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Displacement become Synonymous of Development

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ABSTRACT

Ever since independence, the Indian state has been committed to an ideology of 'development' which is more focusing on infrastructure development, industrial growth, progress in science and technology, GDP growth means inclined towards economic development ignoring the other aspect of development such as social, cultural and ecological. This development has displaced people not only from their homes but homelands and this is visible by the development projects which characterises standard of living as their main component and not include way of living and well being in the ideology of development. Displacement not comprises only of relocation of land but it deprive people of many thing that are fundamental to their lives such as livelihood, familiar environment, sense of belongingness, community network and way of living. A sovereign nation right to development in a form of massive infrastructure growth violating the individual right to development which ensure full realisation of his\her being. Today the ideology of development is related to economic growth and pay less attention to remove inequality form the men's life and ensure freedom of choice i.e., how to develop and where to develop. But these development project ensure GDP growth irrespective of the impact they cause on the life of the people and thus called them displaced not only from their lands but culture, familiar network, way of living and sense of belongings. The state by providing to these people as a resettlement site which have an access to basic amenities claim that they have provide them the dignified life. But this aspect of dignity is only fulfilling the physical attribute of an individual life not their security and felling of belongingness to that particular locality where they lost their network of caring and sharing. This results this that displaced people loss their capability i.e., state take away from them the proper human condition to know ones capability. This we call a new exploitation in the name of 'Public Purpose' which will benefit a particular section of society while the displaced people would end up in miserly. One of the main issues about the process of displacement that the affected people's voice in relation to the rehabilitation had largely ignored. They only get inform about the process but no authority addresses their views and no consultation ever taken with these affected people which prepared the ground for social injustice.

Keyword: *development-induced-displacement, capability approach, way of living, rights of the IDPs, new conservatives.*

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I. INTRODUCTION TO IDEOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

Development has been defined in no. of ways and it is meant different to different people: a) development related to economic growth. b) Development related to improving life as to provide basic needs of the people. c) Development equated with equity, self-reliance. It includes the improvement in living condition, health, food, shelter and promote human dignity and respect. But generally, the people associate development only with increase GDP (Gross Domestic Product). This approach of development neglecting the social, cultural, educational aspect of society. Development not only comprises of infrastructure but characterised to benefit the public at large including more prominent levels of quality, effectiveness, vitality, happiness and achievement. Development is a procedure of social change and not making of policies and project proposal for some particular results. Both capitalist and socialist countries follow the same model of development as industrial growth, increased production and consumption, progress in science and technology and for this purpose they damaging the nature. In achieving the so called “Greater Common Good” they paid a very little attention to prevailing preconditions of socio- cultural relation for economic growth.

II. HUMAN RIGHT APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

The Declaration on the Right to Development, 1986 ensure the right of every human is to ‘develop’ and every sovereign nation to ‘develop’. This right to development is vested as a ‘human right’ in individuals, groups, communities independently and as a part of member state. The first Article of Declaration on the Right to development states.

“The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.”²

Article 2

“The constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting there from”³.

This human right perspective of development helps us to reach a true meaning of term development. Now the concept of development must not merely be seen in the context of

² Declaration on Right to Development, 1986; Article 1.

³ Declaration on Right to Development, 1986; Article 2 clause 3.

economic growth and infrastructure, but be seen in the perspective of human right of the people. The authority while planning for any development project must signify the economic, social, cultural and political aspect of the project. And all the people have a right to participate in the development process. The states are in compliance with the declaration and provide active participation of the people affected by the development project. The failure to perform must attached by responsibility and accountability. Therefore, the process of development must be fair, just and reasonable.

Now, we fairly understood the Right to development in the context of human rights. They are interdependent with each other. As the realisation of one right depends upon the effective and timely realisation of the other related rights. For example, the affected people have a right to rehabilitation but just by providing home does not imply that the process of development completed but when it is combined with human right until the right of housing includes the civic amenities such as school, hospital, alternate source of income, security and all this be equipped before actual displacement. And the most important the people's participation in decision making process. Then we can say the process of development is just and equitable.

The development which accompanied by a proper distribution of resources, in a real sense a human development. If we focus on human development without giving attention to sustainability issue, it would improve the condition of present generation but at the cost of future generation or species. This improves the income, education and health of all as women, ethnic and religious minorities and the poor. Thus, sustainable human development means socially just and ecologically sustainable.

The whole world which leads to an ideology of development, profit oriented and market-friendly approach, with a desire to increase the national economy has not only cause damage to the environment and worse the condition of indigenous population but also denies them the rights to livelihood and land, culture, community bond, common property resources, employment and participation. The survival of the displaced people due to the new policy of globalisation and privatisation which create a hegemony and the life of the country's population at the stake.

III. BIG DAM BECOME A CURSE FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

From ancient times rivers have a distinct mark as a source of livelihood, culture and human civilisation. But due to the modernisation and to achieve the status of development, rivers are under pressure by the construction of dams. This result is that major rivers in India are either controlled or in a way of being controlled. Human in many ways transformed the earth

system and caused the adverse impact on the environment and people live. Many nations favour the technological advancement for controlling the nature but they ignore the threat that cause to the life. By constructing the artificial structure, it obstructs the natural fresh water flow, prevent sediment from carried to the sea and result in climate change. Big dams even cause earthquakes (because of the weight of water in reservoirs), release greenhouse gases (because of the rotting of flooded vegetation), destroy marine fisheries (because they disrupt river-borne flows of freshwater and nutrients into oceans) and lead to coastal erosion (because the sediments that eventually fill reservoirs would previously have flowed out through estuaries and then been washed back by waves to protect the shoreline).⁴ Today man has controlled the ecosystem and human influence is everywhere. Among all the adverse consequences of the dams, displacement of people has emerged out a problem of great concern. These people are displaced from their native places and it affect their standard of living, their customs and traditions. While disconnects families from their past culture is the huge social cost of these dams and can not be compensated for money. The impact these construction cause on the social, cultural and economic lives of the displaced peoples does not confined to one generation. Also, the impact of these not only confine to cultural loss, or change in environment but it also causes psychological trauma for being separated to their belongingness and community network.

Dam construction have been regarded as a development strategy of many nations. The period from 1930s to the 1970s there was a dramatic increase in the construction of dam and consider as a symbol of modernisation. Governments of the nation promoted the dam construction for socio-economic progress, as it is the effective means to meet the water and energy requirement and call it as the “temple of modern India”. One who favouring the dam construction argue that they are useful in the area of irrigations, electricity generation, flood control and the reservoirs of it been used for tourism and aquaculture. But the benefit that dam gives are short term benefit in comparison to its long term cost, in the form of the displacement and environment imbalance. According to a rough estimate, since the independence up to the beginning of the New Economic Policy (1951-1990), 185 lakhs of people have been displaced by different developmental projects.⁵ Also, the displaced community are in constant threat because they are rehabilitated in new location where they are not always welcome and the environment is not hostile for them. Such as the struggle

⁴ Patrick McCully, Big Dam, Big Trouble, NEW INTERNATIONALIST (Mar. 1, 2003), <https://newint.org/features/2003/03/01/water-dams>.

⁵ Ashish Vachhani & Saroj Arora, Dam Displacement Resettlement and Rehabilitation - An Emperical Assesment Of Tehri Dam; 1-2.

against the Mulshi dam and hydro-electric works, located in the then Bombay Presidency. The affected people were against this eviction and staged a Satyagraha in the dam site but this agitation lasted when they were arrested and a total of 11,000 people was displaced due to this dam-induced-displacement. In India displacement due to sardar Sarovar project has affected 1,27,44 people. The government also use coercive measures for the acquisition of land and to displace people as one has seen in Srisailam Dam. The best lived experience of development induced disaster one known in his\her memory were recently in 2013 Kedarnath flood disaster, all are the advent impact of development in the name of infrastructure, hydro and electric plants, which tempering the hills, forest and people's life.

Today also state considering these dam project as an essential mark of development and draining resources away from those who needed them most. In Uttarakhand state more than 220 power and mining projects are running in the river valley, one is the proposed Jmarani project in the Nainital district, the local people are demanding their right to food autonomy (unable to grow crops which they previously produce due to agro-climatic condition and which affect their nutrition needs), their liberty (they are restricted as where to live and how to live and depend upon government aid), dignified life (they exercise a particular way of living which undergoes drastic change in resettled sites), custom and traditional protection because the resettlement site proposed by authority are culturally and geologically different form hills.⁶

In this dam-induced-displacement we find a trace of human exploitation for the purpose of greater good. The model of utilitarianism has been adopted by authority as a justice model for the construction of dam and ignore the rights of the minority section by weakening their bargaining power. For the people the displacement is not just a relocation but a life changing event on their socio-cultural and healthy life.

IV. PROTECTION OF THEIR DIGNIFIED LIFE

If we talk about the IDPs in the international prospective, these people have no legal status as provided to the refugees nor any convention which focuses on the rights of the development-induced-displaced persons. In 1998 UN guidelines on IDPs states that they possess the same human rights as a human being. In the domestic law of the country they enjoy same rights as a citizen avail. Indian constitution guarantees essential human rights in the form of fundamental rights under the part III and also directive principles of state policy in part IV

⁶ Nitish Priyadarshi, Uttarakhand disaster in India, *ENVIRONMENT AND GEOLOGY* (Jun. 29, 2013), <https://nitishpriyadarshi.blogspot.com/2013/06/uttrakhand-disaster-in-india-is-natures.html>.

which are fundamental in the governance of the country. Also, the judiciary act as a guardian of their rights by focusing on dignified life and not just animal existence. In today's scenario we have to evolve the other broad aspect of the same right as well, so that these people get the opportunity to present themselves as a dignified human.

Such as-

The Phrase "Right to Adequate Housing" refers only to shelter or related rights. But the right to land and habitat, is a much broader right which recognizes the right of a group to belong to particular habitat or land, because of their strong dependence upon it. Dependency in terms of livelihood, in terms of survival and in terms of natural resources needed for living.

Right to livelihood in the broader sense actually involve something more than just what kind of business they were involved in but rather we have to consider the idea of balancing the income and expenditure of the individuals. If we talk about the groups who are hit by Forced Eviction are normally such groups, whose livelihood is also deprived as a result of their Forced Eviction e.g. farmers /forest dwellers/ and labourers/ village artisans/ fishermen and the like. Therefore, right to livelihood must also be seen in the light to make such planning that IDPs people could become self-sufficient and balance their livelihood.

Right to live with human dignity has been recognised as an integral part of right to life under Article 21 of Indian Constitution. This right extends to protect one's way of living, traditions, culture, rituals, social-bonds, attainment of physical and mental health, which is considered as the dignity of the individual to live his/her life with physical, mental and moral integrity without causing harms to others. Also state are under liability to provide human condition to all so that they know their capabilities and develop according to their choices. The human condition are attained when the displaced people feel secure and sense of belongingness in the resettled site. So the main aim of the state rehabilitation and resettlement policy is to reintegrate the displaced people in the society.

UN resolution adopted in 2012 that identifies the pursuit of happiness as "a fundamental human goal" which is recognised as an important piece of sustainable and equitable development.⁷ It includes the fulfilment of all the unalienable rights which leads to happiness and it is the duty of the authority to protect this right. The authority has to act not according to their like or dislike but in the interest of the people to secure happiness to all.

Under domestic and international law IDP's person possess the right to rehabilitation against

⁷ Tania Lombroso, Is happiness a universal human right, COSMOS & CULTURE (2018), <https://www.idareact.org/is-happiness-a-basic-need-or-a-universal-human-right>.

their sacrifice are just economic help in physical re/settlement but they need beyond it. They need to be rehabilitated socially, culturally, psychologically and ecologically as well. . Also, India has ratified various convention as ILO convention under Article 12.1 of the convention states that Indigenous populations “shall not be removed without their free consent from their habitual territories”—unless the government wants to develop said territory for their own purposes⁸ which means without effective human settlement, government not displace the affected peoples.

Local community who are affecting by the process of displacement have a Right to discourse and participation in the policy making. For a policy to be effective and for the benefit of all must insure that local community and state has a proper dialogue and its negative impact be minimised by attaining the state of equilibrium. But in reality government initiating such policies where individuals right are largely ignored as they don't have a right to say no if any policies affecting their lives. Government generally by initiating the social impact assessment and its management claim that they have measure the cost benefit ratio of the project. But the question here arises as about the report authenticity, as without considering the views and concerns of the local community the report is just a government aspect to look on the community rights. This right to participation is based on various articles of the International Bill of Human Rights, which consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). More specifically, the 1991 International Labour Organization Convention Concerning indigenous and tribal peoples in Independent Countries (ILO Convention 169) stipulates (Article 7) that indigenous and tribal peoples shall participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and regional development plans that affect them.⁹ Also under Indian Constitution, right to participation is a part of basic structure which should be enriched in every state policy.

V. CONCLUSION

We have witnessed state called development in the form of massive infrastructure by draining our resources without knowing the limits as where to stop. This development not contributing to the individual development aspect which ensures ones to fully realise his or her being as our human right. Under Indian constitution we are provided with dignified life and by various

⁸ Erin Hanson, ILO Convention 107, *FIRST NATIONS & INDIGENOUS STUDIES* (2009), https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/ilo_convention_107.

⁹ C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989; article 7.

judicial pronouncement it is concluded that ecological imbalance is a social problem which needs to be address by the state in its policies. But state are contiguously making the model of development as how to extraction of wealth from the nature and society and in achieving this objective state framing such policies that provide maximum benefit to their model of development and restrict the rights of the people to raise their voice against such disaster. This development in the form of dam construction is a vicious circle i.e., dam act as a catastrophic for creating other problems and that damages are irreversible.

The Declaration on the Right to Development, 1986 ensure to every individual and sovereign nation to 'develop'. It gives right to a nation to develop in the form of massive infrastructure, which needs land. On the other hand, it also gives right to the group, individuals and community to select their own place of development, to be consulted before being displaced forcefully and finally to be compensated for being the victim of such development. Also, there is a prominent need for all to know the true meaning of development. Once development is no longer viewed merely in terms of growth of national income or even per capita income, but in the larger sense of the creation of the conditions conducive to the full realisation of the individual in every aspect of his\her being, it is an aspiration which should be pursued in all countries.¹⁰ Therefore, right to development must be understood in the light of human right by virtue of which all persons are entitled to participate and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. This includes right to effective participation in decision making at all stages of development projects. The real issue is Does an individual have a legal right to say and intervene in the development work or can government while making any policy take consensus of its people. The governmentality to make such development project which has several affects on environment, displaced people life is just to make the world homogeneous (in a way to follow a definite structure of development which is define by west, today technology seems to a factor for a development) without considering the individual nations circumstances. The people who are supporting these projects because they have been attacked on their capacity to reason by showing them hyper-reality of big structures, powers, economic gains, happy life which is not even a photocopy of a photocopy. The development that authority states is not removing any inequality or non- freedom from man's life but creating that's why we can't say to built a structure is in any way a process of development. Almost all the adverse consequences of the dam construction, the displacement is of the great concern. The authority acquired their land without concerning their freedom of

¹⁰ Kwasi Wiredu, *Human Solidarity: A Philosophical Exposition*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (paper SS-78/CONF.630/4), P.12.

choice, they don't give them a chance to decide what is good for them, they directly restricting their capacity to reason because of which they don't think and therefore don't exist (as state by famous philosopher I think therefore I am).

India is proclaimed by the constitution to perform its obligation of welfare state. The Preamble of the constitution coupled with the DPSP asserted to make the policies which promote socio-economic justice to the people. But the issue of the displacement caused by development project is rapidly increasing in India, which one can say a need of the hour to fulfil the demand of growing population. The major impact it caused on the rural population, so they need to be strengthened in terms of awareness, literacy and vocational training, to reintegrate themselves in the society. The researcher is not opposed to the idea of development, but what is needed is to look the approach of development from the perspective of sustainable, permanent peace, happiness and fulfilment which bring equalities and freedom to man's life.

Therefore, rehabilitation and resettlement policy need to be frame in the context of the fundamental rights and DPSP provisions provided by our constitution. Such as article 21 guarantees to live with human dignity which includes the food autonomy, uninterested education, expressing oneself, balanced environment. Article 29 guarantees to conserve the culture, scripts and language of its community. Article 39 ensures equality to have livelihood. Article 39 (b) (c) ensures the rights of the community over natural resources by principle of equity. Thus, this is the responsibility of our welfare state to incorporate these provisions in the plan making and in administrative arrangements in such a manner that all deserving families who are facing a hard time due to displacement get all basic amenities and security.
