

Rehabilitation of Internally displaced person.

Development projects such as irrigation power, mining etc. contribute to the economic growth and human well being these infrastructure projects create employment opportunities and trigger growth in agricultural, industrial and other allied sectors. But these projects also cause displacement of native population. The social costs of this displacement are often underestimated and paid least attention. In many projects, benefits are inflated and social costs are deleted in order to justify the viability. Proper resettlement and rehabilitation of these project affected people has been a grossly neglected aspects so far in India often, Rehabilitation aspects of these projects receive little attention in the mass media while the project construction and benefits, which are inflated and untrue receive the limelight.

Since 1950, 5 million of people have been displaced by various development projects in India. Out of this more than 40% are indigenous tribal population living in forest areas. While they form only 8% of the total population. Tribal communities had carried unfair share or the burden for so called national development. Most of these tribal people were affected due to either construction of irrigation projects or due to mining in forest areas. Though they are the rightful owners of forest resources, are pushed out of forests shattering their life and livelihood.

There is no uniform policy on rehabilitation. Different State Governments implemented resettlement and rehabilitation in their own way and on case to case basis. Past rehabilitation experiences in various projects reveal that they are far from satisfactory. In several cases, project displaced people have been living in poverty living without basic amenities even after 25 yrs. Of relocation to settlement areas. In spite of constitutional right to life, project affected people are often coerced forcibly displaced even before providing minimum resettlement and rehabilitation facilities.

There are three types of displacement—

- a) Disaster Related Displacement
- b) Development Related Displacement
- c) Conflict Induced Displacement

Disaster Related Displacement –

“India is vulnerable in varying degrees to a large number of natural as well as man-made disasters- 58.6% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity, over 40 million hectares (12% of land) is prone to floods and river erosion of the 7,516 Km. long coastline, close to 5,700 Km. is prone to cyclones and tsunamis, 68% of the cultivable area is vulnerable to draught and avalanches.

Fire incidents, industrial accidents and other manmade disasters involving chemical, biological and radioactive materials are additional hazardous which have understood the need for strengthening mitigation preparedness and response measure” Disaster risks in India are further compounded by increasing vulnerabilities. These include the over-growing population, the vast disparities in income, rapid urbanization, increasing industrialization development within highrisk zones, environmental degradation, climate change etc. clearly, all these point to a future where disasters seriously, economy and its sustainable development natural disaster induced displacement has become a major H.R. (Human Right) issue in recent times. Such types of displacement precipitate the socio-economic problems or displaced persons and affect their shelter, livelihood lives tack etc.

Development Related Displacement-

Mega development project like construction of dams, industries, highways and roads have resulted in forced displacement of the people. It has been found that usually it is the poor people who face the consequence of such projects more because their livelihood, habitat and assets are affected. Where involuntary resettlement has received public attention, either through NGOs or media intervention the state administration has responded. Otherwise in most of the cases, such displacements have resulted in loss of livelihood and shelter. More than 1.4 million people have been displaced from their ancestral land and deprived of traditional livelihoods in just four states in India in the country's drive for economic growth, according to a study conducted by the NGOs Action Aid, the Indian Social Institute the study focused on the four states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa, all rich in natural resources and with a large population of Indigenous tribal people.

Conflict Induced Displacement-

According to non-governmental organization, ' There are over 6,00,000 conflict induced internally displaced persons in India. This includes 33,362 displaced persons in Kokrajhar dist. and 74,123 in Gosalgaon dist. Of Assam, 55,476 Kashmiri Pandit families who were displaced due to the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir since 1990 and about 35,000 Mizoram who were displaced in 1997 and took shelter in Tripura.

The Commission (NHRC) intervened in cases relating to relief and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits and victims of Gujarat riots in 2002.

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 A paradigm shift-

The government has enacted the Disaster Management Act, (DMA) 2005 on Dec. 26, 2005 to provide for institutional mechanism for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans ensuring measures by various wings of government for prevention and mitigating effects of disasters and for undertaking a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation.

Land Acquisition Act 1894 –

Is the primary legislation that provides for acquisition of land s3(7) define public purpose to include carrying out any educational, housing health or slum clearance scheme the provision of any premises or building for locating a public office, the provision of land for residential purposes to the poor or landless or to persons residing in areas affected by natural calamities and so on. It includes provision for compensation (sec. 11) and provides for recourse to legal remedies (sec.18)

Also see The Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2007 –

In order to solve issues arising out of policies of economic liberalization, the National policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2003 has been reviewed and revised. The revised policy of 2007 has come into force from October, 2007.

The new policy is applicable to all affected persons and families whose land property or livelihood are adversely affected by land acquisition or by involuntary displacement of a permanent nature due to any other reason. The objective of policy is to minimize displacement of people and promote non-displacing or least-displacing alternatives.