ABSTRACT

Locate a creative and reliable rehabilitation package for the displaced and marginalized of development projects, who are the victimized poor for the society and brutally rooted out inhabitants under the banner of development is the best rehabilitation. They were left with nothing even had given up their homeland. Nobody who has human heart can imagine the parting moment. The sparrows of the pain will be whining in the shady boughs of their hearts as an elegiac strain. Today social scientists and Government’s obligation is to convert that painful strain into a soulful lyric with real social intervention. If so, today’s apt interrogation point is, can they for us?

Here my humble attempt is for the search of the answer to the above question through my study. The best known world novelist Albert Camu’s famous book “Outsider” illustrates the story of the pathetic alienation of the man who becomes the outsider of the society. Today, The Outsider happens to be the oustees who are marginalized and socially disarticulated of the society. Today, all displacements are in the banner of industrial, or commercial, or infrastructural developments and urbanization.

Development projects, off course, accord progress of the nation by-passing the apparent shallow faces of displaced people of development projects from their living area. Development-induced displacement has been of great concern to social scientists in the recent years. Researches in the subject area brought
forth the dismay picture of life of the oustees of development projects. They have been branded as internal displacees leaving them to the status of placelessness and homelessness and become victims of the ‘new poverty’ created by the most modern selfish developers. Development projects are urgent needs of the society but the Governments, social scientists and social workers have a duty that the oustees are rehabilitated with well designed and implementable resettlement action programme to attain economics of recovery to prevent the generation of ‘new poverty’. They should take sincere efforts in order to mould appropriate plans to improve standard of living as development projects visualized always.

The study entitled “Development-Induced Displacement and Social Disarticulation of the Displaced People of Kerala: With Special Reference to Kochi International Airport” attempts to sketch the life both before and after displacement of the oustees of the first international airport of India built up with public-private partnership. Development and displacement literatures replete with loss of four fold-human, social, natural and economic-capitals of the ousted communities of development projects in manifold ways. The researcher depending upon the literature available attempted to analyse the social articulation of the ousted community of the airport both before and after displacement. The life of the oustees had undergone changes after displacement. The displacement had forced the ousted community to adapt its culture and related practices into the new living situations. Their interpersonal ties and neighbourhood relationships, family bonds, and associational life had
undergone changes as compared to pre-displacement life. Participation of oustees, especially in designing displacement and resettlement action programme could have improved their life after displacement and boost the reconstruction efforts. The poor initiatives of project management to reconstruct outsees’ life generated various socio-economic and physical problems in the life of the displacees which opens one more saga of the hard hearted modern marginalization which swallows the poor innocent lives.

Platforms to discuss and plan-in with people are the best choice to mitigate repercussions of displacement along with reinstating the lost common property resources. Adequate attention by Government both in enactment of laws related with land acquisition, and formulation and promulgation of people friendly policy guidelines is the need of the hour. Social workers as social scientists and social engineers have decisive role in the displacement and reconstruction of community life of the oustees for the prosperity of their spiritual and material growth. Social work methods have off course, pivotal roles in the process of rearticulation of socially disarticulated community. They can design programme, projects and plans to rectify the hiatus created in the community life of the oustees. If these can be put into practice with a creative and humanitarian sense, it will be the real social work intervention against lopsided development.