



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## Improving Economic Conditions of Project-Affected People

(A Case Study on Resettlement and Rehabilitation in India.)

Dharmesh

(Research Scholar)

University Department of Commerce

Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh

Dr. Brahmadeo Trivedi,

Assistant Professor

Department of Commerce

K.B. Women's College Hazaribagh

### Abstract:

India, after its Independence in 1947, took the path to development, which resulted in the construction of many developmental projects. By taking up a case study, this article explains the current practices concerning the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of a roadway project and hence helps to evaluate the changes to the social fabric of the affected communities as well as the consequences faced due to forced rehabilitation. This study will provide insight into similar roadway projects envisaged for developing countries in the future. With the existing development-induced resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) practices, information from the selected case study, and the knowledge gained from earlier research studies, recommendations are proposed that will significantly improve the well-being of resettled people affected by similar development-induced projects. To attain the previously mentioned objective, this study revisits the R&R package of the Chennai Port–Maduravoyal Expressway in Chennai, India. A survey of the affected localities and population was undertaken for a better understanding of the many socio-economic aspects of project-affected people (PAPs). Proceeding from the survey's outcomes, an alternative layout for residential units is proposed, which in turn would improve the economic conditions of PAPs. Looking at the situation prevailing in India today and also in the past, it is evident that development induced displacement is inevitable. However, the impacts of developmental project construction are multivariate and disastrous, and expelling larger sections out of their residential places means reducing the chances for their development and growth. Resettlement of the displaced people has become a problem of national concern. Displacement is now viewed as a multidimensional phenomenon, encompassing not only the economic but also the socio-

cultural and psychological spheres, all of which are intermingled. The increasing trauma of the displaced people is being witnessed in almost all parts of the world. So, the concept of displacement is redefined. Its resettlement and rehabilitation are understood as human concerns, and in the context of social justice, guidelines are given for the betterment of the displaced persons. This research paper critically analyzed rehabilitation and resettlement in India. It also discusses the objectives and policies of rehabilitation and resettlement in India, and the measures required for their proper implementation.

**Keywords:** - Rehabilitation, Resettlement, Displacement, Development, Economic Cultural Aspect, Social Justice, Resettlement.

### **Introduction:**

This article critically analyses the field data collected on the rehabilitation and resettlement process of communities displaced by coal and power construction in the Barkagaon blocks of Hazaribagh and Patratu located in Ramgarh district in the Indian state of Jharkhand. The analysis then forms a proper basis for the development of an appropriate model for resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced communities. Dams are among the major infrastructure projects that have become a symbol of the growth trajectory followed in independent India while most of the dams have been constructed by huge public and private investment from both domestic and international sources. Since setting up of these development projects requires the acquisition of a large area of land, apart from all these there are many more commonly owned and used the land along with the land owned and cultivated by small-scale farmers. Projects have been established. Development-led displacement of grazing, potable water, and cultural and sporting activities have significantly affected people and communities, often with little benefit to them from such a development process. Development Driven Displacement (DID) has undoubtedly led to poverty conditions for displaced and affected communities. Poverty conditions are related not only to natural and physical capital but also to human and social capital, the desire for economic development, large-scale development projects in India, rehabilitation, and it becomes important to check the Rehabilitation Outcomes (RRO). According to an estimate, around 14 lakh people have been displaced due to various development projects in other parts of India apart from Jharkhand and Odisha. In the draft, of the National Rehabilitation Policy, the Government of India (GoI) acknowledged that around 74.52 percent of the total displaced communities were still awaiting resettlement. Specifically, the livelihoods of displaced communities were not restored in the post-migration period. This has necessitated a re-look at the balance sheet of the resettlement and resettlement process of displaced communities to see whether the situation has changed in the first decades of the current century, given the impoverishment for most resettled communities in India.

This article is roughly divided into two parts. The first part of the article attempts to draw on a conceptual and contextual understanding of displacement in general and DID in particular. It integrates existing literature such as previous research studies, government reports, and case studies of development-induced displacement, particularly in the context of India as well as Odisha. The second part of the article presents the balance sheet By balance sheet, we mean a comparative analysis between the promised compensation and resettlement housing and socio-economic realities in the resettled colonies in the context of Patratu

located in Ramgarh district Dam displaced communities and the rehabilitation and resettlement processes in contemporary times.

### **Objectives of the study:**

1. Estimate of displaced and resettled people by development projects in India (in lakhs).

### **Displacement criteria**

There are four important factors of displacement. First, because of the political/civil war turmoil. Second, because of social oppression. Third, due to natural calamities like drought, flood, and earthquakes. And, the fourth is due to changes in the use of natural resources for new development projects. Specifically, the fourth factor is a planned action that causes DID. Patratu located in Ramgarh district dam project comes in the fourth factor of displacement. DID has been defined for this study as 'forced eviction of individuals and communities from their place of residence' in terms of a project that is of local, regional, and national interest. With the loss of the U.S., most displaced communities are exposed to conditions of poverty and vulnerability. The increasing scale of neoliberal development policies (such as economic liberalization, privatization, and the dominance of market economies) land acquisition the Indian Practice of Displacement, Resettlement, and Rehabilitation. In a self-governing nation, the objective of development is not to encourage one specific style of urban living but to plan urban localities to offer individual citizens wider choices while simultaneously supplementing the abundant cultural styles. This article discusses the problem faced by the inner-city poor, living in unofficial settlements of a global south city (Chennai, India), when they undergo development-induced resettlement. By taking up a case study, this article explains the current practices concerning the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of a roadway project and hence helps to evaluate the changes to the social fabric of the affected communities as well as the consequences faced due to forced rehabilitation. This study will provide insight into similar roadway projects envisaged for developing countries in the future. With the existing development-induced resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) practices, information from the selected case study, and the knowledge gained from earlier research studies, recommendations are proposed that will significantly improve the well-being of resettled people affected by similar development-induced projects. To attain the previously mentioned objective, this study revisits the R&R package of the Chennai Port–Maduravoyal Expressway in Chennai, India. A survey of the affected localities and population was undertaken for a better understanding of the many socio-economic aspects of project-affected people (PAPs). Proceeding from the survey's outcomes, an alternative layout for residential units is proposed, which in turn would improve the economic conditions of PAPs. The governing authority would need fewer resources to maintain the facilities provided because the additional features in the residential layout would offer a sustained source of income. From this study, the governing agencies and other stakeholders will find it beneficial to implement future R&R projects.

History of rehabilitation and resettlement in India Displacement of people in India is largely triggered by factors such as development projects, political conflict, setting up Protected Area Networks and Conservation areas, and natural disasters, amongst others. The report of the Lok Sabha Secretariat of 2013 shows a figure of 60 million from the period 1947-to 2000 were displaced by developmental projects and the worst sufferers being again the Scheduled Tribes of the country (Human Rights Watch, 2006; Lok Sabha

Secretariat, 2013). However, before 1980, most the development projects did not have a clear resettlement plan (Asif, 2000; Negi & Ganguly, 2011). The resettlement packages which were implanted were based on a patriarchal definition of family, which did not provide compensation for women-headed households, unmarried daughters, deserted or divorced women, and widows.

### **ESTIMATE OF DISPLACED AND RESETTLED PEOPLE BY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN INDIA DURING 1951-1990 (IN LAKHS).**

Type of project	All displaced persons	Resettled	percentage	Backlog	Percentage
Dams	164.0	41.0	25.0	123.0	75.0
Mines	25.5	6.30	24.7	19.20	75.3
Industry	12.5	3.75	30.0	8.75	70.0
Wildlife	6.0	1.25	20.8	4.75	79.2
Others	5.6	1.50	30.0	3.50	70.0
total	213	53.80	25.0	159.2	75.0

(Source: Economic Survey report of Plant 2022.)

### **Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan**

The procedure mentioned in this chapter shall be followed for declaration of the affected area, carrying out survey and census of affected persons, assessment of government land available and land to be arranged for rehabilitation and resettlement, declaration of the resettlement area or areas, preparation of the draft rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan and its final publication.

Where the appropriate Government believes that there is likely to be involuntary displacement off our hundred or more families en masse in plain areas, or two more or more families masse tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution due to acquisition of land for any project or due to any other reason, it shall declare, by notification in the official gazette, area of villages or localities as an affected area.

Every declaration to the policy shall be published in at least three daily newspapers, two of which shall be in the local vernacular, having circulation in villages or areas which are likely to be affected, and also by affixing a copy of the notification on the notice board of the concerned gram panchayats or municipalities and other prominent place or places in the affected area and the resettlement 'area, and/or by any other method as may be prescribed in this regard by the appropriate Government.

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan The procedure mentioned in this chapter shall be followed for declaration of the affected area, carrying out survey and census of affected persons, assessment of government land available and land to be arranged for rehabilitation and resettlement, declaration of the resettlement area or areas, preparation of the draft rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan and its final publication.

Which shall be in the local vernacular, having circulation in villages or areas which are likely to be affected, and also by affixing a copy of the notification on the notice board of the concerned gram panchayats or municipalities and other prominent places or places in the affected area and the resettlement 'area, and/or by any other method as may be prescribed in this regard by the appropriate Government.

### **Displacement in Jharkhand**

The state of Jharkhand is located in the eastern belt of India and is considered a natural resource-rich state. A large number of rivers such as the Damodar run through the state with many tributaries, contributing to the state's vast set of water resources. The records of the National Register of Large Dams show that as of 2005, there had been some dams constructed in the Barkagon Block in Hazaribagh District. Two of which had been constructed before 2004 and to be considered 'major dams', four of which had been tribal populated districts.

As per the displacement data referred to in, it can be observed that out of the total number of displaced families, the construction of dam projects has caused the highest number of displacements. However, further analyses of the rehabilitation status of development-induced displaced communities, as mentioned in, found that only 21.18 percent of dam displaced communities have been rehabilitated.

### **Social Impact Assessment:**

The assessment of any project from environmental and social points of view brings an estimation of the effect of the project on aggrieved persons. There must be a detailed assessment of the socio-economic conditions of the people who may be negatively affected. Again, the adoption of a comprehensive plan to mitigate these impacts and analyzing the extent of displacement, and loss of livelihood is an important indicator of successful resettlement and rehabilitation program.

### **Loss of Employment and Livelihood Sources in the Resettled Colonies**

Displacement also caused unemployment among the working-age population at a rapid scale in the resettled colonies. People lost their source of livelihood or employment such as agriculture and allied activities, traditional occupation, and fishing which had been based on common resources like water bodies or rivers. With the loss of employment and with limited sources of livelihood earning in the resettled location, most of the families had been forced to live in situations of poverty and distress. This process also hurt social institutions like marriage. According to the participants, in the post-displacement period, it became challenging to organize the marriage of their children. Because unemployment and increased livelihood insecurity in families directly affected by displacement meant that families in neighboring communities were not interested in establishing relationships with them.

### **Lack of Quality Control:**

The resettlement and rehabilitation policy is lacking effective quality control mechanism which also poses a challenge to its efficacy. Although the builders have been provided enough land and construction materials by the government yet, the construction work at rehabilitated sites is of poor quality. Cracks in the walls, leakages, and seepages are evidence of poor monitoring of the quality of construction, approvals, and clearances for the same. The close nexus between builder and bureaucrat brings laxity in the maintenance of quality-check on respective construction.

## **Current scenario of project-affected people**

The principle of the eminent doctrine of state power has institutionalized involuntary land acquisition in India. This has been the dominant model of development in the country. In the context of Odisha, the State policies developed for the rapid expansion of industrialization and have launched 'Odisha Industrial Development Plan: Vision 2025'. Moreover, the state has established four investment regions in industrial clusters this portends that the state policies of Odisha will further carry out land acquisition in rural and natural resources-rich forested landscapes of the state. Consequently, this will increase the involuntary displacement of the agrarian, rural and forest-dwelling communities in Odisha (Roy, 2018).

Continuous people's resistance to the colonial Land Acquisition Act of 1894 has forced the Indian state to enact the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act in 2013 which in addition to compensation, extended rehabilitation benefits to the livelihood losers from the acquired land or indirectly displaced people. More importantly, it includes provisions such as consent from landowners before the acquisition and compulsory social-impact studies. However, the private industries and elements of the Indian state consider the 2013 legislation as a hurdle in the economic progress of India. As a result, in May 2015, the GoI brought three ordinances (the latest on 30th May 2015) to bypass the new legislation and fast-track the land acquisition process for industrial establishments. This illustrates the continuing coercive intent of the State when it comes to the acquisition of land for the development projects.

Displacement is unfortunate but, at times, an unavoidable activity in the development process. However, appropriate rehabilitation of the affected communities needs to be considered as the primary responsibility of the State and the concerned project, as it would appear that at present, they are the displaced communities who are making the most sacrifices for the economic growth of many nation-states. As displacement is happening for a large part involuntarily, the participation of displaced communities in the rehabilitation planning process becomes an essential and inevitable measure. This should involve developing need-based micro-level planning informed by community knowledge systems, culture, and traditions for the development of an appropriate plan for the effective resettlement and rehabilitation of all displaced communities and not just those with pre-existing economic, socio-cultural, and political resources.

### **Methodology:**

This paper is exploratory based on a review of the literature. It has included references from journal articles, books, Government reports, and case studies for getting inferences.

### **Conclusion:**

Summing up and concluding remarks Resettlement and Rehabilitation are often taken to be synonymous by the authorities concerned, who fail to understand that the two are different. Resettlement is the process of physical relocation, while Rehabilitation, and involves a long process of rebuilding people's physical and economic livelihood, their assets, their cultural and social links, and psychological acceptance of the changed situation. Resettlement and rehabilitation are understood as humane concerns and in the context of social justice, guidelines are given for the betterment of the displaced persons. India's approach to resettlement and rehabilitation due to development projects has not been so commendable in the past or the

present. There is a wide gap between the policies framed by project authorities and what gets implemented in actual terms. A more human-oriented R & R policy with no loopholes is required. The act should penalize the officials with fines or imprisonment if all the provisions of the policy are not implemented properly. It is evident that the resettled population has no choice in the selection of new locations for resettlement and often does not have the advantage of negotiation. As such, continuous monitoring and conducting social audits of the resettled sites is essential, but it is hardly done. The advantages and disadvantages of cash compensation also need to be assessed thoroughly. Misuse of the money by the project officials and even the resettled population might crop up. The success of the process might be more if a bottom-up approach is followed effectively. Public participation of the displaced population in the planning of their resettlement and rehabilitation is extremely essential.

### Suggestions:

1. Economic growth is often driven by consumer spending and business investment.
2. Tax cuts and exemptions are used to return money to consumers and increase spending.
3. Deregulation eases regulations imposed on businesses and is credited with creating growth, but it can lead to excessive risk-taking.
4. Infrastructure spending is designed to make construction work for businesses to operate more efficiently and increase productivity.

### Reference:

#### Related Websites

- 1) <https://dolr.gov.in>
- 2) <https://adrve.gov.in>
- 3) <https://www.ntpc.co.in>
- 4) <https://www.cdns.wazad.gov.in>
- 5) <https://trid.trb.org/>

### Related to Research Articles Papers

Agnihotri, A. (2016). Building dams, ignoring consequences: The lower Suktel irrigation project in Orissa. In Mathur, H. M., Assessing the social impact of development projects: Experiences in India and other Asian countries (pp. 75–85). Heidelberg: Springer.

[Google Scholar](#) | [Crossref](#)

Barnabas, A. P. (2002). Development, disasters, and displacement: An appraisal of policy for resettlement. *Indian Journal of Social Work*, 63(1), 67–79.

[Google Scholar](#)

Baviskar, A. (2019). Nation's body, river's pulse: Narratives of anti-dam politics in India. *Thesis Eleven*, 150(1), 26–41. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0725513618822417>

[Google Scholar](#)

Bhagat-Ganguly, V. (2019). Dams and Displacement: The case of the Sardar Sarovar project, India. In Cullet, P., Konnan, S. (Eds.), *Research handbook on law, environment, and the Global South* (pp. 371–395). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing

[Google Scholar](#) | [Crossref](#)

Bosshard, P. (2011, November 5). People's power blocks dam construction in Northeast India. Retrieved

from [www.internationalrivers.org](http://www.internationalrivers.org): <https://www.internationalrivers.org/blogs/227/people%E2%80%99s-power-blocks-dam-construction-in-northeast-india>

[Google Scholar](#)

Cernea, M. (2000). Risks, safeguards, and reconstruction: A model for population displacement and resettlement. *Economic & Political Weekly*, 35(41), 3659–3678.

[Google Scholar](#)

Cernea, M. (2003). For new economics of resettlement: A sociological critique of the compensation principle. *International Social Science Journal*, 55(175), 1–27.

[Google Scholar](#) | [Crossref](#)

Cernea, M. M., Guggenheim, S. E. (Eds.). (1993). *Anthropological approaches to resettlement: Policy, practice, and theory*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Chakravorty, S. (2016). Land acquisition in India: The political-economy of changing the law. *Area Development and Policy*, 1(1), 48–62. Retrieved

from <https://doi.org/10.1080/23792949.2016.1160325>

[Google Scholar](#)

