

DEVELOPMENT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND CURRENT CHALLENGES

Malobika Gogoi

Department of Economics, Dibrugarh University

Poli Gogoi

Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University

Pubali Sharma

Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University

Akash Jyoti Borthakur

Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University

Abstract

Every political, economic, and development endeavour has both positive and negative effects on the population, increasing some people's misery and hopelessness while decreasing it for others. Millions of people are uprooted and resettled annually from their homes, lands, and livelihoods around the world to make way for new construction. For major construction initiatives such as dams, reservoirs, power plants, roads, plantations, urban redevelopment, and mining, oil, and gas projects. Development-induced displacement is the name given to this forced migration. People have been uprooted by development not merely from their homes but also from their homelands, to which they may have been bound by distant ancestors.

People who are displaced lose an array of objects, some of which are crucial to their survival, such as their residences, productive assets, culture, livelihoods, and environmental conditions appropriate for their knowledge and practises. They also lose their social networks and a sense of identity. The resources they have access to and the challenges they encounter in their new area determine the extent of their misery. Both the development project and the relocation may be justified if adequate compensation is offered in the form of financial incentives and rehabilitation. The study will give a general review of development-induced displacement instances, including how many people are affected, its key causes and effects. It will also highlight a few suggested policies for welfare-oriented growth and sustainable development that benefits everyone equally.

Keywords: Development, Displacement, India, People,

Introduction

The term "development" should be understood to mean the general improvement of society's welfare in all spheres, including the political, social, and economic ones. Development is the process by which the average person's material and living standards rise. The improvement of people's welfare and wellbeing appears to be the most important objective of economic progress.

However, a significant portion of the population has experienced great hardship and misery as a result of the world's current development process. Dams, power plants, railroad lines, economic processing zones, and many other development projects were built on private property in the name of development. The property owners who were displaced as a result have since received some financial compensation, but this does not lessen their suffering in the long run.

Around the world, millions of people are relocated and resettled every year to create room for massive development projects including dams, reservoirs, power plants, roads, plantations, urban regeneration, and oil, gas, and mining ventures. Displacement caused by development refers to this forced relocation. People have been uprooted by development not merely from their houses but also from their ancestral homelands, to which they may still be connected. People who are displaced lose a variety of possessions, some of which are essential to their survival, such as their homes, useful property, culture, and means of subsistence, as well as access to social networks, their sense of community, and environments that are suitable for their knowledge and practices.

Typically, economic development policies and practises that encourage growth have been promoted and emphasised for the development goal of reducing or eradicating poverty: economic growth is to be taken into consideration, would provide employment for the poor, purchasing power for individuals to purchase what poor people could produce, and a tax base with which governments could fund their operations. It could also build social and economic infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, to help the poor and deprived sections become more competitive in the job market and subsequently increase their earning capacity. These efforts would help the poor and deprived sections receive essential services and build up their capacity to live on less. The development practises and policies developed during the course of the previous century and the first decade of the current century to serve these goals are hardly the aspirations. As a result, the theoretical foundation for development is in a paradoxical predicament. Therefore, there is a paradoxical situation where the conceptual perspective of development emphasises the actual independence and wellbeing of humankind while the practical and real practise of development undertaken by the development of a variety of socioeconomic and infrastructure causes a massive scale forced displacement and misery and suffering to the displaced persons.

Development-induced displacement began to pose a serious threat to stable economic regimes and policies as well as sustainable economic growth during the 1990s. The huge increase in development-related displacements in the 1970s and 1980s raised concerns, which were primarily strengthened by global infrastructure boom and Brutal developmental practises combined with dreadful and painful relocation consequences. Protests, campaigns, and other forms of resistance occur in response to public policies and economic regimes, challenging the legitimacy of decision-makers and planners at various levels. The obstacles and resentments that were growing called for new perspectives on the affected people's environments. Due to the excessive environmental interdependence and economic openness, this sort of migration—better known as displacement—has led to severe economic imbalance, discontent, and insecurity in a nation and around the world.

Numerous socioeconomic effects follow the removal of human populations from their native environments.

Displacement conceptualization:

Displacement is defined as the removal of a person from their home country or territory. Economic uncertainty, impotence, and alienation are frequently exacerbated rather than lessened by it. Loss of communities and economic livelihoods could result from this. When considering the past, it may be claimed that there are two types of migration: voluntary migration aimed to improve and raise the level of living for a variety of social, economic, and educational purposes. Another is forced migration, in which people are compelled to leave their homes, economies, political systems, and social networks. Due to the excessive environmental interdependence and openness of the global economy, this sort of migration, also known as displacement, led to severe economic imbalance, discontent, and insecurity in a nation and throughout the world.

The voluntarily migration is mainly due to some economic consideration like high wages, better employment, business opportunities, good standard of education, urban style of living and modernization in skills and is intended intentionally for the welfare and development consideration. But forced migration and displacement occurred due to some social, political crisis, armed conflict, human rights violation, natural disasters, construction of some projects like dams, power projects, railway lines, mineral extraction, processing zones etc. Forced migration and displacement again can be looked in several ways one is due to natural causes which cannot be stopped, other is due to some political unrest i.e. wars, human rights violation, conflicts the solution lies in well designed political and social policies and regimes (Rwamatwara 2005). Well-designed political and social policies and regimes are the key to the answer. The third type of forced migration occurs as a result of the development of certain projects that are only intended to benefit the general populace and the economy as a whole, but there are many crises and sufferings for the people who are displaced as a result of the construction of such projects, which is a paradoxical situation. The study, which is based on secondary sources and data gathered from world development reports, numerous published papers and articles, deals with the issue of displacement caused by the construction of developmental projects like dams, power projects, etc. The primary goal of the paper is to identify the numbers of displaced people at the names of some significant development projects in India. To further evaluate the impacts and measures taken for the welfare of displaced people.

Development oriented Displacement

Displacement is viewed as a necessary evil. It is necessary to have certain land and property in order to build industries, infrastructure, such as dams, mining, roads, and power projects, which are meant to serve greater welfare. This will disturb the affected society's biosphere. Displacement is thought to be the result of a development model that forbids some technical and commercial

decisions without seriously considering those that would have the lowest social and environmental costs.

The problem for humanitarian actors is that development is a significant cause of displacement. People are forced to leave places that will be flooded, for instance, when dams are built. People are evicted as a result of governments setting aside land for urban renovation or parks. In addition, communities affected by relocation policies almost usually fare worse than they did before.

The number of people worldwide who have been displaced as a result of development is not precisely known. There are no organisations or publications devoted to monitoring and estimating all development-induced displacements, either globally or nationally, unlike refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). Most academics, decision-makers, and activists use the World Bank Environment Department's (WBED) estimate, which generally states that 10 million people are uprooted annually as a result of dam construction, urban development, transportation, and infrastructure programmes. Although astonishingly high, this figure still leaves out a significant portion of the displaced population. The definition of displacement in this context, as stated in the introduction, solely refers to individuals who have been physically ejected from legally acquired property in order to make room for future development initiatives.

Development induced displacement in Indian context

When India's economy decided to pursue new economic reforms, the New Economic Policy, often known as economic liberalization, was put into motion. The major policy change was growth centered focus. It made no mention of the economy's long-standing issues with poverty, starvation, unemployment, poor health, illiteracy, and environmental degradation, etc. With the introduction of neoliberal reforms, the pace of developmental project construction accelerated and foreign investors became more prevalent in India. Additionally, a number of joint venture and collaborative projects have been launched. As an illustration, 341 SEZs have recently been recognized and established in India.

On the precise number of displaced persons, there is debate. It appears likely that between 40 and 50 million people have been forced to leave their homes. According to numerous studies on displacement, the period prior to 1980 was characterised by little compensation for the displaced individuals and a complete lack of efforts to comprehend the problems associated with their rehabilitation. The majority of those impacted came from lower socioeconomic classes, and as a result of their displacement, they became even more marginalised, caught in a cycle of poverty, and suffered from the loss of their source of income.

The involuntary displacement of people due to acquisition of their land for developmental activities throughout India is a major issue. This resulted in widespread protests across the country. People began to protest, for example, major projects such as Sardar Sarovar, Salient Valley, the

Manglore Thermal Power, the Dabhol power, Maha Mumbai Special Economic Zones (SEZ), the Nandigram SEZ, the Singur Tata Motors and so on led to great resentment among people that were displaced and affected by these projects. The Sardar Sarovar project has affected nearly 300 villages, with 163 000 people have been displaced and among them tribal population has been severely affected (Parasuraman 1999).

About 300,000 people were displaced by the Upper Krishna irrigation project (i.e., dams and reservoir).

Loss of livelihoods and displacement has become a recurring feature of Singrauli region of Madhya Pradesh state mainly due to construction of dams, power and mining since 1960s. Displacement in the region began first by the construction of Rihand dam and Govind Sagar Reservoir in the 1960s, fuelled by Thermal power projects in 1980s, which led to expansion of coal mining in the region. All these activities have generated a series of displacement and loss of livelihoods of the people in the region (Sharma and Singh 2009).

Recent years have witnessed lot of displacements induced by development in the states like Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal due to the acquisition of land for SEZs for attracting millions of US dollars on nearly half-million acres of land. It was also claimed that these investments would create more than half million jobs, but due to high mechanised and automation the job creation was far less than expected (Patnaik 2007)

Dam construction, electricity generation, transportation, urbanisation, and other factors all contributed to forced relocation. Such initiatives, it is asserted, improve services and generate employment, which in turn promotes population growth and wellbeing. But it also evicts people from their homes, communities, and cultural heritage, raising questions about equity and social justice are important topics. The Indian government acknowledged that many millions of people have been displaced by dams, mines, factories, power plants, etc. and are currently seeking rehabilitation. Developmental projects always are presented as being in the interest of the country as a whole, and the communities that lose their means of subsistence and endure great suffering for the sake of the alleged "greater good" and national interest would be making this sacrifice for the good of the whole country.

Impact and effects of forced displacement

A number of socioeconomic effects emerge from removing human populations from their native habitats. It frequently makes people feel more hopeless, alienated, and economically insecure. A fundamental concern with regard to social justice and equality is the loss of communities and economic livelihoods as a result of displacement. Displacement has led to a number of problems, including: landlessness, unemployment, homelessness, marginalisation, food insecurity, community disintegration, and loss of access to resources held in common property. In an agrarian society, where land is the foundation of peoples' productive systems, taking their land would result

in poverty and a cascade of interconnected social, political, and economic upheavals and violations if it weren't replaced with stable income-generating work.

Large communities' conditions might deteriorate over time or even irreversibly if resettlement plans are not properly carried out and are not accompanied by suitable financial compensation for the lost assets and social support systems. Displacement caused in large part by issues with environmental destruction or degradation, evictions, or evacuations. Public disturbances, natural or human-caused disasters, tension or unrest, internal, international, or mixed conflict (having domestic and international dimensions), public emergencies, domestic violence, and some cultural and traditional practises frequently occur without regard for existing human rights and humanitarian standards, including the right to adequate shelter and residence.

India provides a tonne of proof in support of the violation and displacement. The number of demonstrations against land acquisition organised by civic society and local populations has increased in recent years. The alleged "better good" is being questioned more and more by these demonstrations and acts of violence. The demonstration in the Noida neighbourhood of Bhatta-Parsaul in Uttar Pradesh state informs us of the context and epicentre of the violence sparked by an effort to evict the farmers. In fact, incidents like Bhatta-Parsaul in Uttar Pradesh, Nandigram in West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu all indicated that the situation needed to be looked on right now. The unrest that occurred in Nandigram, West Bengal, in 2007 as protesters tried to stop the government from acquiring 25000 acres of land under the Land Acquisition Act, which led to the deaths of 14 people. Tata Nano's request for land acquisition and related issues recently sparked demonstrations and violent incidents in Haryana.

The displacement brought on by development projects causes economic insecurity as a result of losing resources, social insecurity as a result of losing the community and society they were adjusting to and living in, health insecurity as a result of being deprived of basic amenities and facilities, and food insecurity as a result of not having access to resources to produce their own food supplies, environmental instability brought on by overuse of the natural resources available to displaced societies, cultural instability brought on by a lack of cultural acculturation, and political instability brought on by ongoing unrest and demonstrations staged by those who have been harmed by developmental projects.

Measures for mitigating and minimizing the displacement problems

While promoting the sectors of the economy and development projects is important, the government must also take steps to limit any negative consequences on the displaced population. But if corporate industrialization is the sole option, then this cannot be accomplished since under such a system, the market takes the place of the state as the dominant force. The monopolists are granted great authority to stifle the very competition they are claiming to foster under the guise of "virtues of free-markets" and competition. The government must implement a system of taking

land and providing compensation that is viable for the impacted and displaced society both economically and socially.

All of the assets that the government or private organisations are seizing and destroying for construction projects should be properly valued economically. The economic, shadow, and opportunity value of every resource that the relocated people must give up should be taken into account. Every evicted, displaced, and dislocated person should have access to basic housing, necessary food, potable water, and sanitation, as well as to essential healthcare and medical services, sources of income, children's educational opportunities, human rights protections, and some entertainment and recreational amenities.

Conclusion

It is clear that displacement brought on by development is unavoidable when examining the regimes in place both currently and in the past. Infrastructure development, including the building of dams, power plants, irrigation canals, and other facilities, is crucial to progress in both the economic and social spheres. Construction of a development project, however, has severe, multifaceted effects that include displacing a bigger portion of the population from their homes and limiting their opportunities for development.

Thus, the situation is contradictory. Both must be eliminated as a kind of retaliation. The only remaining option to lessen the bad effects and suffering is responsive government. For those who have been displaced, appropriate mechanisms for compensation and rehabilitation should be implemented. Displaced persons should have access to medical, sanitary, and educational services so that they won't be ignorant of how the rest of the world's population is developing.

References

- 1) Lone Ahmad, R. Development induced Displacement. Council for Innovative Research.
- 2) Kalim Siddiqui.(2013).Development and Displacement in India: Reforming the Economy towards Sustainability.IOP Science, IOP.Org.
- 3) Ray Parshuram.(2000).Development Induced Displacement in India.Sarwatch Vol. 2 (1).
- 4) Sharma, R.N. (2003).Involuntary Displacement: a few encounters.Economic and Political Weekly.Vol. 37 (9).
- 5) Parasuraman, S. (1999).The Development Dilemma: Displacement in India.Basingstoke: Macmillan.
- 6) Rwamatwara Egide (2005).Forced migration in Africa: A challenge to development. Stichproben, Afrikastudien No.8
- 7) Patnaik Prabhat (2007), "In the Aftermath of Nandigram", Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 42 (2).
- 8) Sharma R.N. and Singh S.R. (2009), "Displacement in Singrauli Region: Entitlements and Rehabilitation", Economic and Political Weekly, Mumbai.