

SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES OF INVOLUNTARY RESETTLED COMMUNITY DUE TO DEVELOPMENT INDUCED PROJECTS

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In developing countries, development related population displacement has grown rapidly over the past few decades due to the compelling need for infrastructure as a result of fast growing population densities. Urban development and transportation programs in these countries have displaced an additional six million (Asthana, 1996). Those displaced due to development projects are resettled by project planners, but have to face specific socio economic issues in their newly relocated areas.

This study focuses on identifying social, cultural and economic issues of involuntary resettled persons. The Southern Highway, the main recent development project was selected to examine this problem. The objectives of this study are to identify social risks of involuntary resettles and identify their interpersonal relationships with host population and a mechanism to overcome these issues. Structured questionnaires and semi- structured interviews were used to collect primary data. Study sample was 40 families.

Study samples have identified eight risks; Homelessness, Landlessness, Unemployment, Marginalization, Food insecurity, Increased mobility and Mortality, Loss of common property and Services and Social disarticulation. Among them the greater risks are social disarticulation, marginalization and landlessness. Social risk is a greater impoverishment than economic risk. When they are displaced; production systems got dismantled, kinship grouping disrupted and long established residential settlements got disorganized. Further many employments and assets were lost, healthcare declined.

Each risk reflects another dimension of impoverishment, *e.g.* landlessness, marginalization, social disarticulation are interlinked and influence each other. Some play a primary role and others a derivative role in impoverishment. It suggests that preventing the pattern of impoverishment would require risk reversal. Understanding these risks enable decision makers to trigger chain effects and synergies in mitigating or remedial actions in future.