INTRODUCTION
After independence, with an objective to achieve rapid economic growth a good number of major developmental projects have been initiated and implemented by both central and state governments. These projects include construction of mega Irrigation Dams, Power Plants, Industries, Mining Operations etc. Though these developmental projects have provided irrigation to thirsty lands, energy for growing industries and brought about economic prosperity for the country nonetheless these mega projects have caused forced displacement of millions of people to make the way for these projects. Among the people displaced by various developmental projects, a large number of people belong to scheduled tribe, scheduled caste and other backward communities who are always regarded as poor and disadvantageous sections of the society.

Though millions of people have been displaced by various planned developmental projects since independence, the state has not taken the issue seriously and till date it has not promulgated a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for those who have been displaced for nation's prosperity. In absence of a National Policy, the whole process of dealing with the issue of displacement and rehabilitation remains ad-hoc and piecemeal. Various case studies conducted by scholars show that as many as 75% of the displaced people have not been rehabilitated suitably and their incomes and livelihood's have not been restored properly (Fernades: 1991, Fernades et. al, 1989). The displaced who generally belong to most unprivileged and disadvantageous communities of Indian
society in absence of proper resettlement and rehabilitation pushed themselves into impoverishment, marginalisation and more backwardness.

This is nothing but brutal violation of both fundamental rights (the rights to settle and reside anywhere in the country, Art19(1)(e) and right to life and livelihood Art, 21) and human rights (Jai Sen 1995:241). This also implies de-facto lack of social justice and inequality involuntary resettlement process. In a socialist welfare state like ours it is an irony that the benefits of development have not been shared by all sections of society. In the developmental process, it is the displaced people, who share only pains of development while some other people enjoy the gains. It is, in fact, profoundly contrary to the very goals of development.

Thus, the issue of development-related displacement and rehabilitation has attracted much attention of the scholars, policy makers and academicians in these days because of tremendous increase in the number of development refugees on one hand and minimal rehabilitation on the part of state to resettle those uprooted.

It is in this context, the present work tries to examine the whole issue of development-related displacement, the process of rehabilitation in India. To understand the problems of development, displacement, rehabilitation and to arrive at a plausible solution to the problem, the present study was undertaken at Upper Indravati Hydro-electric Project, situated in the eastern Indian state, Orissa. This is basically an empirical study and the prime aim of the study is to i) understand the issue of development-related displacement, the nature and process
of displacement, socio-economic impact of displacement at Upper Indravati Project, ii) assess the rehabilitation package provided by the project authorities to resettle the oustees, iii) make some rational suggestions to prevent the risk of impoverishment and improve the rehabilitation and resettlement measures.

Methods of Study

Looking at the varied needs of the study a combination of both empirical and institutional methods have been used for the study. Data for present work was obtained from two sources viz.; primary and secondary. Primary source of information was collected through interview schedule, especially designed for this purpose. These include information about socio-economic conditions of the DPs before and after displacement, utilisation of compensation money, perception about rehabilitation measures etc. Most of the questions of the schedule were structured and random sampling method was used for collection of primary data from the DPs.

For the secondary source of information, the study largely relied upon various published Governmental and Non-Governmental Reports, Census Reports, Newspaper Clippings, Journals, Books. Apart from this, necessary secondary information was collected from Project Document, Register, Brochures and Annual Reports of the project.

Besides the interview method, information was also gathered through observation and open-ended conversation with informed people of the region,
project authorities, social activists and educationalist having sufficient knowledge about the entire process of displacement and rehabilitation work of the project.

**Chapterisation**

The study has been divided into six chapters. The introductory section of the study locates the problem, sets agenda of study i.e. methodology, chapterisation and limitations of the work.

In the chapter one, a brief discussion on concept of ‘development’ has been undertaken as the basis of the study. Along with conventional definition of development, it also analyses the changing notion of development over the years. Besides, it locates the problem in the context of development, displacement and rehabilitation.

The second chapter of the work reviews the existing literature on development, displacement and rehabilitation in India. The common problem found in developmental projects with regards to rehabilitation, its implementation and problem of oustees has been pointed out.

Chapter three focuses on the socio-economic profile of Orissa and discusses the large scale forced displacement by various development projects since independence. In this chapter there is also a description of Upper Indravati Project. It contains the history of the project, and the basic outlines of the project area.

Chapter four discusses Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policies that has been undertaken by the project authorities to resettle the DPs. It also covers the planning pattern, its implementation pattern, the strength and weaknesses of the
policy. To assess its strength and weaknesses, a comparison has been made with Gujarat Policy on rehabilitation and resettlement, which is regarded as the best policy till date.

Chapter five analyses the perception of socio-economic conditions of the oustees before displacement.

Chapter six discusses the socio-cultural and economic conditions of the oustees after rehabilitation in the new village. It also covers various problems faced by the oustees in the post – rehabilitation period.

The concluding sections of the work summaries the findings of the study and makes some suitable suggestions to prevent the risk of displacement and to improve rehabilitation and resettlement Policy. It also offers an alternative to the existing model of development based on indigenous body of knowledge and people centric development.

**Limitations of the study**

The study was carried out in remote backward areas of Kalahandi and Koraput districts where poverty and illiteracy is rampant. Considering the illiteracy and economic backwardness amongst DPs, such a long intervening time apparently led to memory lapses amongst them as a result of which it was difficult for them to recapitulate their pre-displacement style of living which had taken place 8-10 years back. Many of the DPs have reached the dusk of their lives and were hard of hearing due to which we had to spend hours and hours with them, trying to make each point clear so as to get accurate information.
Further, because of illiteracy there was a low understanding of various issues of displacement and rehabilitation and resettlement. They were just aware of the fact that some amount was given to them and were asked to sign or put a thumb impression against their name. Specially where quantification was required, it put quite a lot of pressure on us to explain questions to them and to get the required information. As a result, variations could be there between government records and the information provided by the DPs.

Further, while discussing about their losses and gains due to project construction, it was noticed that PAPs had a tendency to minimize their gains and exaggerate their losses.

Thus considering the limitation of one time survey and wide spread literacy and poverty among DPs, the field level data has been supplemented with records maintained at the government level.