

## SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF REHABILITATED PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DUDHAGANGA DAM IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT (MH).

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### Abstract

Displacement and rehabilitation are a world-wide phenomenon. 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 unacknowledged. It has been observed that these impacts are neither assessed before the implementation of project nor looked after, the completion of project. Therefore, rehabilitated people face number of economic, social, cultural, psychological etc. problems. Here an attempt has been made to study the social problems of rehabilitated people affected by Dudhaganga Dam in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

**Key Words:** - Displacement, Rehabilitation, Developmental Projects,

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### 1 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. It becomes impossible to reorganize their social network. Forced displacements have created potential risks- landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, loss of access to common property and social dis-articulation (Cerena, 1995).

Displaced people are resettled at new places where they face number of problems. The government authority put number of promises before the people at the time of displacement. Many times, they are forced to leave their places and resettle at different locations. 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 displaced persons suffer on various counts, especially social, economic, psychological, cultural, spiritual, etc. (Sharma, 2005).

Displaced people sacrifice their total life in the making of the projects. They sacrifice it for the purpose of regional and national development. But it has been observed that the loss of displaced population and their problems have not been considered as prime important in the rehabilitation process. Economic problems or loss of such displaced people can be measured but it is very difficult to measure social, cultural and psychological problems, most of social impacts do not lend themselves to quantification. It is, for example, difficult to measure trauma, alienation, fear and insecurity (Verma, 2004).

On this background the author is very keen to observe and study the social problems of Dudhaganga Irrigation Project affected people in Kolhapur district. The resettlements of these affected started in 1989, but still today, after 25 years of gap the problems of rehabilitated people have not been solved. An attempt, therefore, has been made to study the social problems of the rehabilitated people.

## 2. 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.

## 3. OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of present work is to social problems of rehabilitated people due to displacement of Dudhaganga dam affected people in Kolhapur district.

## 4. The Scope of Study

The displacement is an outcome of implementation of developmental projects through the ancient period. But magnitude of displacement was limited and resettlement was taken place as their convenience. The rehabilitation and resettlement were not a part concern project. Though a great amount of dislocation of life had taken place in the Ancient and Medieval period by the construction of dams and other projects, the actual dislocation, caused was minimal in the context of the abundance of land and the small population of those times. Displacement became a significant problem during the colonial period and became serious after industrialization. The rate of implementation of developmental projects accelerated after second world war. The problems of resettled and rehabilitated people are becoming most burning issues which pulled the attention social activists. The rehabilitated people facing problems at economic, social,

cultural, psychological etc. levels. Here an attempt has been made to study the social problems of rehabilitated people.

#### 5. **Limitation of Research**

The various problems are faced by the rehabilitated people which assessed by the specific tools and techniques. There is limitation to quantify and assess the social problems of these people. These problems are experienced and observed but quantification is troubling.

#### 6. **Need of the study:**

The problems of resettlements are seemed to be similar but these are varying according to various socio-economic and geographical background. The problems of small resettlements are different from the problems large, the problems of city nearest resettlements are different from those are rural. The quality and usefulness of the compensation and facilities, minimize the intensity of trauma of rehabilitated people. The resettlement of originally cohesive communities as non-viable social groups in different locations contributed to the arisen of social problems. There is need of identify various problems and solution of it.

#### 7. **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 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. Besides this, an interview and discussion techniques have been used to extract necessary data from officials, 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. The investigator has gone through websites for necessary information.

In order to study the rehabilitation process intensively, the investigator has selected 50 percent resettlements (14) by stratified sampling method. First, all the 28 resettlements classified into four groups according to their family numbers. Secondly, sampling resettlements have been selected in such way that 50 percent of from each taluka have been covered. All the families of resettlement have investigated to avail necessary data. The collected data have been processed by statistical methods and represented through tables and diagrams.

## 8. ANALYSIS

### • SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The villages enjoy self-sufficient, peaceful and well-developed socio-cultural system. But project authority acquires their self-sufficient food grain providing agricultural land, spacious pollution free dwelling, sources of livelihood and access of common property resources etc. Therefore, displacement torn their socio-cultural framework and destroys the stable life. They are thrown in scattered nature at the resettlements after rehabilitation period.

The people of submerged villages of Dudhaganga Irrigation Project were living with social unity and harmony developed through several years. But the construction of Dudhaganga dam destroyed their social life. After, 25 years of rehabilitation, these people are facing some social problems. Hence, an attempt has been made to find out the social problems of rehabilitated people.

#### 8.1 Family disputes

Such disputes are within the family or among families. These disputable facts are more related to matters of rehabilitations and these are among brother, cousins or neighbors. The following table shows the responses regarding disputes at family level among rehabilitated people.

**Table No.1 Family Disputes**

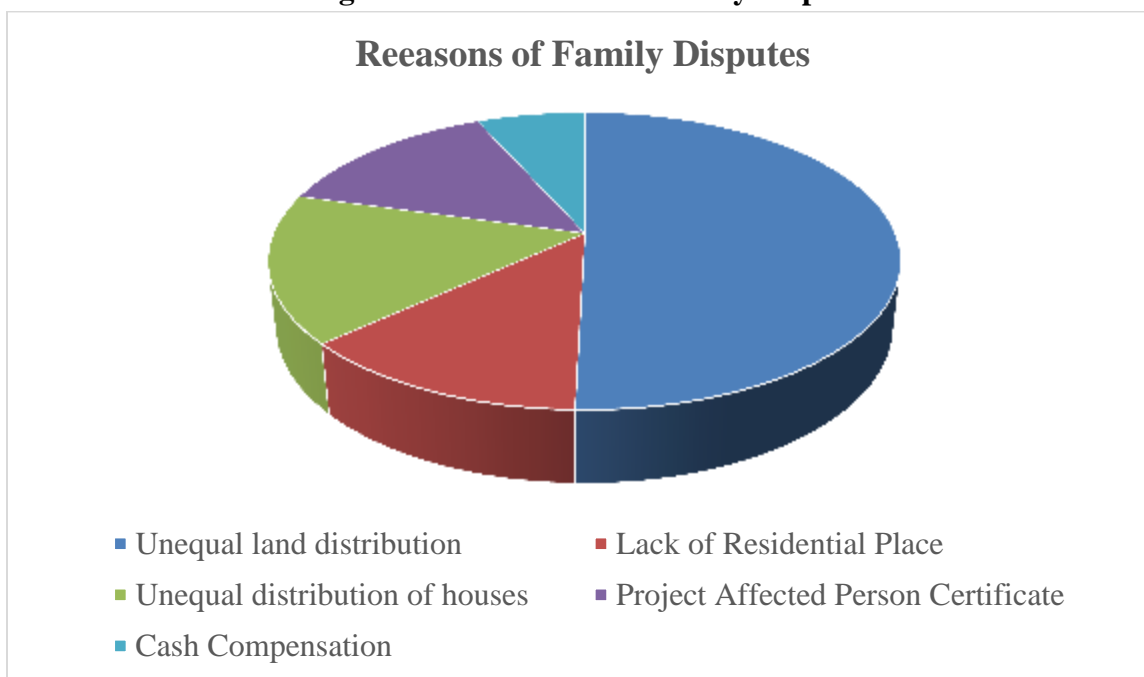
Responses	No. of Families	% of Families
Family disputes	242	37.23
No family disputes	389	59.85
Can't Say	19	2.92
Total	650	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table no. 1 indicates that out of 650 families surveyed, 242 (37.23 %) have admitted that they are having some kind of family disputes. This figure may be less because the people are very much attached to the family values and prestige that they don't want to open their family secretes. Three hundred eighty-nine families (59.85 %) denied any kind of family dispute and 2.92 per cent families did not respond to question.

### • Reasons of family disputes

The investigator has further analyzed reasons behind family disputes which are found in survey. Diagram no. 1 shows the various reasons of family disputes at family level in the resettlements.

**Diagram No. 1 Reasons of Family Disputes**

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Diagram no. 1 indicates that out of 242 families, 122 (50.41 %) families responded that they have committed conflicts due to the unequal distribution of agricultural land among the family members. This reason is also found with the quality of the agricultural land. The lack of residential space is another reason sharing 12.81 per cent families. The space provided for the residential purpose has not been properly allotted among family members. Thirty-nine families (16.12 %) are disputed because of unequal distribution of house. The head of family has not equally distributed the constructed house among family members. It is also found that an employment benefit under project affected person's (PAP) certificate is given to one person in the affected family by the government. But it has become a reason of dispute among 14.05 per cent families when there is a greater number of members of family demanding the benefit. The distribution of cash compensation among family members is one another important reason of family dispute recording 6.61 per cent families.

### 8.2 Breakdown of family structure

The earlier joint families had single kitchen. In the rehabilitation period due to various reasons of conflicts the joint families separated into nuclear families. The period before displacement, the share of joint families was 58.18 per cent which reduced to 29.69 per cent in the rehabilitation. Agricultural occupation had strengthened the binding of joint family together for carrying agricultural practices and work distribution.

But after rehabilitation, due to the breakdown of family structure, the share of nuclear families reached up to 68.92 per cent from 40.26 per cent. Breakdown of family structure and the development of nuclear families is most common thing after displacement and rehabilitation (Verma, 2004).

### 8.3 Conflict with host population

The conflicts between rehabilitated and host people is common thing in the resettlement area. It is realized that the rehabilitated people have been harassed, beaten up, insulted by the host population. The hostility of the host villagers has created a feeling of fear and insecurity (Iyer, 2005). Therefore, conflict with host population is the major problem of rehabilitated people.

Displaced people of Dudhaganga irrigation project have been resettled on the land of host population. Therefore, jealousy, hate has been created among host population about the resettled people resulting the occurrence of conflicts between them. Many conflicts and fighting have been occurred between them due to various reasons. Mr. M. K. Kambale from Bange resettlement shares his experience,

“Host people of Bange village were not ready to give land for resettlement purpose. Conflicts and quarrels had taken place many times in the early stage of rehabilitation; even they had stopped the constructions of our houses. By our repeated complaints, Superintendent of Police, Kolhapur district had visited our resettlements and 40-45 police men were stayed for three days in the resettlement”. Mr. A. G. Desa, from Bachani resettlement, replied that “early 20 years of rehabilitation we had lost a lot of time in the fighting against host population. Bachani Grampanchayat was not giving permission to have tap water system for our resettlement. He also said that host population had given lot of trouble for land cultivation. Similarly, people from Kurani, Herwad, Rukadi resettlements also shared the similar experiences”.

### 8.4 Migration from resettlement

The investigator made an inquiry about the migration of people at both places. Before displacement, people used to migrate in search of employment to contribute to their family income. In those days temporary or seasonal migration was highest (75.86 %) as the people emotionally attached to the village's environment. Therefore, temporary migration was dominant and few people (24.14 %) had migrated permanently.

After rehabilitation, the share of permanently migrated people increased from 24.14 per cent to 66.25 per cent. It is found that due to lack of infrastructural facilities and sources of livelihood the people in the resettlements are not interested to live there. Hence many people accept permanent migration to the towns and cities like Radhanagari, Kankavali, Sawantwadi, Kolhapur, Pune, Mumbai etc.

### 8.5 Loss of worship and deity places

Beliefs and rituals are the main component part of religion everywhere. Every Indian village is associated with the worship and deity place. It is known that every displaced village had temple or church as their worship place. In the displacement, due to the submergences of dam water the people lost their worship places. In some resettlements the temples have been constructed but the people are not ready to forget their ancestral worship places. The people in the resettlements used to visit such places at least once in a year. The *Vakoba* temple of Waki village in their original habitat is very popular among the rehabilitated people where people visit it every year.

### 8.6 Addictions

Addiction is one of the serious problems of society. The lack of unemployment, mental stress and strain, conflict with hosts and bureaucracy, cash compensation received are major reasons of addictions. In the study alcoholism, gambling, smoking, tobacco chewing like habits have been found very common among rehabilitated people.

**Table No. 2 Addictions**

Addictions Status	No. of Families	% of Families
Increased	289	44.46
Decreased	205	31.54
No Change	156	24.00
Total	650	100

Source: Filed Survey, 2019.

The author has surveyed the situation of addictions among rehabilitated people. Table no. 2 indicates an inquiry of addictions in the families reveals that addictions status at family level has been increased (44.46 %). According to the 31.54 per cent respondent the addictions of different types has been decreased. One hundred fifty-six (24 %) families responded no change in the addictions.

## 9. Conclusion

It found that increase in family dispute and breakup of family structure into nuclear family is outcome of rehabilitation. The maximum family dispute's (50.54 %) recorded for due to unequal land distribution. The share of house and use of project affected certificate also recorded significant number of family dispute reasons. Due to the family dispute share of nuclear families recorded dominant share (68.92 %) after rehabilitation which was 40.26 percent before displacement. Rehabilitated people had undergone the crisis of conflicts with host population. The proportion of permanent migration has been increased after rehabilitation. Due to the stress and strain people have habited different type of addictions.

For this the government and the society must tackle their social problems together with systematic, planned and sympathetic approach by which we can give them proper justice.

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