

Urban Resettlement and Sustainable Urban Development – Comparative Case Studies in Hyderabad

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Abstract

The article deals with cases of displacement and resettlement in the city of Hyderabad. There is a description of how the displacement occurred and later the problems of the displacement and related aspects. Today large numbers of people live in the cities but do not have any entitlements. These people are called as informal dwellers as they live in the so called slums. “The existence of a slum means the authorities have failed,” says the World Bank. Specifically Hyderabad has 17.43% of slum population” This population has no rights or entitlements and they reside in public places. The major cause for population displacement has been the projects undertaken to promote development at different level for different reasons. Displacement for development is the process of physically uprooting large Urban Resettlement and Sustainable Urban Development –Comparative Case Studies in Hyderabad section of people from their land, economy, resources and culture. The ideology of development is used to strengthen inequitable social relations in society, through the acts like displacement. This phenomenon needs a different approach as they are also part of the

society and they too have all the rights to have a dignified life. The data is analyzed through SPSS and graphs are also generated through SPSS. With the explanation of each of the case, a comparative description is given with regard to demographic data, social stratification, political affiliation, religious status and such other things.

Key words: Urban development, Slums, Social status, Sustainable urban development

INTRODUCTION

Today, almost one half of the world’s population lives in cities. The world’s cities are growing by one million people each week. Cities play a significant role in development and they continue to attract migrants from rural areas because they enable people to advance socially and economically. Cities offer significant substantial livelihood options in the form of jobs, housing and services, and are important centers of productivity and social development. India in the post-independence period planned economic development that led to development for sure but there is also another face to it where large number of people had to suffer in several ways in the name

of national development, the “city-dwellers” are no exception. Today large numbers of people live in the cities but do not have any entitlements. These people are called as informal dwellers as they live in the so called slums. “The existence of a slum means the authorities have failed,” says the World Bank. “The slum population of the country works out as above 40 million accounting for 14.12% of the total urban population. The States reporting high share of slum population in total urban population are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana constituting 25.9%, 25.1% and 23% of the urban population respectively. Andhra Pradesh has 5, 149,272 population in slums which come up to 25.11% of urban population. Specifically Hyderabad has 17.43% of slum population” This population has no rights or entitlements and they reside in public places. The major cause for population displacement has been the projects undertaken to promote development at different level for different reasons. Displacement for development is the process of physically

uprooting large Urban Resettlement and Sustainable Urban Development –Comparative Case Studies in Hyderabad section of people from their land, economy, resources and culture. The ideology of development is used to strengthen inequitable social relations in society, through the acts like displacement. This phenomenon needs a different approach as they are also part of the society and they too have all the rights to have a dignified life.

Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a sustained increase in urban population. Over the last fifty years from 54 lakhs in the year 1951, it touched 205 lakhs (400%) in the year 2001 and continues to grow at an accelerated pace. Urban population today, constitutes about 27% of the total population of the State as against mere 17.42% in 1951. There are periods of stagnation as well as acceleration in urban levels in different decades as can be seen from Table 1:

Table - 1: Urbanization Trends: 1971-2015

Year	Total Population	Urban Population	No. of Towns / Urban Areas	% of Urban population	Decadal Growth Rate	Annual Exponential Growth Rate
1971	31,115,259	5,420,325	291	17.42	47.86	3.91
1981	35,983,447	6,247,508	223	17.44	15.76	1.46
1991	43,502,708	8,402,527	224	19.31	33.92	2.92
2001	53,549,673	12,487,576	252	23.32	48.62	3.96
2011	66,508,008	17,817,126	264	26.89	43.24	3.59



2015	75,727,541	20,503,597	210	27.08	14.63	1.37
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On the one side the population is increasing day by day and the pressure on the cities is also increasing subsequently. The global report on Human Settlements 2015 has found that ‘during the next thirty years, the urban population will increase by more than 2 billion in the world and the greatest impact will be felt in the developing world. It is a fact that the huge increase in urban populations amounts to a crisis of unprecedented magnitude in urban shelter provision. Every year, the world’s urban population is increasing by about 70 million and these people need to be provided with shelter, with employment and with urban services.

Andhra Pradesh in All-India Context

The Planning Commission of India considered the following indicators for three dimensions of HDI in NHDR: literacy rate (7+ years of age) and adjusted intensity of formal education for education, life expectancy at age one and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for health, and consumption expenditure (per capita per month) for command over resources (NHDR, 2013). According to NHDR 2013, the performance of Andhra Pradesh appears to be lagging among the 15 major Indian states. Though the state improved the level of human development over the period, its relative

position slipped as the other backward states began to perform better, especially in the 2000s. The HDI value of AP increased from 0.298 in 1991 to 0.377 in 2001 and further to 0.416, but the rank of the state was 9 in 1991 and 2001 and 10 in 2011. The HDI value in the state has been consistently lower than the all-India average and the other South Indian states. When compared to states, the state was ahead in the 1990s but in the 2000s the state was lagging behind Rajasthan, which was one among the poorer states in India. Based on the analysis of development radar, the comment of NHDR on Andhra Pradesh was that “on the whole, the attainment on the indicators seems reasonably balanced, though the attainment levels are less than half the norms for most indicators even in the early 2000.

The human poverty index is constructed for two points of time - 2001 and 2011 - to trace the decline in the level of deprivation. It indicates that between 2001 and 2011 the deprivation levels were brought down across all the districts. Importantly, the rate of decline during 2001-2011 in the level of deprivation was higher in those districts where levels of deprivation were relatively higher in 2001. However, the relative position of many districts did not change. The

three most backward districts and relatively the most deprived ones were Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and Mahabubnagar. Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Krishna and Guntur were districts that were the least deprived. The value of

coefficient of variation (CV) indicates that there was a slight reduction in regional variation across districts in terms of deprivation during 2001-2011.

Table 2 : Poverty Ratios-Rural and Urban (India and Andhra Pradesh)

Year	Andhra Pradesh			All over India		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1993	27.31	37.49	29.75	45.76	42.27	44.93
2003-04	16.64	37.63	22.30	37.26	32.56	36.02
2004-2013	11.2	28.0	15.5	28.3	25.70	49

Source: Planning Commission, NHDR 2011, Government of India, New Delhi

With all the problems magnified that can be traced back to legacies of their own, there are some man made or created inequalities which have led people to poverty and misery. One such example is that of development-induced displacement. During the last two decades of the previous century, the magnitude of forced population displacements caused by development programs was approximately 10 million people each year or some 200 million people globally during that period. Thus, by their frequency, size, and dire consequences, development-caused displacements have become a problem of worldwide proportions. Rare is the development project, policy or process that only creates winners. The displacement theme

brings the losers to centre stage. One form of displacement or another is often part of the development footprint. Technological change displaces workers in traditional activities. Dams displace families from their homes and villages. Interaction with the outside world displaces, or at least threatens to displace, long established cultures.

Research Problem and Significance of Study

The development process has been leading to displacement, which is coercive, and this calls for proper resettlement of the displaced. The resettlement has to be a sustainable one and such a resettlement can take place only if there is a



participatory approach involving the dwellers as few studies point out this has to be worked at the very ground level of formation of public policy of a development project. There has been a good number of works done on resettlement. But specifically on urban resettlement few pioneers like Michael Cernea, Harimohan Mathur have worked extensively. There has been a considerable projection of the problem through the prism of social justice, vulnerability of the marginalized, gender sensitivity, impoverishment and such other psychological trauma, which occurs on the people who are resettled. The process has also witnessed a diagnostic and a predictive study of the phenomena. The works also show how development projects can operate through development of the displaced. A few public policy issues have also come up in the process.

If the above mentioned is the case with the resettlement which is the basic and backbone of research, the other case, which deals with sustainable development has also been the most pampered word and a word which has got a unique character and position of getting adopted according to the problem. A massive body of works has been done on sustainable development but the works pertain and restrict themselves at producing a solution to keep the urban sphere sustainable with the given condition. The

significance of the research will be in getting both the concepts of urban resettlement and sustainable development together. The research will focus on giving new dimension to the development induced displacement with concepts of justice, right and opportunity. The study aims at even being innovative in circumstances where displacement is inevitable as an opportunity to develop the city, make it sustainable on overall basis and improve the living condition of the large number of informal dwellers who are not in the best of the socio-economic and psychological conditions. The combination of both the concepts will certainly come out with some practical solutions and allowing development of not just a section of the society but aiming at overall development, which leads to an egalitarian society.

The significance of the research will be in bringing both the concepts of Urban resettlement and Sustainable Development together. The research will focus on giving new dimension to the development induced displacement which can be used as an opportunity to develop the city, make it sustainable on overall basis and improve the living conditions of the large number of informal dwellers who are not in the best of the Socio-Economic and psychological conditions.

Objectives

1. To use John Rawls's concept of justice to assess the problem of displacement and resettlement in the urban scenario.
2. To analyze, how unplanned development leads to the problem of displacement in Mega cities like Hyderabad.
3. To assess the impact of displacement on the communities before and after displacement, and investigate the impact of unplanned development in the city of Hyderabad.
4. To study whether urban resettlement can be used as an opportunity for sustainable urban development.

Research Methodology

There have been methodologies used by many authors and researchers. The methodologies are time bound and the extent of the methodologies used proves that the research can be taken up in many ways according to the need of the work. Ethnographic research methodology has been used by Michael Cernea in many of his works. Some are even operational and action oriented research methods. His method involves the techniques of being participant observer in the process, in some cases participant actors too. His works are both descriptive and prescriptive. The

descriptive research is like any other research, but the special features in his works are that they are prescriptive too, by ways in which they guide policy making in order that the upcoming projects at least can be taken care of. The research follows a line:- Academic analysis→ Operational research→ Descriptive →prescriptive. Cernea also uses income curve⁸ in his work to find out the position of resettler during the process resettlement. It involves the following aspects

- a) a slow growing or flat segment preceding displacement;
- b) a sudden downward segment at dislocation;
- c) a more-or-less flat segment during the adjustment/transition period at the new site
- d) An upward segment once income restoration begins.

The income curve shows an upward move in the graph and at last being equal to the first. The crucial thing here is that of income, the income in 1980's cannot be compared with the income of a person in 2000. The amount of money spent by a person in the year 1980 is different from 2000. If the person used to spend 2,000 for his family in a month the

amount has increased to much more than it, and the same money is no where sufficient to run the family. In this regard the income curve is under criticism. The restoration can never be compared to the previous one. The numbers of cases show that no resettlement has been able to restore the previous situation, keeping aside even the impoverishment risks and considering only income.

A pilot study is conducted in one resettlement area with a suitable control group of one project to determine the prevalence of severe malnutrition in both areas. A sample size of 211 children below the age of six years (as determined utilizing the formula for estimating the difference between two population proportions with specified absolute precision) is adequate at 95 percentage of confidence level with absolute precision required on either side of the true value of difference between the proportions within 5 percentage points. A multi stage random sampling method is used to select resettlement village for the survey. The control groups are selected from amongst villages closest in distance to the affected villages. The health and development indicators are selected and an ordinal scale is assigned to each indicator to determine the level of living in both the study and control

groups. The data are analyzed using SPSS version 6.0 for windows. The statistical tests applied for analysis of data include tests of significance, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and multivariate analysis.

Data collection can be one in several ways and A.B. Ota has used participant observation method, participatory rural appraisal and genealogy methods. The facilities and provision that existed previous to displacement are collected through cluster schedule. Information from families pertaining to socio-economic conditions, health, education and the like is collected by using a family schedule from 624 families covering all the 156 RC (resettled colonies) and clusters. Roughly 10 per cent of the total families are covered by using Random sampling method. To substantiate the findings the case study method is also being used. An effort is made at all stages to draw a comparative account of the quality of living of the PDF's (project displaced people) pre-displacement and post displacement with a view to examine the extent to which they have overcome impoverishment risks.

Selection of the Field study

The selection of the case studies is based on a pilot study of several displaced sites and finally three case studies are chosen based on the magnitude of the problem. The other logic behind choosing the field is to see how different cases come under development induced displacement and the resettlement. The first case is of MMTS project, it displaces 433 families and it has a devastating effect. The case is interesting as the displaced community is living in a declared slum by the GHMC. As the displaced community can articulate and enjoy the support of the ruling political party they can get resettlement after displacement. The case is interesting as it has lot of politics involved. The second case is that of industrial expansion project and it displaces 440 families. This place was also a recognized slum and people settled there are all from other parts of Andhra Pradesh and are living in the sites for more than 25-30 years. The case is very sensitive as this particular displaced community has to go through multiple displacement and had to live without proper resettlement for almost 1 ½ years. The case is of high importance as the trick used by the political party is that of 'divide and rule'. The third case is chosen based on the merit of the project as displacement of eleven villages in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

(GHMC) which is considered to be the largest displacement in the urban areas in the recent times. This case needs a special reference as the people displaced have entitlements and most of them are dependent on their lands and all of them lost agriculture lands. This case is a fitting example of the inhumane policies of displacement and resettlement pushing the people from Above Poverty Line (APL) to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and high impoverishment risks. All three cases are unique in nature and provide substantial understanding of displacement, resettlement in terms of sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

This article essentially contains some of the revelations and policy imperatives. Fifty years of research has shown that development-induced displacement is likely to unleash widespread changes called the resettlement effect, these changes include multi-dimensional impoverishment, the loss of homes, communities, productive land, income-earning assets, subsistence, community-shared resources, and cultural sites. The non-material impacts may be even greater, including human rights violations, deep fractures in social structures, networks and ties; threats to cultural identity and health; and destruction of social capital. From this

perspective, women, children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the resettlement effect. The loss of social capital is particularly serious, as it diminishes the society's capacity to withstand non-project related threats. The section suggests how best a displacement can be prevented and in case of inevitable displacement how best a resettlement can be given. The process of participation and appropriate compensation aspects are also covered apart from using right based approach for displacement and resettlement rather than charity approach.

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