

A Study on Socio-political Harmony among Displaced Women of Odisha through R & R Policy

Aliva Mohanty

Faculty, School of Women's Studies, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Odisha, India

Corresponding author: dralivamohanty@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study has been carried out in TATA Steel of Kalinga Nagar of Jajpur district of Odisha. In this study attempt has been made to collect the information from displaced women of three villages of Kalinga Nagar. As the study intended to make a cross class study of resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced women, it has been decided to give coverage to the women from pre-displacement and post displacement period. Socio political harmony plays an important role for maintaining cordial relationship with each other in the society. The post displacement scenarios have shown a very distressing picture of socio-political harmony. Collectivism is an essential part of socio-political harmony. The displacement has disturbed the collective involvement of women in village development activities, but by forming the SHGs and by providing training for skill development in post displacement TATA steel has tried to make the displaced women self reliant and they can able to establish their socio-political harmony. Social bonding plays a very important role in strengthening the social relationship. The ultimate aim of the study was to recommend mitigating strategies to combat the issue of displaced women.

Keywords: Displacement, rehabilitation, resettlement, harmony, strategy

Resettlement and Rehabilitation is a policy measure to pay compensation to the ousters when their lands, their houses and their common property resources are taken away in the name of development. Resettlement programmes have predominantly focussed on the process of physical relocation rather than on the economic and social development of the displaced and other negatively affected people.

Though the development activities in Orissa surged as early as 1950's, there were about 8,817 displaced families from 1446 villages because of development projects during the period 1950 to 1963. The UNDP estimates that till date more than one lakh people in Orissa have been displaced while 20 lakhs have been affected by development projects. Industrial projects like Rourkela steel plant (RSP) The Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL)

and the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) have displaced people mainly the tribal (Fernades, 1994, Tripathy, 2003).

The women participation in displacement movement started with the stewardship of feminists like Medha Patekar. Right from Silent Valley movement to Narmada Bachao, the women have figured in the protest movement. For the first time in this millennium women have broken the culture of silence and have joined the protest movement at Kalinga Nagar which is a unique experience of the State. Women were not even considered fully independent beings in the process of land allocation and selection. They were consulted neither by officials nor by their husbands in decision-making processes around land allocation.

Peace and tranquillity of a society ensure progress and development. Peace and tranquillity also bring social and political harmony that are the bases of social solidarity social harmony is defined as a state that symbolizes, peaceful interaction among the members resulting in easy social integration. Where there is social harmony, social conformity overrides deviance and the social equilibrium is well maintained. There is absence of conflict and hostility in inter personal relationship between individuals, and institutions and among the institutions.

Displacement affects socio political harmony. There is a clear cut casual link between displacement and socio political harmony because the displaced women suffer from disparities, disadvantages, deprivations, discrimination and disabilities which make them rebel against the prevailing norms and resent the system. These displaced women develop strong emotional stress leading to social withdrawal which becomes a major threat to social harmony. In view of this, efforts have been made in this study to fulfil some specific objectives. These are (1) to study the socio economic profile of the displaced women of Kalinga Nagar, (2) to observe the conditions responsible the socio-political harmony of the displaced women and (3) to analyse women’s resettlement programme done by TATA Steel and the acceptance of women and its effect on the life style of the women.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study has been carried out in TATA Steel of Kalinga Nagar of Jajpur district. In this study attempt has been made to collect the information from displaced women of three villages such as Gobar ghati,

Sansailo and Trijanga of Kalinga Nagar. As the study intended to make a cross class study of resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced women, it decided to give coverage to the women from pre-displacement and post displacement period. Taking into account the severity of the displacement situation, the condition of pre and post displacement situation were decided to bring into the ambit of the sample. In this study all total 100 respondents have been selected through simple random sampling procedure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social and political harmony is the by product of trust and faith developed among the people towards each other and the socio-political system when the respondents were asked about the present socio-political system towards displacement. They have replied in a positive manner. Their responses were collected in the following table. As the socio-political harmony of the displaced women plays an important role for the smooth sustainability of the displaced women.

Family support is very much essential in case of displaced women in order to strengthen their moral support, as the displaced women suffer, socially economically and psychologically. So in order to strengthen their confidence family support is very much essential. The support of each and every family member plays an important role because the displacement situation specifically depresses the women. The details of supports that have been provided to family members in post and pre-displacement are depicted in table 1.

Table 1 reveals that the though the role of family support is very much required for maintaining socio-political harmony. The displaced women cannot able

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of family support to maintain socio-political harmony

Family support for socio-political harmony	No. of Respondents		Percentages to total	
	Pre-displacement	Post-displacement	Pre-displacement	Post-displacement
Moral support and care for the elderly people	24	26	24	26
Support to disabled and distress women	25	16	25	16
Monetary support to the wife by the husband	17	22	17	22
Care for pregnant women and nursing mother	19	25	19	25
Care for new born babies	15	11	15	11

to maintain it in a proper manner. Their socio-political harmony has been disturbed during post displacement. The elderly member of the family requires more moral support during post displacement. About 26% of respondents have been providing moral support to their elderly members of the family. But in case of support to disabled and distress women has been disturbed during post displacement, because only 16% of respondents have been providing support to them. The displacement situation has been affected the women a lot for which they cannot able to provide support because of the precarious condition of displacement. In case of pregnant and nursing mother 25% of respondents have been providing support to them because they are more in need of the services. 11% of respondents are providing care to the new born babies. So the very figure of the table states that the proper family cooperation of the members of the family can strengthen the socio political harmony. The women can able to overcome the distressing situation if the proper family support can be provided. Not only support of the family but also the cooperation of the neighbours is also very much essential for maintaining socio-political harmony. The contribution of neighbourhood for establishing socio political harmony can be observed from table 2.

It reveals that in pre displacement the respondents have a very good and intimate relationship with their neighbours as they were all the inhabitants of a particular locality. 23% of respondents have reported about their intimate relationship with neighbours where as in post displacement it was declined to 14% which shows that the displacement situation compels them to divert their

good relationship as they have displaced from their own village. 45% of respondents felt very sorry after leaving their friends and relatives in their own village and displaced to other places. They have missed it like anything. Some of them cannot leave their emotional bonding with their neighbours. Their expression itself reveals their emotion and feeling towards their neighbours. 28% of respondents have observed their festivals and rituals with their neighbours in a very joyful manner. They have all enjoyed observing the festivals with their friends and relatives.

But during post displacement the respondents have felt very sorry for not observing all the festivals with a very joyous manner. Their sharing of feelings with neighbours have also decline from 17% to 11% because they cannot able to develop intimacy with new persons in the new locality. So it hurt the respondents a lot. They were also enjoying in exchanging their dishes with neighbours and relatives in pre displacement. But in post displacement they cannot able to exchange the dishes with others as they are not so acquainted with the new person. So the socio-political harmonies of the respondents have been affected by disturbing their neighbourhood relationship in post displacement. So for maintaining the socio political harmony the respondents have to develop their cordial relationship with the new person. The collective spirit and involvement of the respondents can be revealed from table 3.

In case of village development activities 20% of respondents were involved in sanitations, water and cleanliness of village. So this reveals during pre

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the basis of co-operation of neighbourhood for maintaining socio-political harmony

Support of neighbourhood for socio-political harmony	Number of Respondents		Percentages to total	
	Pre-displacement	Post-displacement	Pre-Displacement	Post-Displacement
Relationship with neighbour	23	14	23	14
Feeling towards neighbours after leaving the place	10	45	10	45
Observation of festivals and rituals with neighbours	28	18	28	18
Sharing of feeling with neighbours	17	11	17	11
Exchange of dishes with neighbours	22	12	22	12

Table 3: Distribution of respondents on the basis of collective involvement

Collective involvements	No. of Respondents		Percentages to total	
	Pre-displacement	Post-displacement	Pre-Displacement	Post-Displacement
Village development activities	20	14	20	14
Celebration of festivals	15	11	15	11
Celebration of rituals	20	19	20	19
Formation of SHGs	10	21	10	21
Skill dev. Through Vocational Training	12	20	12	20
Observation of social functions	23	15	23	15
Total	100	100	100	100

displacement they have a team spirit to do the work collectively, where as it was declined to 14% in post displacement because of the breakdown of their collectiveness in the village. In case of celebration of festivals and rituals and observation of social functions their participation was more in pre-displacement. It was 15% and 20% and 23% respectively. But it was declined in post displacement. This reveals that displacement has affected the community involvement, their feeling of togetherness, their belongings etc.

But the post displacement scenario has increased the confidence of displaced women by developing the SHGs among them. Formations of SHGs have strengthened their economic capability and make them self independent. 21% of respondents have developed their economic capability by participating in the SHGs. Skill up-gradation of respondent is very much essential in order to make them self independent. So by involving the women in SHG and by providing them vocational training in post displacement attempt has been made to made them economically and social empowered.

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that the age structure of the sample respondents varied from <25 years to more than 45 years. Maximum percentage of respondents belongs to middle age group. Scheduled tribe women emerge predominantly in the sample coverage. The scheduled tribe women have a better share than other caste women which is indicative of the positive impact of the R&R policy implemented by TATAsteel. Religious distribution of the sample is a reflection of the general religious

composition of the country reflected in the census with Hindu majority followed by any other religions. Maximum percentage of scheduled caste respondents are Hindu. The educational qualification that got reflected through analysis indicates that the sample is a representative one having educational qualification of sample respondents from illiteracy to higher education. The occupational structure of the sample respondent notes that compared to the pre displacement, during the post displacement the adoption of different type of occupation except agriculture goes on increasing. It runs as a corollary from the occupational distribution of the sample, that the income position of both the self and family income goes on increasing in post displacement period compared to pre-displacement. Maximum percentage of respondents is married and belongs to middle age group. Nuclear family structure dominates in post displacement. The burden of the single headed households in the sample is shouldered by women. The families of the displaced women are medium in size. Large size families are noticed among low income group.

Socio political harmony plays an important role for maintaining cordial relationship with each other in the society. The respondents have felt very sorry in post displacement when they left behind their neighbours. They cannot able to share their feeling with neighbours, cannot able to celebrate the rituals and festivals and exchange their dishes with them. The cooperation of neighbours is very much essential for maintaining social bonding but it is severely affected. The socio-political harmony has been disturbed. The support

of family is very much important to maintain socio-political harmony. As the elderly people need special care and moral support but it is not possible to provide them in post displacement but the respondents tried their best to maintain it. Support and care are needed by the disabled and distress women, care of pregnant and nursing mother and new born babies are also very much essential. But the post displacement scenarios have shown a very distressing picture of socio-political harmony. Collectivism is an essential part of socio-political harmony. The collective effort can strengthen the socio-economic status of women.

The displacement has disturbed the collective involvement of women in village development activities, in celebration of festivals and rituals. So the social harmony has been disturbed but by forming the SHGs and by providing training for skill development in post displacement TATA steel has tried to make the displaced women self-reliant and they can able to establish their socio-political harmony. Displacement from their native place has affected the women a lot. Their livelihood has been hampered. Their sustainability has been severely affected by leaving their parental place to a new locality. The respondents have a very sensitive feeling regarding the process of displacement. The attachment of their own parental place has hurt them like anything. The insufficient compensation has severely affected their economic position and their fear for violence has made them emotionally weak. Development induced displacement helped the respondent to develop a high hope for their future. Even if the situation of displacement has severely affected them still they have the hope for getting the new job opportunities and to enhance their economic capability in post displacement. Social bonding plays a very important role in strengthening the social relationship. At the time of distress the respondents have been accompanied by their friends and relatives for shifting to the new locality. This reveals the belongingness of the respondents with their friends and relatives. In view of this, following recommendations have been made for the betterment of the displaced women.

- ❖ The ultimate aim of the research project was to recommend mitigating strategies to combat the

issue of displaced women. In this context, the following mitigating strategies emerged from the study results.

- ❖ In the eligibility for R & R benefits, the women should be treated at par with their male counterparts.
- ❖ The major daughter and major son should receive equal treatment. Similarly, the R & R policy should recognize the households headed by women and they should be treated equally for R & R benefits.
- ❖ Widowed women or divorcees living with male-headed households and having no legal rights land should be considered as separate units for R & R benefits. As R & R packages, when the displaced people are rehabilitated in the form of land-for-land, it should be prescribed that the land allotted for rehabilitation always be in the joint name of the female and male heads of the family and that the spouse of the male head of family and in her absence, the oldest female member of a family be regarded as the female head of the family. It has been observed that payment of compensation in cash tends to go against the interests of women, because they are able to exercise less control over decisions regarding the disposal of cash. It has been observed that women have neither been consulted nor their participation ensured in the R & R processes. The R & R aspect should be an integral part of the development inducing displacement in which both women and men should be equal partners. Thus, women's participation in the entire processes of resettlement planning and implementation should be ensured.

REFERENCES

- Galla Amareswar 2009. Examining Social Harmony, UNESCO, icom.museum/fileadmin Chan, Kin-Man(2009) Harmonious Society, www.cuhk.edu.hk
- Goyal, Sangeeta 1996. Economic Perspectives on Resettlement and Rehabilitation, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 31(24).
- Kothari, S. 1995. Development, Displacement and Official Policies: Critical Review, *Lokayan Bulletin*, March-April, No. 11.5. New Delhi.
- Leopoldo J. Bartolomé, et al. 2000. Displacement, Resettlement, Rehabilitation, Reparation and Development, World Commission on Dams, Thematic Review 1.3, Working

- Paper. Development in Fernandes, W. and Paranjpe, V. (eds.) Rehabilitation Policy and Law in India: A Right to Livelihood, ECONET and Indian Social Institute, New Delhi.
- Mahapatra, L.K. 1996. Involuntary Displacement in Dam Projects in Orissa, in A.B. Ota and Anita Agnihotri (eds) Involuntary Displacement in Dam Projects, Prachi Prakashan, New Delhi.
- Vyas, N.N. 1980. Kadan Resettlement: A Case of Tribal Displacement in South Rajasthan, Rawat Publication, Jaipur-Delhi.