



## THE IMPACT OF DISPLACEMENT & REHABILITATION ON SOCIO CULTURAL LIFE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

### Social Science

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### ABSTRACT

There is several evidence of development-induced displacement which continues from the era of pre-independence. After Indian independence measures have resulted in much more displacement than in the colonial times with the difference that now it is in the name of national growth, change and development. A large number of development projects are being taken up in the state of Odisha to carry out the growth of people's financial status and development in the state and to ensure that the people of entire Odisha lead an improved quality of life. It is extremely important to possess comprehensive and document information about the socio-economic and cultural aspects of displaced people particularly in tribal areas, because it provides the basis for preparing a realistic Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP). The motto of this research paper is to examine the socio cultural status of the displaced people especially in Odishan tribal areas.

### KEYWORDS

DISPLACEMENT, TRIBAL, ODISHA, REHABILITATION

Cernea (1996) a renowned social scientist working with the World Bank, says that displacement is a disruptive and painful process. Economically and culturally it has created impoverishment. It rose as problems of landlessness, homelessness, marginalization food insecurity and disarticulation. Cernea stressed more to the role of social scientists. He suggested three stages should be adopted in the process for displacement by the social scientists in conducting a research and in taking planning programmes by one government bodies. Development induced displacement issues and their links between them are vital significance. It is essential to have a close understanding of the relationship between development and displacement for the formulation and implementation of any strategy that safeguards all concerned aspects. Therefore, development and displacement is considered to be the two side of the same coin. Absence of one can't lead for the development in the society. So both development and displacement are equally necessary. The project should adopt different imperatives and call for an action plan to maintain equilibrium between displacement and development, between ecology and man, and there by improve the quality of life and quality of environment. Development projects have been set up in tribal area and land owned by tribal. It affected the life style, customs, and traditions of the tribal people. Displacement disturbed social, cultural, religion, and economic traditions. The forestland serves as major source of their survival land under the forest laws they are denied any right of ownership over the forest land though the cultivators possessed the land for several generations. The proponents of development and displacement often argue that the monetary income of the displaced person improves. Those who measure change through the improvement of monetary income alone ignore the fact that before displacement a large number of the DPs belonged to the non-monetized or semi- monetized informal economy. Every economic activity is directly or indirectly related to the natural resources of a country. It determines the course of the development. Agriculture is the most important business of Indian economy. Agriculture forms the base of Indian economy. So the agricultural activities have direct and immediate relation with the natural resources. The natural resources include land, water, forest land use pattern etc. The village people before industrialization lived in isolation. Agriculture was the main source of income. The land factor increased the scope of inequality in the society. It widened the gap between the rich farmers and poor farmers. The possession of vast land exert full control over the life other people. Industrialization opened new channels for employment. It created new employment opportunities. It has positive effects on the employment status of the displaced people. Before displacement agriculture was the primary occupation but after displacement its percentage reduced. Not only had the number of tribal families depend on cultivation decreased, but the average number of persons involved in cultivation per family also declined.

Displacement has put its adverse impact in many cases, especially relating to tribal communities that have been relatively isolated from the outside world; displacement has created negative and positive impacts on the economic and cultural sphere.

The rapid industrialization has also led to rapid cultural information. It increased the scope of inter exchange of different cultural values and norms. The displacement caused due to industrialization has led to change in the occupational pattern. After displacement industrialization increased the source of income. The annual family income involved in different occupation show that the incomes of displaced and affected families have increased. It has raised the good standard of living. Before there existed vast inequality in the income of the rich and poor farmers, so no longer the social norms are dominated by rich farmers.

The present scenario of displacement and rehabilitation in tribal areas of Odisha is an indictment on the development approach which the country has under taken through various projects particularly in tribal areas. It gives birth to several questions like who gets benefit from the development projects. Why do the displaced person do not share the project benefits equally? Will the national policy on displacement and rehabilitation bring any change in the development approach of the country? The natures of the question are not only economic but also sociological, anthropological and political in nature. Many problems are faced in the process of displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation. Different measures have been taken in the country in a different manner by different project to deal with the issues related to development and displacement. Gradually, they include cash compensation; jobs and land for land provisions are provided as resettlement and rehabilitation package.

The issue of displacement and rehabilitation in tribal areas is a complex one, proper and appropriate measures should be taken for the proper rehabilitation of the ousters and to evolve a practical sustainable development approach. Many problems arise in the process of displacement and rehabilitation. The legal policy of the Government and the decision taken by project authorities all cause several problems. This work highlights these issues presenting a scenario of displacement and appraising the status of resettlement and rehabilitation in the country.

Industrial projects are located in a region, largely constituted of agricultural economy and even fertile double cropped land. The present study is an attempt to fill the gap in the existing literature as it focuses upon the above discussed varied issues in a holistic manner.

This thesis attempts to synthesize the experiences and learning emerging from all of the above processes in the light of the aforementioned objectives. A sincere attempt has been made to account for the rich and diverse range of experiences and perspectives that are contained in the submissions

The profits of the mega-projects rarely reach to the affected tribal people. The tribal villagers have no right to say no to the project. The government is empowered with legal rights in the name of "public interest" to acquire their property and assets under the land acquisition Act. Displacement is not a recent phenomenon. There is evidence of development-induced displacement which continues from the pre-independence era. The post-independence measures have resulted in

much more displacement than in the colonial times with the difference that now it is in the name of national development. A large number of development projects are being taken up in Odisha to carry out the economic growth and development in the state and to ensure that the people of Odisha lead an improved quality of life. It is extremely important to possess comprehensive and document information about the socio-economic and cultural aspects of displaced people, because it provides the basis for preparing a realistic Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP). The motto of this research study is to examine the socio cultural status of the displaced people. Resettlement is made to the DPs in the colonies by providing them home stead land, grants, rations, jobs and civic amenities etc. Rehabilitation is a longer process for enhancing and consolidating the quality of life to the DPs by expanding their economic base and enabling them to become self-reliant. The village people before industrialization lived in isolation. Agriculture was the main source of income. The land factor increased the scope of inequality in the society. It widened the gap between the rich farmers and poor farmers. The possession of vast land exert full control over the life other people. The primary source of income of tribal communities was based on forest and agriculture. One community depended on the other due to different stratified occupational status. Economic prosperity is generally considered as social change and, on the other hand, a community is progressing in the society with the equal economic advancement. Economic activities are normally going parallel and at time across to each other. Displacement has put its adverse impact in many cases, especially relating to tribal communities that have been relatively isolated from the outside world; displacement has created negative and positive impacts on the economic and cultural sphere. The rapid industrialization has also led to rapid cultural information. It increased the scope of inter exchange of different cultural values and norms. The displacement caused due to industrialization has led to change in the occupational pattern of tribal communities. After displacement industrialization increased the source of income. The annual family income involved in different occupation show that the incomes of displaced and affected families have increased. It has raised the good standard of living. Displacement had worst hit to the livelihood of the tribal people, now each and every thing they have to pay for example like earlier they used to produce enough rice and now they have to purchase it from the market. Most of the tribal communities depended on the forest land and water on which they have their traditional and customary rights. The process of industrialization is gradually disintegrating the tribal culture and society.

After the displacement the displaced tribal people led a civilized life. They are accommodated in the rehabilitated colony provided by the project. Their life style changed by the increased interaction with the influx people of other state. They interact with people of different cultural values. Interaction of culture takes place between them. Man and women changed their traditional pattern. They are eagerly adopting modernity. They prefer modern clothes, ornaments and adopted modern life style. They rejected the dogmatic practices and developed a broad sense of thinking. It has broadened their outlook. They no more believe in the supernatural power for the increase of their food. The impact of displacement on tribal communities is having several aspects particularly it changed the hereditary socio cultural way of tribal life. The unique features of tribal culture affected a lot due to displacement issues and changed a lot in tribal world views. Displacement can also be taken as a major factor of detribalization in contemporary world.

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