

CRITICAL ISSUES IN LAND ACQUISITION AND INVOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT

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Bellary is the District head quarter which is 324 KM away from the capital city of the State. The district has seven taluks in which Kudligi, Sandur, Hadagali, Hagari bommanahalli, are dominated with dry agriculture land and Bellary, Siruguppa, Hospet dominated with irrigated agricultural lands. The specialty of Bellary taluk is dominated equally with dry (North East Area of Bellary Taluk) & irrigated agricultural lands(South West portion of the taluk). Now the lands for proposed international airport, Bellary was acquired from two villages such as Sirwar and Chaganaur which are 15 and 20 K.M. away from Bellary city respectively, and lies at South West portion of the Bellary taluk.

Government of Karnataka through KIADB was acquired 892.73 acres of land from 166 formers of Chaganaur and Sirwar villages under this project, in which high court bench of Dharwad was squashed the Government Order for acquisition of 228.35 acres of land of 76 formers. At last government remained with 632 acres of land of 225 formers of 131 families bearing 88 survey numbers along with their sub division numbers. Hence 90% i.e. 116 out of 131 families have been taken as a samples of the study and data has been collected from these samples along with local politicians other elder members of the sampling villages, NGO's local, taluk and district level officials, activists and from documentation centers by using questionnaires, interview schedule, interview guide and groups discussion techniques in three different phases.

In this study an attempt has been made to empirically analys the impact of land acquisition over the socio-economic condition of the formers of sampling area. The main objective of present study are to study the land acquisition act in relations with the project area, to understand the nature and composition of movement that arise in opposition to land acquisition process to know the process of compensations and its utilization by the affected people, to understand the level of satisfaction of the formers and they expectation, to examine the social consequences of land acquisition and complexities of resettlement process and the suggestion for improvement of the policy of the state for land acquisition.

Second chapter included the socio-economic composition of sampling villages in general and of samples in particular. The size of the population of the district is 20,27,140 with 10,29,714 male and 9,97,426 female population as per 2001 senses of India, along with the literary rate of 57.4% in which males are above the literary rate of the district i.e., 69.2% as against females with 45.3%. As such Bellary taluk has 6,25,494 population in which 3,19,008 are males and 3,06,486 are females with literary rate of 59.7% in which

males' literary rate is 70.8% as against the females' literary rate of the taluk i.e. 29.2%. The sampling villages, Sirwar and Chaganur are the small villages in the Bellary Taluk with 893 and 523 Households respectively with 5,045 population in Sirwar (2,554 are males and 2,491 are females) and 3,033 population in Chaganur (1,554 males and 1,489 are females) as per 2001 Census of India. The literary rate in Sirwar is 36.5% [78.7%] males and 21.3% are females] and 63.5% of them are illiterates [4.4%] are males and 65.5% are females]. As such the literary rate in Chaganur village is 45.4% [72.0% are males and 28.0% are females] and 54.6% of them are illiterates [66.5% are females and 33.5% are males]. In both the sampling villages literacy rate is very less, still it is less among the females. Both the villages are dominated with married, Hindu[95.2% in Sirwar and 91.2% in Chaganur] population [60.9% in Sirwar and 55.3% in Chaganur]. And has less unmarried, [3.6% in Sirwar and 7.8% in Chaganur] Muslim population [37.5% in Sirwar and 42.0% in Chaganur]. Only 1.0% of the population belongs to the Christianity in Sirwar and Chaganur villages. As for Caste composition of the sampling villages are concerned Sirwar dominated with upper caste people[43.7%] and Chaganur with Schedule Tribe[38.5%] population. This has been followed by Schedule Tribe [21.2%] and Schedule Caste 20.7% in Sirwar and upper castes [22.8%] and OBC [16.9% in Chaganur. And very less population in both villages belongs to Muslim community. The main occupation of sampling villages is agriculture, hence the highest percent i.e., 33.2% in Sirwar and 36.9% in Chaganur villages are agriculturists and followed by the agricultural laborers with 14.4% in Sirwar and 19.1 % at Chaganur. Government Servants, businessmen, and artisans are very less in both villages.

Age and sex composition of the samples indicated that the highest percent of land losers under the New Airport projects of Bellary are males (76.7%), married (74.3%), median aged in between the age group from 36 to 55 (61.1%) formers. Only 23.3% of them are females and find less percent (6.8%) of them are less aged (25-35 years) as well as over aged with 56 and above aged (32.1%) land losers. Unmarried [4.3%] widows [7.7%] and widowers land losers [13.7%] are less in sampling area. As a result of an impact of various developmental process and advancement in the field of science and technology even the villages too have dominated with nuclear families as the cities. The same condition even found among the land losers sampling villages. Hence 81.8% of the samples adopted nuclear families with median size families [53.45],except 18.2% who still are living in joint families with small [31.0%] and large [15.6%] size of the families.

As such the highest percent [52.6%] of land losers are illiterates and even among the literates [47.4%] the highest percent of them are educated upto 7th, [34.5%] and 10th Std [23.7%]. Graduates, Post Graduates and the samples with technical education are very much less. It is one of the main reasons, why the land losers have failed to fulfill most of their demands by the government, except monetary compensation. Further it is found that the highest percent of land losers in Sampling area are marginal (21.8%) and small [41.3%] formers who last partial land [55.1%] except few [13.7%] of them are large formers, with high income [18.2%] and last their whole land [44.9%]. More than 50% of the samples[54.3%] have very low income, hence the majority of land losers(64.6%) in both the villages are living in mud/cachcha congested houses.

It has been clear from the above discussing that the highest percent of land losers in sampling area are marginal and small, married, illiterates, lower income, males, formers, who are in between the age group of 36 to 65 except few unmarried literate high income, women land losers, having too low and too high age. Near about 50% of the formers have lost their complete land under the new airport project, Bellary.

The third chapter examines the land Acquisition Act of India and It's implementation in sampling area. The process of involuntary land acquisition and displacement is common in all developed as well developing countries including India which has been the past of Indian history even before the advent of the Britishers the first legislation enacted by British government in Indian for acquisition of land was the Bengal Regulation I of 1824. Land Acquisition Act 1894 was a well defined, efficient act for facilitation of all land acquisition process. The same act was prevailed even after Post Independence of India till 2011, with some minor changes. The National advising Council recommended to combined the previous two Bills of 2007 under Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill-2011.

The Bill was partially followed by the government in sampling area while acquisition of the land for new airport project Bellary. After feasibility report given by the Airport Authority of India as per the request of infrastructure Development Department, Government of Karnataka, the District government Authority was published all about project in two regional paper and notice was issued to the all formers whose land was expected to acquire. A group of formers were started to oppose for acquisition of fertile irrigated land. With all these opposition Government of Karnataka was conducted a survey and fixed the compensation amount 4 to 5 times more than the market value of land in the sampling area as per the valuation report given by the sub-register office. i.e., 12 to 16 lacs rupees per acre land. Except monetary compensation no other demands of land losers were filled by the government, as such the compensation was given only to the land losers and nothing was given to the land less agricultural laborers who have lost their livelihood, except the false promises.

The investigator in Fourth Chapter highlighted the movement of the formers in sampling area as against the land acquisition process for new airport project of Bellary. Even after many strong protest of all kinds, the formers of sampling area have not got success in their attempt except few who got back their small portion of land.

The first protest movement with 100 hours of Silent Satyagraha was started on 4th Feb. 2009 in sampling area by the formers of Sirwar and Chaganur, when they heard the news of acquisition of their land for newly planned airport at Bellary. The different protest movements, which have been successfully and strongly made by the formers of Sirwar, Chaganur Villages, along with the support of villagers, various activist, environmentalists including Medha Patkar, N.G.Os, and political parties and religious leaders under the organization of "Chaganur, Sirwar Nirvari Bhoo Raskana Horata Samiti" organized by

Mallikaruna reddy. The different movements done by the formers who have lost their land under projects are rolling on the road (Urulu Seve) up to two KM near Sirwar on the Moka Bellary Road on 14-02-2009, stop during vehicles movement (Rasta Roko) on National highway No.63 at Godehal Cross on 15-02-2009, a big rally on 21-02-2009, call up a Strike 'Bellary Band' on 25-02-2009, Carting the Bullock Carts on 11-03-2009 from Chaganur, Sirwar to Bellary, Traveled on foot from Bellary to Bangalore [Pada Yatra on 25-03-2009 in order to submission of memorandum to His Excellency Sri. Rameshwar Thakur, the then Governor of Karnataka, a strike of pulling the bullock carts from Sirwar to Bellary, placing the Yokes across their necks on 24-07-2009, call up the hunger strike from 24-07-2009 to 29-07-2009, land losers marched on the roads of Bellary city by flaunting flaming torches in procession on 18-08-2009, at last on 19-08-2009 the land losers rolled on roads (Urulu Seve) in Dharward.

Even with all these efforts either they have succeeded to shift the project to any other area of the city or government have started works. The district administrative authority have successfully faced all these protests of the formers who have lost their land under project with a strong political support. The landless agricultural labor played a very significant role in all these protest but they have failed to get any sort of compensations.

Government of Karnataka through KIADB has somehow got success to acquired the land in sampling area. This does not mean that either all of them have completely opposed or completely surrendered their lands to the government with self interest. But we find mixed form of reaction from the formers of sampling area. As per present study 52.5% of the land losers are surrender their lands to the government with self interest because,

1. The cost of agriculture is very much high.
2. Lack of patency to continue the agriculture.
3. Problem of labour.
4. Interested to facilitated better education, donation for government job, arrange for the marriage of their children.
5. No value for formers in society.

Less than fifty percent i.e., 47.5% of them have surrendered their land by force, specially women [70.40%], higher aged [70.9% & 69.3%], medium [66.6%] and big [56.2%] formers, due to the reasons like.

1. Interested in ancestors property.
2. No respect in the village if we do not have lands.
3. That itself is their livelihood.
4. Cannot repurchase such land once we lose.
5. It is as our 'god' or 'mother.'

An attempt has been made in fifth chapter to find out the socio-economic consequences of land acquisition process over the land losers in sampling area. As such it is the argument of the government that it has given very handsome compensation even more than the expectations of land losers in sampling area. But except few (7.7%) who does not have any expectations, the highest percent of land losers(69.7%) specially marginal (92.0%), small (89.7%), high aged [61.3%] formers have got the compensation more than and near to their expectations, and very few of them [22.6%] specially lower, medium aged, big formers have very high expectation more than 20 lacs rupees per acre land.

Even then the highest percent [60.4%] formers, specially males[67.5%] literate[57.1%] formers were not satisfied with the compensation made by the government except 39.6% of formers, especially female[62.9%], illiterate.[67.4%] formers who have fully satisfied with the compensation given by government of Karnataka.

If a poor farmer got an opportunity to have the huge quantity of money beyond his expectation, it will become very much difficult to manage that amount. The same has happened even in the sampling area. Hence the highest percent of the samples. [38.7%] especially, males[40.4%], lower aged [46.1%], low level educated [47.3%] land losers were utilized the compensation amount for unproductive activity i.e., what present study has called as consumption activities such as purchasing plots, construction of houses, repairing of old houses, purchasing gold, arranging the marriage of the children, purchased the luxury vehicles for personal use, spend on cloths etc. Still some of them [23.4%] specially males [29.3%], lower aged [33.4%], illiterates [32.8%], lower level of educated [21.2%] land losers used for wasteful activities. Such as utilized the amount for drinking alcohol, gambling, used for illegal sexual contacts, spend on tours and travels and on others unnecessarily.

But only a handful of land losers [37.9%] especially females [62.9%], high aged [69.3%], high level educated land losers utilized the compensation for various productive activities. The study considered such activities as investment activities such as repurchase of land, used the money for conversion of remaining their dry land into irrigated land, purchase of agricultural instruments such as Tractors, power tillers, harvesting machines, bullocks, cart, luggage autos, tractors, in business, purchase of shares, invested in insurance schemes, deposited in bank, pan brokering business, for providing good education and jobs to their children etc. This kind of utilization of compensation amount have resulted in on or another form of changes[75.8%] among the land losers, except few [24.2%] who have continued without any change even after handsome compensation.

This change among land losers of sampling area included positive, negative and both kind of the changes. The positive changes that the study identified in sampling area are improved living conditions, social status, relations among the family members as well as in society, type of the interest among the family members, behavioral patterns and active participation in political and social welfare activities. The serious negative changes documented by the study in sampling area after land acquisition and compensation process have been divided in three categories such as a. Impact over the individuals; physical harassment, using more alcohol, gambling, increased illegal sexual contacts, suffering with health problems, emotion disturbances, decreased interest towards hard work. Impact over the family; more family burden over women, unnecessary litigation among family members, weakening of control over inter personal behaviours, growing alienation and decreasing cohesion, loosing intimate relations, land owners became labourers. c. Impact over the area; the problem of unemployment, demand for more dowry, increased rural to urban migration, high cost of labour, non-availability of agricultural labors in the area for agricultural activities, decreasing importance of values, groupism in the villages.

As for the present study the highest percent [38.6%] of the land losers, specially literates [48.9%], higher aged [75.0%], female [55.5%] land losers who have surrendered their land with self interest. 33.3% of land losers in which literate [30.7%] middle aged [31.3%], females [44.3%] land losers who have surrender their land with self interest [35.2%] got both positive as well as negative changes. Still 28.4% of land losers, specially the lower aged [41.6%], illiterate [38.4%], male [35.7%] land losers who have surrender their land by force [37.8%] got negative changes. No negative changes that we find either among women or higher aged land losers after compensation. It has been clear from the above discussion that females know very well about their responsibilities, literate class have the knowledge about the management of their finance, higher aged people have more patience and responsibilities, and the land losers who were surrendered their lands with self interest have clear vision. Hence these different group of people after getting the handsome compensation amount have not spend it waste fully and were invested in productive activities, and got highest percent of positive changes in their life. But the male land losers, specially lower aged, illiterates and who have surrendered their land by force when they got huge amount of compensation, they failed to manage properly due to the lack of knowledge, patience, and attracted by some bad qualities. Hence they spent most of their amount wastefully, for some bad habits and for unnecessary activities. Hence they have been dominated with negative changes in sampling area. In general we can say that land acquisition is not desirable, especially in fertile, irrigated areas like Sirwar and Chagnur, however the highest amount of compensation the government may give. First of all very less percent of land in this country have irrigation facility, in such situation, if we make use of such land for development projects irrigated land still will decrease and will definitely orders the problem of food insecurity.

With this acquisition at most the land losers only can enjoy the life. But they will hardly generate that enjoyment to the next generation. If we have the land that will feed us even generation together. Another most important problem of this kind of acquisition, is as a result of acquisition the life style will change and cost of living in that area will increase, the land losers who have lost their land can get the compensation and somehow manage their future life in that area. What about other poor farmers, landless laborers and other category of people, how can they manage this changed high cost of living. This will very worstly impacts over the third group, along with landless agricultural laborers who have lost their livelihood on one side and on the other have not got any sort of compensations.

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