



**Problems Of Displaced And Rehabilitated People In Kohlhapur
District, Maharashtra.**

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Abstract

Developmental projects have been implemented in world for economic development of concern region. The developmental projects offer many benefits to the society in visible form on one hand but create number of problems regarding displaced people on the other hand. While construction of large dams most of the beneficial impacts are recognized but many adverse impacts remain aside. It has been observed that these impacts are neither assessed before or after the construction of dam. Therefore, rehabilitated people face number of economic, social, cultural, psychological etc. problems. Here an attempt has been made to study the problems of rehabilitated people affected by Dudhaganga irrigation project in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

Key Words:- Development, Displacement, Resettlement, Rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION

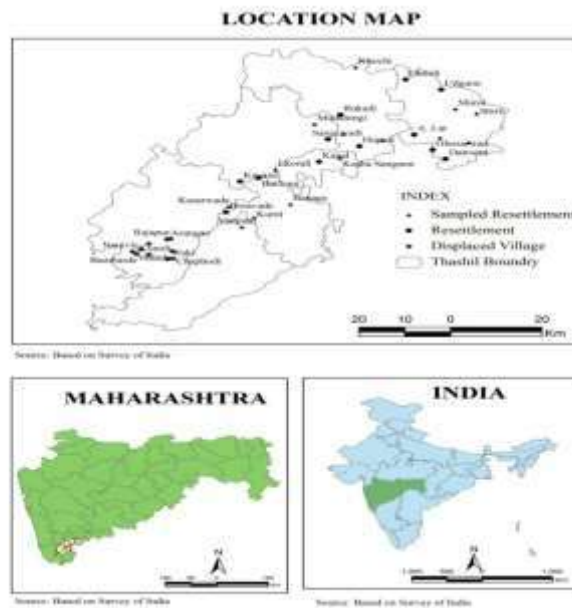
Developmental projects have been implemented in the world for economic development of a region. Such implementation of projects causes to displacement of native people. The people become landless and homeless due to the acquisition of land and houses in the displacement process. They are deprived from their old sources of livelihood. Forced displacements have created potential risks-landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, loss of access to common property and social disarticulation (Carena, 1995).

Displaced people are resettled in the command area of concern irrigation project where they face number of problems. Many times such locations are not

similar to their original places. The geographical, socio-economic and political environment differs from their original habitat. Therefore, such altogether different environment creates many more problems in the life of rehabilitated people. The rehabilitation of these dam affected people started in 1989, but still today, after 30 years of gap the problems of rehabilitated people have not been solved. Therefore, an attempt has been made to study the problems of the rehabilitated people.

STUDY REGION

The region under study lies in the Kolhapur district of south Maharashtra. It consists of 28 resettlements distributed in six tahsils of Kolhapur District which are established due to Dudhaganga Irrigation Project constructed on Dudhaganga River from nine displaced villages. This region extends between 16° 05' 43" to 16° 51' 13" north latitude and 73° 51' 3" to 74° 13' 25" east longitude.



OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of present work is to study the problems of displaced and rehabilitated people affected by Dudhaganga Irrigation Project in Kolhapur district.

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

The present research work is based on primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data, as the main source, has been generated through intensive field work. The data for various purposes have been collected at family. Besides this, an interview and discussion techniques have been used to extract necessary data from officials, social activists, village leaders and affected people. The observation technique also used to get needful information about rehabilitated people.

The secondary sources of data are also collected from state and district census, reports, gazetteer, statistical abstract, project reports, books, research journals and unpublished research work. Some data were collected from different government offices i.e. rehabilitation, land acquisition, irrigation, agriculture, and revenue departments of district and taluka headquarters. The investigator has gone through websites for necessary information.

The entire work is primarily an empirical study in which the family is micro unit of study. The investigator arranged intensive field survey along with structured schedules to obtain relevant data from family heads before displacement and rehabilitation.

In order to study the rehabilitation process intensively, the investigator has selected 50 percent resettlements (14) and all families from each sampling resettlement. The random sampling method has been used for selection of sampling resettlements. First of all the 28 resettlements classified into four groups according to their family numbers and 50 percent resettlements have been selected for study. Secondly, sampling resettlements have been selected in such way that 50 percent of from each taluka have been covered.

ANALYSIS

A. CIVIC PROBLEMS

The displaced people in their original habitat were enjoying the basic amenities. The basic amenities like drinking water, school, community hall, internal roads, cremation lands etc. are very important in village life. According to rehabilitation act the government is bound to provide such amenities to the resettlements. On this background the investigator has tried to assess the situation and problems of such civic amenities in the study area provided by government.

1.School problems

According to the rehabilitation act a primary school with playground should be provided to every resettlement. But the study shows that out of 28 resettlements in the study area, 18 (64.29 %) resettlements have availability of school with play ground and 10 (35.71 %) resettlements do not have this amenity. The children of such resettlements depend upon the schools of

neighboring villages which are at distant locations. Therefore, the small children are enabled to travel such a distance which has become a great problem before their parents.

2. Drinking water problems

The pure and safe drinking water is the most essential need of human being. The rehabilitated people before displacement had ample water availability. It is observed in the study area that the people are badly facing the problem of drinking water amenity. The situation is shown in the table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Water Supply in Resettlements

Sr. No.	Water Supply	No. of Resettlements	% to total Resettlements (28)
1	Alternative Day	3	10.71
2	Twice in Week	2	7.14
3	Irregular Supply	5	17.85
4	Daily Scarcity	12	42.86
5	Scarcity in Summer	17	60.71

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 5.1 reveals that significant number of resettlements is facing problems of drinking water. It is to note that 12, (42.86 %) out of 28 resettlements have been facing daily scarcity of supply, two are receiving water twice in a week and three on alternate day. It is further found that 17 (60.71 %) resettlements are facing acute scarcity of water in summer months. This scarcity of water in the resettlements is mainly because of the negligence of the governments and *grampanchayts* of concern villages. It is pitiful to observe that some resettlements like Kasaba Sangaon are surrounded by irrigated land but the people are thirsty of water.

3. Problem of community hall

Community hall is very important in the village life which integrates the village community. According to the rehabilitation act provision of community hall amenity has been made for all resettlements by government. But due to the poor quality of construction the community halls in 11 resettlements out of 28,

have been fully collapsed and they are partially collapsed in five resettlements. Only 12 (42.86 %) community halls have been in use.

4. **Internal roads and gutters**

Every resettlement of Dudhaganga dam affected people has been provided internal roads with sufficient width. Roads have been constructed at the time of establishment of resettlements. But these are not maintained and repaired timely. It is observed that within the five resettlements the roads have been repaired and converted into metaled roads.

The gutters are very essential to channelize the sewage water. The open gutters are constructed within all resettlements. But due to poor constructions of gutters they are broken and damaged within 32.14 per cent resettlements at present. Since, due to the negligence of *grampanchayats* the gutters have not been cleaned from time to time.

5. **Electricity problems**

Though the government has provided electricity to the resettlements there is absence of street lights in 13 (46.42%) resettlements. The *grampanchayats* in this regard is not taking care of it.

6. **Lack of cremation or burial lands**

The cremation or burial land now a day has been an integral part of village life. Though there is provision in the act, 60.71 per cent resettlements have not provided this amenity.

7. **Lack of public latrines**

Availability of latrines in the rural areas has given prime importance today. Though there is a provision of providing public latrines to the resettlements, 57.14 per cent resettlements have provided this amenity. Due to scarcity of water and own latrines people of 17.86 per cent resettlements are not using public latrines.

B. OTHER PROBLEMS

Along with social, agricultural and civic problems rehabilitated people are facing some other problems as follows.

1. Failure in the execution rehabilitation:

Along with the formulation of rehabilitation rules and regulations for resettlement and rehabilitation, the effective implementation of these rules and regulations is important. After independence, India has accelerated the implementation of developmental projects through which million people have been up-rooted from their sources of livelihood. But the absence of laws and policy on rehabilitation is major cause of problems faced by rehabilitated people. In the absence of a statutory rehabilitation law or even a notional policy, there is no legal imperative for state government or project authorities to integrate comprehensive rehabilitation planning (Hemadri Ravi, 2000).

The rehabilitation of Dudhaganga Irrigation Project affected people have been done according to the 1986s act. During the last 30 years, all rehabilitated families have not received benefit of rehabilitation. The affected people knock the doors of government every year. People have made several rounds at individual level to obtain the proper share of benefits.

2.Awareness about rehabilitation

Awareness among rehabilitated people about land acquisition and rehabilitation process is very important to take the benefit of rehabilitation and avoid the exploitation. It is very common fact that there is very poor awareness among the people about the rehabilitation process. In recent years people have become very much aware of the rehabilitation and exploitation. The inquiry of about it in the study area reflects the following facts.

Table 5.2 Awareness Status

Awareness Status	No. of Family Heads	% of Family Heads
Awareness	94	14.46
Unawareness	556	85.54

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 5.2 clearly indicates that 85.54 per cent family heads are unknown about the rehabilitation process. Very few (14.46 %) family heads agreed that they are aware about rehabilitation. Due to high illiteracy and ignorance, people became helpless to obtain the benefits of rehabilitation which have been created various another problem.

3. Exploitation of rehabilitated people

The rehabilitation department is highly notorious which invites plenty of criticisms. The rehabilitated people are provided land, house plot and cash compensation against their acquired property. But all rehabilitated families have not received their proper benefits of rehabilitation easily. They had to manage the officials to get the different kinds of benefits. In almost all the cases there is lack of information and transparency, leading to various kinds of malpractices. The lack of transparency gives birth to distrust by the people on the one hand and malpractices by staff on the other (Sharma, S. 2005).

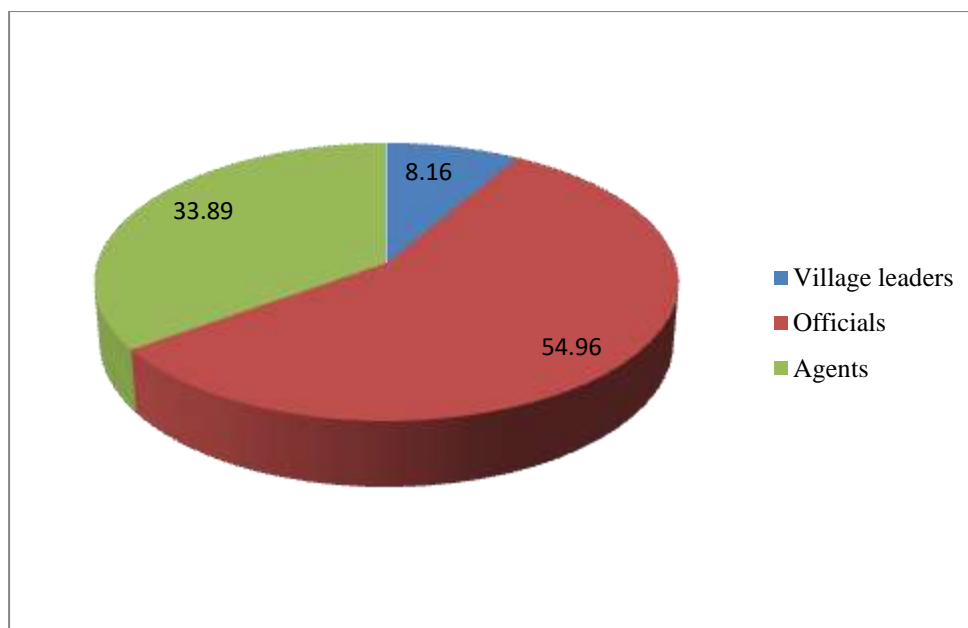
The people are highly exploited in different ways. The payment of compensation which was basic right of displaced people. They did not get their due payment. The officials demanded certain percentages as commission at the time of payment of compensation. Distressed and helpless people had not other options to give bribes to the officials. Those who refused to give bribe have to face various problems. Such another number of examples of exploitation have been quoted by respondents in the field survey. The people are not only the victims of officials but village leader and agents also. The people responded in this regard which is shown in table 5.11.

Table 5.3 Exploitation

Exploitation by	Respondents	% of Respondents
Village leaders	27	11.16
Officials	133	54.96
Agents	82	33.88
Total	242	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Fig 5.1
Exploitation



The exploitation of the rehabilitated people has been done by the village leader, officials, agents etc. The highest exploitation is (54.96 %) done by officials to which the people react very badly. Second largest exploitation (33.89 %) done by the agents who have contacts with officials (Table5.3). The village leaders or in other words self-declared social activists have also exploited the rehabilitated people.

4.Lack of fuel and fodder

Fuel for domestic purpose and fodder to the animals is one of the basic needs of rural community. Before displacement, the fuel and fodder were cheaply and readily available in the surrounding areas. But after rehabilitation, the people face acute shortage of both things. The dry wood for domestic purpose was used by the displaced people before displacement which was readily available in the forest. Similarly, the fodder for their animals in the form of grass, leaves, fruits etc. was also available in the forest. Therefore, they had big heard strength. For both fuel and fodder the people before displacement had nothing to pay for the both.

5.Emotional reactions

Along with social, agricultural and civic problems rehabilitated people face the psychological problems also. Displacement creates painful experiences about loss of everything on one hand and rehabilitation develops fear and insecurity about their future life other hand. It is known after the inquiry in the field

survey that the loss of earlier sources of livelihood, acute competition at the new places, breakdown of social network, change in values and traditions, food insecurity, uncertainties, fear etc. has helped to create mental stress and strain among rehabilitated people. It is also found that the illiterate and poor persons have become more victims of psychological disturbances. Satisfaction of rehabilitated people reflects the effective implementation of rehabilitation process. It also exhibits the social adjustment and integration of these with new environment. Investigator has made an attempt to study the feelings of rehabilitated people by asking question to the head of family. The table 5.4 indicates the responses of the victims of displacement.

Table 5.4 Emotional Reactions

Sr. No.	Feelings	No. of Family Head	% of Family Head
1	Happy	23	3.54
2	Satisfied	81	12.46
3	Dissatisfied	373	57.38
4	Nervousness	141	21.69
5	Neutral	32	4.93
	Total	650	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table 5.4 reveals that majority of the persons (57.38 %) are dissatisfied with rehabilitation which indicates their strong negative feelings. Second largest preferences belonged to the category of nervousness (21.69 %). Overall 516 responses (79.38 %) received the dissatisfied and nervous reactions which show that the residents of resettlement are under high psychological pressure. Surprisingly, there are 23 persons (3.54 %) in the study region who are happy. It is found that the person who are educated, politically strong, have got fertile land and good cash compensation are in this category. About 32 persons (4.93 %) did not react and preferred to remain neutral.

5. Gap between displacement and rehabilitation

Government under take the survey of to be displaced families but actually the process of displacement is delayed. This delay in the displacement and rehabilitation process creates number of problems. Mr. Baburao Patil, Kagal resettlement, a leader of this dam affected people's movement expressed,

“Delay in the process of rehabilitation caused many problems. The survey of displaced families was done in 1976 in which 1462 families were recorded. But actual displacement started in after 1985. In these 10 years of gap some families separated into nuclear families which have not been benefited in the rehabilitation process. Similarly, in this gap local leaders and other people from outside met malpractice act with help of the officials to get maximum benefits of rehabilitation”.

6.Failure of reservation in services

The government promises to employ at least one person from each displaced family. But it is found in the survey that the government is failed to fulfill this promise. There is provision of 5 per cent quota in the government services for the project affected people. The field survey in the study area shows that only 25 families have got the employment during the last 25 years. The assistance engineers of this project, stated that only the irrigation department has implemented this policy of reservation. The other government departments such as medical, forest, revenue, education etc. have not taken care of such reservation. Field survey further shows that the persons have got jobs at the time dam construction and not after rehabilitation.

7. Loss of common resources

The government paid rehabilitated families in the form of land, house plot and cash compensation. The villages at the destination were associated with number of common property resources which had an important role in their life such as forest, grazing ground, rivers, streams, ponds etc. Such resources are not available in the resettlement sites. Therefore, this is a great loss of the displaced people. Mr. Ganapati Kene from Vangutti resettlement quoted,

“We were using common resources at the destinations to support our life but we have lost such resources. The forest was providing us food, fuel wood, building material, fodder, medicinal plants, minor forest produce etc. The springs

were providing non polluted ample water. The river or streams were providing water for our animals, domestic purpose, fishing, agriculture etc”.

This direct loss and invisible loss of scenic beauty cannot be compensated at the resettlement sites.

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