

**URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA  
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*Displacement of human populations from natural environments has a variety of socioeconomic consequences, as well as a negative impact on human security. The government's use of violence to acquire land has recently been witnessed, and this has become an increasing practise in the name of development. The push for land acquisition in the name of modernization and development has sparked widespread demonstrations by communities impacted by major development projects around the country. The emphasis on economic issues has shifted away from social and cultural matters, which may prove to be critical in forging new connections and networks in the new environment. Compensations, resettlement, and rehabilitation promised by the concerned department or the state, on the other hand, are frequently not carried out as intended. Displacement is considered as a necessary evil in order to build industries, infrastructure, such as dams, mining, roads, and power plants, all of which are meant to serve the "better good."*

**Key Words:** Poverty, Urban, Reduction, Programmes and India

**INTRODUCTION**

Individuals should be protected from being relocated "in case of large scale development initiatives" which are not justified by compelling and overriding public interest, according to the Guiding Principle's Principle Six on internal displacement. The people who have been displaced from their homes have a "right to be safeguarded." What this means is that people who have lived in a region for many years have been forced to leave their homes, their place in social and economic life, their relationships and opportunities as well as any other immovable property in order to relocate to another location for major construction projects, which are important elements of development. The noted social scientist and eco- feminist Vandana Shiva believes that the developed induced displaced (DID) persons bears the cost of displacement but never got their share of benefit.

The main focus of any resettlement programme is physical relocation of the affected people. This may be by providing both monetary and other kind of compensation which may include providing land for the displaced persons. However, while providing rehabilitation and resettlement to the displaced persons the government and other related organizations oversees the economic side of the displaced persons or whether they are provided with the true settlement programme. Michael Cernea who studied the internally displaced population for more than two

decades found that the rehabilitated people usually faced economic crisis and impoverishment situation in their new settlement<sup>1</sup>.

However a very important thing here is that in most of the cases the resettlement cases include those persons who lost their land due to development projects. In case of natural and conflict related displacement the process of rehabilitation and resettlement comes under the scope of United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). The United Nation's High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) symposium paper suggested that the measures for the protection of environmental induced displaced persons can be incorporated under following phases- a) Preventive, which applies to actions prior to the movement of persons, b) Mitigative, refers to the actions taken once the out migration has begun and c) Rehabilitative. It encompasses measures restoring the environment of the home areas and return or resettlement of the displacers. By discussing the genesis of the resettlement and rehabilitation policy one can understand the land acquisition history of India.

After Independence a host of anti-poverty programs were launched by the Government at different points of time and at different levels. But they could not do much to eradicate poverty for the main reasons of failure of projects due to (1) wrong identification (2) wrong selection of activities (3) adoption of a uniform process through the country. (4) Organization weakness in terms of lack of qualified staff and coordination. There are several forces resisting poverty efforts in the country such as (1) lack of political view (2) lobbies of vested interests (3) bureaucracy (4) diffusion of planning (5) price policy, (6) fiscal policy, (7) regional policy (8) lack of project approach as well as proper monitoring, (9) inadequacy of banking facilities in certain areas and (10) lack of information systems. The political system of the country does not hold out much promise for effective decentralization of political power which, could serve as an effective instrument for alleviation of poverty.

In many parts of India, over a long period of the undisturbed history of its social system, poverty has developed roots. Commensurate with the established social system, the population in poverty developed its own values apart from the progressive mainstream of Indian society. For majority of the poor with inherited poverty, it has become an institution and a way of life<sup>2</sup>. The poor have accepted poverty as their fate which, they believe, no one can change. Partly due to their belief and partly due to the opportunities denied to them, most of the poor are trapped in a cycle of poverty. The government of India launched several anti-- poverty programs ever since institution of planning era.

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<sup>1</sup> Amrithalingam, K. & R. Lakshman (2011). *Impact of Displacement on Women and Female-headed Households: A Mixed Method Analysis with a Microeconomic Touch*. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 26(1): 47–68.

<sup>2</sup> Cronin, V. & P. Guthrie (2011). *Community-led resettlement: From a flood-affected slum to a new society in Pune, India*. *Environmental Hazards* 10(3–4): 310–326.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Hadi (2017)**<sup>3</sup> concluded that in the absence of a sensitive resettlement dam induced displacement in Pakistan and Turkey there was increased disparity as most of the benefits of the policy were reaped by the big manipulators and the poor that were left behind.

**Levien (2017)**<sup>4</sup> focused on the ramifications associated with the dispossession of land by women through various times and places. He described women as the underdogs because of the loss of the land for which they are uncompensated. The power play in gender relations changes as they lose their autonomy, role in decision making, their income generating sources directly affecting their health. They are constantly faced with the challenges to run a household despite loss of resources like firewood, forest produce etc.

**Mohanty (2017)**<sup>5</sup> stipulated that poor resettlement efforts had been made for tribals who had been displaced in the name of development. Limiting compensation to only cash and being gender insensitive conflicts that were accompanied by socio-economic marginalization. The author suggested the formulation of a displace friendly resettlement policy along with adequate follow-up measures to ensure its success.

**Vanclay (2017)**<sup>6</sup> critically appraised the resettlement and said that poor planning, inadequate baseline data, poor management of the cut-off date, poor engagement with the displaced, inadequate funding for rehabilitation, inadequate compensation and relying merely on monetary measures.

**Sharma et al. (2017)**<sup>7</sup> compares the approaches of land acquisition and the resettlement among the nations of India, Nepal, China, Malaysia and Norway to unearth the gaps in resettlement.

**Gizachew (2017)**<sup>8</sup> based his study on Cernea's model of impoverishment and risks with respect to families displaced by the Tezeke dam and unraveled certain risks like cattleless-ness, constrained community mobility, loss of education, loss of resiliency, loss of human rights etc.

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<sup>3</sup> Hadi, A. (2017). *Dams and Displacement in Turkey and Pakistan*. *European Journal of Economics and Business Studies*, 3(2), 241-245. Retrieved from [http://journals.euser.org/files/articles/ejes\\_may\\_aug\\_17/Abdul.pdf](http://journals.euser.org/files/articles/ejes_may_aug_17/Abdul.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Levien, M. (2006). *Narmada and the Myth of Rehabilitation*. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41(33), 3581-3585. Retrieved from <https://www.epw.in/journal/2006/33/insight/narmada-and-myth-rehabilitati-on.html>

<sup>5</sup> Mohanty, A. (2017). *Resettlement & Rehabilitation Of Displaced Women - A Survey Of Recent Literature In India*. *International Journal Of Research And Analytical Reviews*. 4(4), 353-359. Retrieved from <http://www.allsubjectjournal.com/download/739/93.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Vanclay, F. (2017) *Project-induced displacement and resettlement: from impoverishment risks to an opportunity for development?. Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 35 (1), 3-2. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14615517.2017.1278671>

<sup>7</sup> Sharma, V. (2017). *Dams Induced Displacement in India: A Spatial View*. *Online International Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, 07 (06), 75-81. Retrieved from <http://oiirj.org/oiirj/blog/2017/11/03/volume-07-issue-06-nov-dec-2017-4/>

**Hanna et al. (2016)<sup>9</sup>** are of the view that in the wake of inadequate capacity building endeavors and failure to understand the socio-cultural fabric of the outsiders led to the loss of traditional livelihoods and drastically changed dietary patterns and agricultural practices resulting in rampant dissatisfaction impacting directly or indirectly upon health (obesity, stress).

**The World Commissions on Dams (2016)<sup>10</sup>** had pointed out that the efficacy of any resettlement programme relies on policy preparation (proper baseline studies, people's consultation, timely disclosure of information), implementation (proper monitoring, genuine and timely compensation) and grievance machinery (monitoring and evaluation, development assistance and technical support).

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the urban poverty reduction programmes in India.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **▪ Data Collection**

Data is collected from primary and secondary sources. The secondary sources include books, articles, periodicals, newspapers, government reports, reports from different committees and commissions. Primary data is collected from specifically designed structural and unstructured schedules from the research sample slum dwellers and officials.

## **ANALYSIS OF URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA**

### **NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP):**

In 1995, the National Social Assistance Program was launched as a 100% government-funded programme. It consists of the following three parts:

1. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
2. National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)
3. National Old age Pension Scheme (NOAPS),

Its principal goal is to provide financial assistance to elderly people who lack regular sources of income, to families whose breadwinner has died, and to pregnant women of low-income households who have given birth to at least two children. With the goal of guaranteeing minimum national levels of well-being, the Program complements efforts by the State

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<sup>8</sup> Gizachew, A. (2017). *Refining the impoverishment risks and reconstruction (IRR) model: A study of the model's "overlooked" risks, evidences from the impacts of Tekeze Dam, North East Ethiopia. Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*, 9 (4), 66-79. DOI: 10.5897/JDAE2015.0681

<sup>9</sup> Hanna, P., Vanclay, F., Langdon E.J., & Arts J. (2016). *The importance of cultural aspects in impact assessment and project development: reflections from a case study of a hydroelectric dam in Brazil. Impact Assessment And Project Appraisal*, 34 (4), 306–318. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14615517.2016.1184501>

<sup>10</sup> *The World Bank Versus the World Commission on Dams Report 2016.*

Governments. So that social assistance can be responsive and cost-effective, it is implemented by the Panchayats and Municipalities. Panchayats and municipalities are encouraged to work with as many non-profit organizations as possible in order to choose who will receive assistance.

These programs are aimed at both the symptom of poverty, which is lack of income, and the causes of poverty, which are melted to lack of human capital and discrimination.

### **Increasing the Stock of Human Capital**

Income can be increased by increasing through training or education, both formal and informal, the value of the labor services that a breadwinner sells to an employer for salaries or wages. Increasing the individual's stock of human capital can be looked on as an investment in the sense as an investment in physical capital such as plant and equipment. Funds are invested (costs are incurred) to increase the stock of human capital and returns (benefits) are received on this investment in the form of increased earnings in the future. Informal learning in the home, formal education, vocational training, and health and rehabilitation programs can all be viewed as forms of investment in human capital.

### **Investment in Vocational Training Programs**

Investment in, human capital may take the form of vocational training programs. The implication appears to be that experimentation with many types of program on a small scale (with careful evaluation using benefit-cost analysis) should precede nationwide implementation. Hopefully, the result would be to increase the probability of widely implementing only those programs that have the largest net of social benefits.

### **Investment in Health and Rehabilitation Programs**

The human capital framework can also be applied to investment in health and rehabilitation programs. It is important to consider the efficiency as well as the equity aspects of such programs. If a person receives medical treatment, it may enable him to work, or to work more regularly without extensive government income redistribution programs. The handicapped can sometimes be rehabilitated so that they earn a higher income. Thus, these programs may be viewed as poverty programs in that they increase the level of human capital. Equity aspects are also of great importance here, since society does not desire to deny desperately needed medical care to low-income individuals. Thus, health and rehabilitation programs may be justified on grounds of both equity and efficiency.

### **Family Planning and Child Care**

Parents may be limited in their employment opportunities because of the costs and difficulties of obtaining adequate day-care services. Legislation for mid-day-care programs will be useful. The

costs of day care that provides more than mere custody of the child is by no means trivial - at least double the usual cost of maintaining a child in elementary school.

### **SELF - HELP GROUPS**

Providing financial services to the poor, such as savings, credit, insurance, and remittances, has become an essential part of the microfinance industry in many countries. Today, microfinance is a major global trend. Policy efforts for microfinance are increasingly being developed by governments, central bankers, funders, practitioners, and other development institutions that promote microfinance<sup>11</sup>.

SHG's philosophy and the bank's involvement can be summed up as follows:

- Self-help, combined with mutual assistance, can be an effective vehicle for disadvantaged people's efforts to achieve upward socioeconomic transformation.
- The impoverished have the ability to save and are creditworthy.
- The gap between poor people's expectations and the formal banking system's capabilities must be bridged.
- Not only do the poor require credit, but they also require savings and other financial services.
- With some outside help, small affinity groups of the impoverished can efficiently handle and supervise microcredit among their members.
- For the bulk of the poor, SHGs could constitute a pre-micro company formative stage.
- SHGs as clients allow for a broader reach, cheaper transaction costs, and a significant reduction in risk.

### **GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE**

Department of Social Welfare was created in 1964 (then known as Department of Social Security) under the Central Government to look after general social welfare including nutrition programmes for children and expectant and nursing mothers and welfare of backward classes<sup>12</sup>. It also plans social welfare programmes as an integral part of the national development plans and co-ordinates welfare services maintained by the Government of India, the State Governments and the national voluntary agencies.

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<sup>11</sup> Department of Census and Statistics – Sri Lanka (2011). *Poverty Indicators. Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2009/10 Vol 1(2)*. Accessed 22.2.2015 [http://www.statistics.gov.lk/poverty/PovertyIndicators2009\\_10.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.lk/poverty/PovertyIndicators2009_10.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Caron, C. M. (2009) *Left Behind: Post-tsunami Resettlement Experiences for Women and the Urban Poor in Colombo*, in Fernando et al. (eds.) *Forced to Move. 9 th Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka*. Centre for Poverty Research (CEPA). 177–206



## RECOMMENDED PLAN AND PROGRAMME FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

An evaluation of the anti-poverty programmes reveals that policy of resources allocation has depended in most cases on the nature of the severity of the problem. Generally anti-poverty programmes lacked adequate administrative and financial resources. The benefits received by the poor from government expenditure have been much less than that received by non-poor.

A genuine poverty eradication plan, however, must go further than past efforts, and create structural changes in the political economy of the country. Moreover, the commitment to remove poverty must include a willingness to reallocate resources. For this there are two key concepts:

**Empowerment and Opportunity:** The solution to poverty is the empowerment of the poor and opportunity for all.

It may take 5 to 10 years to effect the policy changes required by the plan. **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** should continue, and be strengthened as a catalysts for change, NGOs are an integral part of a democratic society and an important ingredient in the empowerment of different groups in society more especially the poverty groups.

## REVIEW OF PRO-POOR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Pro-poor growth policies and programmes must be implemented in order to achieve a long-term reduction in poverty. Economic reforms and a rapid liberalisation of trade are necessary at the macro level to achieve this goal. However, policies that promote growth at the meso and micro-levels must have a pro-poor objective (DFID 1995). Since its founding, Hyderabad has been a leader in developing innovative techniques for the urban poor. Other Indian towns have looked to it as an example for how to run a long-term community development programme for the disadvantaged in metropolitan areas. The following are some of the most significant efforts to achieve this goal:

- *Poverty reduction efforts are ongoing, as may be seen in the following list.*

**List of Poverty Alleviation Programs**

Nature of Program	MCH	Surrounding ULBs
Externally Funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SIP</li> <li>▪ IPP-VIII</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ APUSP</li> </ul>
Central Sponsored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Swarnajayanthi Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)</li> <li>▪ National Slum Development Programme (NSDP)</li> <li>▪ Balika Samrudhamme Yojana (BSY)</li> <li>▪ Adarsha Bastis Programme (ABP)</li> <li>▪ Special Nutrition Programme (SNP)</li> <li>▪ Individual Latrines-Low Cost Sanitation Programme (ILCS)</li> <li>▪ VAMBAY</li> </ul>	
State Sponsored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rajiv Nagar Bata Programme</li> <li>▪ Urban Programme for Advancement of Household incomes</li> <li>▪ Rajiv Yuva sakthi / Rajiv Gruha Kalpa</li> <li>▪ INDIRAMMA</li> <li>▪ Welfare Programmes sponsored by Women, SC, ST, Minorities and other corporations</li> </ul>	
ULB Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clean Slum Initiative (CSI)</li> <li>▪ Voluntary garbage disposal scheme (VGDS)</li> <li>▪ Anti larval operations in slums</li> </ul>	

**CONCLUSION**

In terms of both economic development and property values, cities are critical. The physical, social, and institutional infrastructure of a city is critical to its long-term viability, and while cities can be seen as engines of progress, they are also at the crossroads of change. The pace of urbanization in India is accelerating. India is one of the world's least urbanized nations. However, in India, the pattern of urbanization is evolving. There has been a shift in urban growth patterns.

An increase in urbanization and economic growth occur simultaneously. Providing equal access to public services and economic opportunities to the nation's urban people will be a major concern as the new millennium unfolds. The urgent problem facing all development practitioners is how to combine the needs of the disadvantaged and create inclusive and well-governed cities in order to sustain the speed of economic growth that India is aiming for.

The Government of India has been making continual attempts to achieve this goal by implementing a variety of policies and programmes. City Development Plans (CDPs) for 63 mission cities have been produced in accordance to the Ministry of Urban Development's most recent flagship reform-related policy.