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## SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF A DISPLACED VILLAGE OF KORAPUT DISTRICT, ODISHA, INDIA

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### Abstract:

*The concept of development is a historical legacy. Development seeks the welfare of others and implies technical and economic progress. Social impacts are the results of developmental interventions on human environment. Social impact assessment presents an important opportunity to draw cross-cultural encounters arising from project-based development efforts into wider procedures of engagement and negotiation that might address the imbalance in relationships between local communities, project proponents and states. Chikapar village of Semliguda block in Koraput district of Odisha is selected for the present research study. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited falls under the jurisdiction of the study area. The study area not only falls under potential economic impacts zone but also potential social and environmental impacts due to development interventions. The current study will address the unquestioned and unanswered issues of social impact assessment thereby critically analyzing the issues and suggests the mitigating action.*

**Key Words:** Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Environmental Impact, Cross cultural encounters

## SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF A DISPLACED VILLAGE OF KORAPUT DISTRICT, ODISHA, INDIA

### 1. Introduction:

The concept of development is a historical legacy. In the course of the evolution of its meaning, it has assumed a definitive, if amorphous, economic connotation in the current usage of the word: improvement of the economic status of the society, widening of the individual's life opportunities, and betterment of the quality of life. The doctrine of development is polymorphic, because the concept of development seems to have assumed different shades of meaning and significance across time and space.

Thus, development is globally defined in terms of industrial and technological growth, the means which becomes the goal. Development is just another form of social change; it cannot be understood in isolation. The analysis of development actions and of popular reactions to these actions should not be isolated from the study of local dynamics, of endogenous processes, of 'informal' processes of change. Hence, anthropology of development cannot be dissociated from anthropology of social change.

Development –induced population displacement, is the upheaval of communities to make way for large dams, industrial zones, transportation routes, game parks and commercial

forestry, concerns the balance between the benefits of infrastructural development and the costs and pains of being( Sen, 1997).

Displacement is seen as the result of a model of development that enforces certain technical and economic choices without giving any serious consideration to those options that would involve the least social and environmental costs. Most displacement has been involuntary. There has been very little meaningful participation of affected people in the planning and implementation of the dam project, including the resettlement and rehabilitation aspects. Asia has the highest number of displaced people. In India for instance around 21 million people were affected during the last four decades.

There is no universal definition of Social Impact Assessment (SIA); perhaps the best is that provided by Vanclay (2003): "...the process of analysing, monitoring and managing the social consequences of development." Alternatively, SIA could be described as a process that seeks to assess whether a proposed development will alter quality of life and sense of wellbeing, and how well individuals, groups and communities adapt to the changes (Vanclay, 1999; 2002, 2004; Becker and Vanclay, 2003; Burdge, 2004).

Social impacts are the impacts of developmental interventions on human environment. The impacts of development interventions take different forms. While significant benefits flow in from different development actions, there is also a need to identify and evaluate the negative externalities associated with them. A balanced development planning takes into account the environmental, social and biodiversity impacts of economic development. These impact assessments help in identifying the likely positive and negative impacts of proposed policy actions, likely trade-offs and synergies, and thus facilitate informed decision-making.

It is in this context that Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) assume great relevance. SIA mainly involves the processes of analyzing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions.

Social impacts are the 'people's impact of development actions. Social impact assessments focus on the human dimension of environments, and seek to identify the impacts on people who benefits and who loses. SIA can help to ensure that the needs and voices of diverse groups and people in a community are taken into account. Social impacts include changes in people's way of life, their culture, community, political systems, environment, health and wellbeing, their personal and property rights and their fears and aspirations.

The main types of social impacts that occur as a result of these projects related changes can be grouped into five overlapping categories:

- **Lifestyle impacts:** on the way people behave and relate to family, friends and cohorts on a day-to-day basis
- **Cultural impacts:** on shared customs, obligations, values, language, religious belief and other elements which make a social or ethnic group distinct
- **Community impacts:** on infrastructure, services, voluntary organizations, activity networks and cohesion
- **Quality of life impacts:** one sense of place, aesthetics and heritage, perception of belonging, security and livability, and aspirations for the future

- **Health impacts:** on mental, physical and social well being, although these aspects are also the subject of health impact assessment

## 2. Review of literature:

Ota's (2010) empirical study on TATA Steel Kalinga Nagar project, Orissa brought out the core issues causing tribal resistance and has also suggested possible solutions to overcome the longstanding deadlocks. Ota (2010) given a detailed analysis of the factors responsible for the continued resistance by the Project Affected People (PAP).

Roche (2009) explore the broader policy issues that emerge from the findings, notably in relation to the organizational context; poverty and gender impacts; the links between resource allocation and impact assessment; and how impact assessment, in combination with other changes, might help international NGOs not only to achieve more, but also to be more accountable.

Barrow's (2000) work explained the practical and theoretical approaches, methods, and techniques used to uncover the social effects of change and examined the relationship of social impact assessment with planning and policy making. Other study by Vanclay & Bronstein, (1995) addresses the major issues and controversies in the field of environmental and social impact assessment.

Eccleston (2011), Morgan (1998) and Willigen (2002) address a wide range of problem-solving practices in both development action and applied research in the areas of Social Impact Assessment.

Leistritz and Ekstrom's (1986) summarizes the existing knowledge in the field of social impact assessment and focused on population changes, employment changes, displacement and relocation, neighborhood disruption, noise impacts, leisure-recreation impacts, stress etc. A study by Becker (1997) discussed the state-of-the-art techniques in social impact assessment.

Abaza and Sadler (2004) and Ekins and Voituriez (2009) provide information and guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) good practice with particular application to developing countries and countries in transition to market economies.

Colombo (1991) discussed some sociological aspects connected with (EIA), and focuses on the field of Social Impact Assessment and its relation with EIA on the sociological implications of different EIA models.

Morris and Therivel (2009) emphasized the workforce involved in the construction and operation of any major project is likely to be drawn partly from local sources.

Gartner and Lime (2000) explained the current status of impacts research in recreation and tourism highlighting the social, economic, cultural, political and environmental concerns upon tourism and recreation. Bizer et al. (2010) pointed out genuine need for further investments in data collection- to identify and collect the relevant data needed for impact analysis.

Erickson (1994) discussed the various issues of the assessment process which will help ecologists, environmental scientists, and civil engineers to identify the conceptual foundation of the assessments they are preparing. Porter (1980) discussed the basic features of an assessment and strategies for particular assessments.

A report by United Nations Environment Programme (2007) address fundamental aspects essential to ensure the environmental and social sustainability of dams where they emerge as the preferred option for meeting water and energy needs from an early options assessment stage.

A report by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD (2010) offers a general introduction to sustainability impact assessment, which is an approach for exploring the combined economic, environmental and social impacts of a range of proposed policies, programmes, strategies and other challenges of globalization. A Report by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations UNESCAP (2002) reviewed EIA process in the region and an assessment and evaluation of several recent studies and suggested more improved effective EIA process. An Interim report by Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Social impact assessment (1993) highlights the impacts on the role of fishermen's organisations.

From the above reviewed literature, it is observed that previous studies emphasized on various issues and concerns of impact caused by large number of ongoing development projects. Some studies highlight the entire dynamics of displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation. Most of the works focused on understanding of impact assessment and discussed the impact assessment in broader context. Some studies examined the relationship of social impact assessment with planning and policy making and try to address the major issues and controversies in the field of environmental and social impact assessment. Finally few works pointed out wide range of problem solving practices in both development actions and applied research in the areas of social impact assessment.

### **3. Methodology:**

The proposed study on "Social Impact Assessment of Development" is both explorative and analytical. For the research study, both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted.

Data regarding the field area was collected both from primary as well as secondary sources. Primary sources include data collection through direct field observations based on interview, schedules, and case studies. Observation method was widely used for the current study to pay close attention, watch and listen carefully. This method played a vital role in collection of the data. Interview method was used for the study where researcher prepared various questions to extract information best of their knowledge, covering every aspect of the problems and issues related to social impact assessment. In this method the researcher pose various relevant questions directly or indirectly to the respondents and listened carefully to phrases, accents, and what is said and how is said or what was implied. A comprehensive questionnaire schedule format was developed related to research topic where all the required information was filled by the researcher by asking the informants verbally. This method helped in collecting the social, cultural and economic aspects of the study. In case study method the required information regarding the research area is extracted from a particular informant from whom the details regarding the research area is taken. Trough this method the researcher collected few case studies relevant to social impact assessment. For the present study secondary information was collected from various libraries by referring books, journals, reports, records and documents.

### 3.1. Study area:

*Chikapar* village of Semliguda block in Koraput district of Odisha is selected for the present research study. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) falls under the jurisdiction of the study area. The study area not only falls under potential economic impacts zone but also potential social and environmental impacts due to development interventions. Keeping in view of these aspects the area is selected to assess the social impacts in the form of increasing poverty, dislocation of vulnerable sections of the society, loss of livelihood etc. Another reason for selecting this particular village is that it was thrice displaced from their original habitation for various developmental activities.

#### 3.1.1. History of Chikapar village:

Chikapar village falls under Semliguda block of Koraput district in Odisha state. The village is located 20 Kms away from the district head quarters Koraput, near NH 26 which connects Vizianagaram of Andhra Pradesh and Raipur of Chattisgarh. The village was thrice displaced from its habitation and presently settled at current place. Before establishment of HAL it was first displaced from its own place which is 5 Kms away from present habitation during 1960 when the villager settled nearby NAD but the authorities of NAD pressurised them to evacuate the place and also due to the submergence of cultivation land by back waters of Kolab dam they left that place second time. Later the natives shifted their habitation to a plain area nearby Sisaguda/Dumripur village but after completion of Kolab dam the back waters reached to their habitation and submerged the entire area, having no option the villagers finally and third time left the place and settled in the current place.

The present habitation is urban area falls under the limits of Sunabeda municipality. Natives lost their livelihood and in the present urban place they do not have any means of livelihood to eke out lives hence they engage in multiple labours works. The entire Chikapar population is scattered within the two colonies and they were recognised by colony No.9 by municipality and revenue authorities.

If you look into the history of their displacement it was initiated during 1960. Land acquisition process for establishment of HAL to manufacture MIG engines started in the year 1962. Accordingly state government has acquired 11733.18 acres for HAL establishment. Out of total acquired land, state government has given 3500 acres to HAL and rest surplus acquired land was given to various developmental activities like Mixed farming, Dairy farm, Sericulture, Naval Armament Depot (NAD), Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA), etc. During the process of land acquisition for HAL, the then state government displaced 22 villages and near about 5000 families. Very few families were given employment opportunity in HAL and remaining families were left without proper resettlement and compensation. The displaced villages settled outside the boundary wall of HAL and some of the villages are still existing within the boundary of HAL without any assurance and security that when they will be thrown out from the area. The entire displaced villages falls under 5<sup>th</sup> schedule of the constitution of India. Chikapar is one of the core village displaced for establishment of HAL.

After acquiring land HAL came into full operation during 1966 but the authorities have forgot the rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced villages. There was no proper guidelines, acts and policies for rehabilitation and resettlement during 1960s. Due to this the company (HAL) according to its convenience made certain ordinances and guidelines for rehabilitation and resettlement to displaced villages but not followed the Central



Governments company establishment act, National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy for projects affected people came into force in 2007, before that there was policy guidelines for project affected people initiated in 2004. Because of the lack of guideline and any policy during 1960s various developmental company authorities framed their own guidelines which turned as curse for the Chikapar villagers. Displaced villages demanding for proper rehabilitation and resettlement since from the beginning and organised many agitations but the concerned authority and state government did not respond.

The core displaced villagers protest the HALs attitude and organised severe agitation in 1980 and closed the company for two days but the agitation was suppressed with huge police force. The agitation was controlled but the HAL authorities were shaken, due to the impact of this resilience, few displaced families were provided employment opportunity as unskilled labourers. The HAL's authorities were succeeded in controlling the entire situation and taken precautionary measures for not repetition of such type of incidences in future.

The displaced villages were categorised into fully displaced where people lost land and village, partially displaced where people lost either cultivable land or village and finally the villages where they do not fall in the limits of HAL but their land was acquired by state government. The last category of people falls in the peripheral limits of HAL and they were demanding for proper compensation/employment or return of acquired land. There are demands from the entire peripheral villages for return of acquired land but state government and HAL authorities are not addressing their problem. This is different problem where the HAL authorities are saying that the acquired surplus land is in the name of state government which is being used for various developmental activities like Mixed farming, Dairy farm, Sericulture, NAD, COBRA battalion, etc. Hence, HAL is little concerned about the land issue. The state government decade back once initiated to give back the surplus acquired land to all farmers of peripheral villages of HAL but it failed as it requires amendment in the state legislation which hardly possible in near future. In this context the poor farmers are sandwiched between state government and HAL authorities.

The natives of the Chikapar village raised many questions which need to be address immediately to improve their living standards. The major problem of the natives is that they are in a desperate need of title deeds for their homestead land. The natives occupied the present habitation in 1985 as no authorities have allotted the resettlement place. Since then revenue authorities tried in many ways to evacuate the people from present place by deploying the police, but the natives did not left the place demanding for proper resettlement. The irony of the situation is that the villagers inhabited from three decades in the place but the revenue authorities are still considering them as illegal occupants. In this situation the government must provide title deed (patta) for their homestead land to protect and safeguard their lives. HAL authorities should revise the compensation which they have given was a meagre and must engage in various developmental activities through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in displaced villages to improve the living standards of people.

### **3.2.Sample size:**

Purposive non-probability sample method was adopted to pick the sample size. This method is useful if a researcher wants to study a small subset of a larger population in which many members of the subset are easily identified but enumeration of all is nearly impossible. The village is multiethnic hence proper care was taken to cover all sections of population in sample so that they represent their respective communities. A sample size of 100 (32%) households out 319 households was considered for the present study. The village was

displaced thrice and finally settled in the present place in 1982 since than many families migrated to this place who are not original displaced families in such case to identify the particular families purposive sample method was taken to select the sample size.

#### 4. Results and discussion:

Chikapar is heterogeneous village inhabited by different communities like Gadaba, Domb and other caste groups. Though cultural differences are there among communities, still villagers live with utmost integrity and harmony. The detail specification of community wise male-female population is given in the table-1.

**Table-1: Male-Female wise population distribution in the studied village:**

Sl.No.	Community	Total No. Of H.Hs	Population		Sex Ratio	Total	%
			Male	Female			
1.	SC (Domb)	133	289	328	1135	617	43.2
2.	ST (Gadaba)	115	249	223	896	472	33.1
3.	OC	71	163	176	1080	339	23.7
	Total	319	701	727	1037	1428	100

In the studied village SCs are 43.2%, STs are 33.1% and other communities are 23.7%. The sex ratio of the village is 1037.

The composition of the community wise household data from sample reveals that 73% households are from Gadaba community, 20 % households from Domb community and rest 7% households belongs to other caste groups.

The data pertaining to household assets from sample reveals that 63% have ceiling fans, 75% households possess televisions, 51% households have domestic gas connection, 28% using pressure cookers, 25% have bi-cycles and 17% owns motor bykes. The influence of mobile technology is more that majority of households (87%) having these gadgets for communication in their day to day life irrespective of their earnings. Due to low level of income only few households own some assets like refrigerators (7%), dug well (7%) and hand pump (6%). None of the households have tractors and other four wheelers.

Majority of the households (80%) are semi-pucca which are made up of bricks, mud, clay and the roofs are covered with asbestos sheets, few are iron sheet and tiled roof houses also in this category. People with very low level of income less than Rs.1000/- per month dwell in thatched houses, which are made up of locally available grass, leaves, clay, mud and bamboos. People living in thatched houses accounts 8%. The households whose income levels are slight better built pucca houses with RCC roof, such household are 12% in composition.

**Table -2: Occupational pattern:**

Type of occupation	No.of Households
Labourers	68%
Technical workers	22%
Government employees	03%



Owned Grocery shop	04%
Old-age pension holders	03%

Analysis of occupational pattern reveals that labourers are 68%, which includes wage labourers, contract labourers, urban centre workers etc. The category of technical workers accounts for 22% who have special skills in electronics, driving, telephone and mobile repair, welding etc. Rest 3% are government employees, 4% own grocery shops and 3% are old age people who does not involve themselves in any kind of occupation and managing their life on old age pension.

**Table-3: People's income levels in the studied village:**

Income Range	No.of Households
Upto 100000	91%
100001-500000	08%
500000 and above	01%

As majority of people in the village are casual labourers which fetch them low average earnings. For the sake of convenience the entire studied households are categorised into 3 groups. By analysing the income range data, 91% households have annual earnings of upto 1 lakh, rest 8% earn upto 5 lakhs income per annum and finally only 1% has above 5 lakhs annual income.

The data related to saving pattern reveals that people lack the concept of saving money in banks. The studied village households 83% have no savings in any banks. Only 17% households have little savings in various banks, post office and LIC policies.

#### **4.1. Social, Cultural and Economic risks caused due to displacement:**

The natives of the village had very close bond and majority of the families are joint in nature before they were displaced. The relations existed within family and community were slowly fading away and disintegration of joint families are in a rapid pace. Older generation or parents are engaged most of the time in earning by involving themselves in various new and strange occupations, in such situations in absence of proper guidance, the younger generation are not listening to elders. The literacy level of youth in the village is very poor and which could not fetch any employment. In absence of work young people become lethargic, wasting their time and sometimes indulging in anti communal and anti social acts. This type of children at the very tender age addicted to alcohol, tobacco, etc as there was no restriction from society. Out of 100 sample households in the village only 8 joint families were noticed. The traditional political system of the society is not influential and almost it was replaced by modern panchayati Raj. At present for pretty quarrels, villagers are approaching police station, earlier which were resolved in the village itself. The tribals in the area were endogamous with exogamous clans and totems which regulated the matrimonial alliances. But due to the displacement most of their relatives migrated to various places in search of livelihood, perhaps which intended them to marry outside their community and weakening of marriage rules and regulations. Exposures to urban areas, impact of movies, new occupation

are also reason for breaking the endogamy. The egalitarian society so far use to share everything, division of labour, assisting fellow member in agricultural operation, rescuing each other in all dangers are not existing. There is lot of disparity between natives on basis of caste Vs class, rich Vs poor, literate Vs non-illiterate etc, the entire village society was divided on the basis of individualism which was rooted deeply among peoples mind due to displacement and development activities. Change is inevitable and it has not left any aspect of human life to remain intact. The cultural practices are subjected to change with many factors. In the study area human life and culture changed due to development interventions and displacement. The traditional festivals of tribals were replaced by popular Hindu festivities like Gansesh puja, durga puja, viswakarma puja, etc.

Prior to 1961, the peoples entire productive system, agriculture, commercial activities and livelihood based upon land in the village but once their lands were acquired for HAL establishment it becomes extremely difficult for them to own land again. The land basis of people's productive systems was not reconstructed or replaced with steady income-generating employment, landlessness sets in and the affected families become impoverished in the village.

As a result of displacement, people from this village lose wage employment. Jobless affects landless labourers, artisans, small businessmen, and other wage earners. Like land, jobs too are a scarce commodity, and for resettlers to find jobs is not easy. Large number of families in the village shift from primary to tertiary occupations.

The people of the studied village were displaced thrice and lost their housing and shelter. The risk of homelessness is temporary kind but it is mere dream for people of this village to live in a proper house of their own. It was found that people of 88% households living in temporary and semi-pucca houses.

Marginalization occurred when families lose economic power and begin on a downward path. It was found that their previous agricultural earning skills do not get them far enough in the new surroundings. Marginalization also occurs when resettlers lose confidence in them and the social system to which they belong. Displacement cannot restore their previous standard of living.

The people of this village face an imminent risk of food insecurity after involuntarily moved to present settlement. Food insecurity and undernourishment occurred among them due to the results of inadequate purchasing power and no agricultural land.

Elderly members of the village informed that Social stress, insecurity, and psychological trauma associated with displacement lead to immediate deterioration in health standards. Unhygienic living conditions in village, such as unsafe drinking water and poor sewerage give rise to diarrhoea, cholera, and malaria. In poor and unhygienic conditions, diseases spread very rapidly. The women, infants, children, and the elderly are affected mostly. Social stress induced by forced displacement caused differential consequences on mental health across age, gender, and marital and occupational status of affected households in the village.

Prior to displacement natives had plenty of common resources such as, forest, river, and grazing lands. Earlier the villagers mostly depend on such resources. After displacement no compensation has been paid for common properties and access to resources under common property regimes is not protected.

There was a sea change in social structure. The existing community structure related to one another and social organization was destabilized by displacement. The capacity for collective action is lost due to relocation, directly undermines their livelihoods. Social networks that once mobilized people to act around common interests and to meet their most pressing needs do not exist. It was found that there was a social disarticulation within the kinship system, such as the loosening of intimate bonds, the weakening of control on interpersonal behavior, and lower cohesion in family structures among natives. Other risks observed in village are loss of access to public services, loss of access to schooling for school-age children etc.

The people were displaced from their original habitation and no fair compensation was given for loss of property is a violation of human rights. The development agencies violated economic, social and political rights of people by, arbitrary arrest, degrading treatment or punishment, temporary or permanent disenfranchisement and the loss of one's political voice.

## **5. Conclusion:**

This paper highlighted different issues and concerns revolving around the development and displacement scenario in Chikapar village of Semliguda block in Koraput district of Odisha and also has presented an overview of social impact caused by development. It shows that dislocation of people's lives by displacement became a problem since ages but it was intensified after independence in the name of the national development, and has got further intensified because of globalization. Establishment of HAL in Koraput district during 1960's is one such glaring example of development. Displacement caused by large development initiatives has actually resulted in a transfer of resources from poor sections of society to more privileged ones. This has generally been the case with India's development model. From the case study of Chikapar, it has been clear that those displaced by development initiatives have usually not benefited from them. Instead, they are more often impoverished, as they lose economic, social and cultural resources while the new benefits go to others.

If a nation has to be developed it must be justifiable and fair from the common interest point of view. Compensatory policies should not be loop-holed and should provide a fair environment, employment opportunities, access to education facilities and health care facilities for the displaced in the new settlement. This requires strong political willingness and concrete efforts to move away from the Rehabilitation and Resettlement package to a development strategy that could help resettlers improve, if not restore, their livelihood.

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