

## 15.5 Displacement and Rehabilitation

**Iyer, Ramaswamy R.:** Towards a Just Displacement and Rehabilitation Policy. *Economic and Political Weekly* 42, 30 (2007): 3103-07.

Based on the personal experience and expertise of the author, this article illustrates the adverse side of current developmental policies in India. Especially after Independence, India has followed an 'Enlightenment' approach to development through developmental projects such as big dams, large industrial and mining projects, highways, flyovers and so on. These projects have resulted in the displacement and improper resettlement and rehabilitation of millions of people. Facilitated by the application of the Land Acquisition Act (1894) and the rhetoric of including project-affected people as 'partners in development', such development projects have demanded 'the sacrifice of some for the public purpose'.

The author argues the need for the formulation of a just and equitable 'National Displacement and Rehabilitation Policy' in which displacement is not a 'taken-for-granted' outcome of development policies. Development projects need to embrace the goals of minimal displacement, adequate compensation and free, informed and prior consent, etc., along with concern for social and environmental impacts. Development projects requiring land acquisition should be permissible only for governmental projects like building schools, hospitals and other 'public purpose' utilities, and should not be extended to include private or public sector organizations. Lastly, instruments such as the Land Acquisition Act should be contestable as well as procedurally more human and equitable in ensuring compensation that will bring about the genuine rehabilitation of project-affected people.

**Kalia, Rajesh:** Understanding Short Distance Displacement and Rehabilitation: A Case of Galiara Project in Amritsar. *Man and Development* 29, 2 (2007): 111-26.

Based on empirical fieldwork, this study examines the nature and impact of the short distance and small-scale displacement

consequent on state intervention in 1988 to remove commercial establishments from the periphery of the Golden Temple – the sanctum sanctorum of the Sikhs – during the heyday of terrorism in Punjab. It also investigates the adequacy of the rehabilitation approach adopted by the government for those displaced. The paper seeks especially to identify successful initiatives in post-displacement recovery, and to make a case for the expansion of the debate on displacement and rehabilitation beyond mega-projects to incorporate micro-projects entailing short distance and small-scale displacement.

At the present time, the Punjab Government, under the aegis of the Central Government, continues to be engaged in earmarking and numbering commercial and residential buildings, streets and markets for demolition in the remaining fourth and fifth phases of the Galiara project. On the basis of the present study, the author argues that the appropriateness of the sites to be allotted under the compensation package should be assessed in advance of demolition, and that adequate follow-up measures need to be undertaken to ensure the proper rehabilitation of the people displaced. Without such back-up measures, one cannot claim to have learnt lessons from past cases of success or failure.

**Kumar, Pankaj:** Response of the Displaced People of Chatikocha Village in Jharkhand. *The Eastern Anthropologist* 60, 2 (2007): 239-45.

This article is a case study of a people's movement against the activities of the uranium mining company UCIL (Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.) in Chatikocha village of Jaduguda in Jharkhand state. The specific case is the building of a pond in the village by the company for the dumping of mining waste. The paper studies the arduous struggle of the people under various movements and organizations – including the JAVBS (Jharkhand Adivasi Visthapit Berojgari Sangh) and JOAR (Jharkhand's Organisation Against Radiation) – and their claim for proper rehabilitation, compensation for land, employment and protection from the health hazards caused by the company's activities. Responses of various actors in this movement, including the central and state governments and their institutions, as well as the judiciary, are also reviewed.

**Sankar, Abhirup:** Development and Displacement: Land Acquisition in West Bengal. *Economic and Political Weekly* 42, 16 (2007): 1435-42.

With the coming to power of the Left Front government in 1977, West Bengal witnessed a marked growth in the agricultural sector, promoted by a series of land reforms, new methods of cultivation, and the decentralization of rural power through the three-tier Panchayat system. Based on both macroeconomic and microeconomic data, this paper analyzes the recent experience of land acquisition and eviction in West Bengal in order to appreciate the general problems of development and displacement on the one hand, and on the other to understand the importance of land as a factor constraining the pace of industrial development. The paper also provides an overview history of displacement, starting with 17<sup>th</sup> century England through to the recent Chinese industrialization process, comparing these experiences and outcomes with those of West Bengal.

Balancing the objectives of industrialization against food security, the author argues that land should be acquired for industry only in the spaces previously occupied by old industries that have now closed down and that, even when this vacant industrial land is exhausted, the location of new industries must be restricted to the least productive soil. The land that was controversially acquired in Singur by the Tata group of companies consisted of less than 0.007 per cent of total agricultural land in the state, while the benefits in terms of employment and long-term economic growth were likely to be high. However, at the microeconomic level the acquisition of land for industry entails displacing people from their land and livelihoods. If this issue is not handled properly, social and political unrest will be likely to ensue, gravely endangering the industrial process itself. The most crucial issue is the notion of compensation and rehabilitation in which land valuation and the labour market situation are deeply problematic. Moreover, compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation schemes indemnify only the land owner, but not the labourers who work and depend on the land.

The article concludes that the real problem in regard to West Bengal is the unhealthy and inefficient competition between various states to attract private investment, with little concern for the displaced people. This is morally wrong even if it is important for the state in the context of the objective of long-term economic growth.

**Sharma, Vineeta:** Implications of a Special Economic Zone on Project Affected People: A Case Study of Reliance Haryana SEZ. *Man and Development* 29, 4 (2007): 77-94.

This paper addresses the implications of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) for project-affected population (PAP) in reference to the Reliance Haryana SEZ. One of the biggest Special Economic Zones being developed in the country, the Reliance Haryana SEZ is an example of a unique public-private partnership wherein the private sector directly purchases land from the owners at market prices instead of the government intervening in the process. The paper investigates the various implications of land acquisition, displacement and compensation on the project-affected population on the basis of a primary survey along with various published and unpublished reports. It also attempts to throw light on the ambiguity in resettlement and rehabilitation policies in the context of the Special Economic Zones in India.

The author points to the need for greater community participation and the active involvement of the developer and the people together in defining the rehabilitation process. With SEZs booming across India, it is an undisputed fact that this development will have large-scale implications for the country as a whole, besides effects on the local people living in the area where the SEZs are established. There is thus an urgent need to foresee the implications of SEZ development for project-affected people and simultaneously to take up issues of PAP rehabilitation.