to low-income participation but after displacement 50.0 % of the households agreed to low family income. It shows that, at their present location women income participation has become low. In medium category third before displacement 5.0 % of the households agreed that women income participation is medium in family but after displacement 16.7 % of the households agreed to medium income participation in family. In High category 31.7% of the households agreed to high income participation but after displacement no one agreed for high income participation in family. In very high category 62 % of the households said that women family income participation is very high but after displacement no one said that their family income participation is very high. One can understand through above data that before displacement their family income participation was very high. At their old location they were selling milk and other milk produce. Women were earning from corps along with their husbands so their income participation in family was good. At their current location they have sold their all animal due to lack of space and lack of grazing ground, earlier grazing ground was available in forest. At present location they have to buy fodder for animals. At present time they don't have any income.

Chi square test was applied over this aspect taking the null hypothesis as 'Women contribution to family income was not affected due to displacement'. The calculated value is 9.96; table value is 9.48; since calculated value < table value, null hypothesis rejected at 95% significance level.

3.4 Political Participation of Women

Table 3.4 Political Participation of Women

Before displacement			After displacement	
Category	Frequency of people	Respondents' opinion (%)	Category	Frequency of people
Very low	69	38.3	43	23.9
Low	98	54.4	66	36.7
Medium	13	7.2	41	22.8
High	0	0	29	16.1
Very high	0	0	1	0.6
Total	180	100	180	100

According to 38.3% of the households before displacement women political participation was very low and after displacement 23.9% of the households agreed to very low women political participation. In low category 54.4% of the households said that women's have low political participation after displacement, only 36.7 % of the households agreed to low political participation of women. Before displacement only 7.2% of the households said that women political participation was medium and after displacement this percentage has increased with 22.8% of the households. According to 16.1% of the households after displacement women political participation was high and only 1 respondent agreed to very high women political participation. Before displacement no one agreed to high or very high women political participation.

Chi square test was applied over this aspect taking the null hypothesis as 'Women contribution to family income was not affected due to displacement'. The calculated value is 1.83; table value is 9.48; since calculated value < table value, null hypothesis rejected at 95% significance level.

3.5 Domestic violence

Table 3.5 Domestic violence

Before displacement			After displacement	
Category	Frequency of people	Respondents' opinion (%)	Frequency of people	Respondents' opinion (%)
Very low	138	76.7	34	18.9
Low	37	20.6	63	35.0
Medium	5	2.8	46	25.6
High	0	0	38	15.6
Very High	0	0	9	5.0
Total	180	100	180	180

Above table shows Domestic Violence situation before and after displacement. In India domestic violence is referred as violence against women in their domestic environment. It can be in sexual, physical, and psychological and in many other ways. These all threats are against women by a person who is connected to her by marriage or through any other family relations. Domestic violence has its roots in the socio cultural setup of the society [18]. In the present study before displacement 76.7 % of the households said domestic violence is very low and 20.6 % of the households said its low and after displacement 18.9 % of the households agreed to very low and 35 % of the households agreed to low domestic violence in family. In comparison to after displacement before displacement violence was low against women in family. In medium category before displacement only 2.8 % of households agreed that violence is medium in family but after displacement this became more common for 25.6 % of households. Before displacement no one agreed for high or very high domestic violence against women. But after displacement 15.6 % of households said its high and 5 % of the households said it is very high. According to female respondents, male frustration has become very high due to financial problems and this frustration is main reason behind wife battering. This analysis shows that now at new location women are more dependent on men for social, financial, and emotional needs, so silently they are tolerating this torture. In India wife battering is a family problem and has not been talked about publicly for the sake of maintaining family's reputation in their community. Women are main victims of this crime.

Chi square test was applied over this aspect taking the null hypothesis as 'Domestic Violence did not increase after displacement'. The calculated value is 2.47; table value is 9.48; since calculated value < table value, null hypothesis rejected at 95% significance level.

Conclusion

In terms of all the four aspects Status in Family, Political Participation, Domestic work participation, Participation in Family Income, and domestic Violence displaced woman from Ranthambore tiger reserve faced severe consequences. The feeling of helplessness has been depicted by the data collected. Nearly 54% of them stated a decline in their status in the family because of less involvement in the livelihood of the household after displacement. With an effect to this, domestic work participation and political participation also reduced. Null hypothesis predicting no significant relationship between all five parameters were checked using chi square test and all of them were rejected stating a significant relationship between woman's status deterioration and displacement.

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