

Preface

In the post-independence period, India has been grappling with the problem of fast economic development through the implementation of numerous projects like mines, industries, dams, airport, railways and roads. For this purpose large areas of land have been acquired, displacing millions of people without proper concern for their resettlement and rehabilitation. Most of the victims belong to the poor and marginalised communities, and within them, women and children experience special vulnerabilities.

It is unfortunate that in India, in spite of our commitment for Welfare State, we have not been able to evolve a definite policy to mitigate the suffering of those uprooted people in the form of concrete rehabilitation programmes when a large number of people are affected by the increasing number of developmental projects and programmes.

Consequently, development induced displacement has become a serious concern of the people including civil society, social scientists, planners, administrators and governments. This study deals with land acquisition process, displacement and rehabilitation in Jadugura region at Jharkhand which began after the construction of Uranium Mining Project in 1967. It was not possible on the part of the researcher to document displacement since 1967 due to scarcity of the data. Hence, official records on displacement since 1985 were taken for analysis. The field work was conducted during 2008-9. In this study an attempt is made to understand the social change and the hitherto social structure of the displaced people of the region. The exploration of Uranium mines and the construction of tailing ponds in subsequent phases displaced the people of the Jadugura region systematically over a period of time. It increased the problems of the displaced people because of the loss of land and by limiting occupational alternatives. Several social and occupational dimensions of change have been analysed.

It is beyond the general recognition that women might suffer more than men in the course of the displacement process. The women suffer double discrimination by virtue of being a woman as because she occupies the lowest strata in social hierarchy with no control over resources and decision making process. A systematic analysis of gendered dimensions of forced displacement and resettlement has also been done in this work.
People’s response against mining in the post-colonial period has become one of the most prominent phenomenons on the socio-cultural and political picture. This work discusses the people’s movement against displacement and institutional responses to their demands. There is need to formulate policies and laws for resettlement and rehabilitation of people affected by land acquisition in tribal areas. The redresser mechanism, if followed, would be helpful for the displaced people and the affected population.

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