



## Compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Large-Scale Dams in Andhra Pradesh: Issues and Concerns

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**Abstract:** Displacement or the involuntary and forced relocation of people has come to be acknowledged as among the most significant negative impacts of large water resources development projects such as dams. Among development projects, large dams are the biggest agents of displacement. It is estimated that nearly 40.80 million people have been displaced worldwide due to the reservoirs created by large dams. A World Bank review of 192 projects worldwide for the period 1986 and 1993, estimated that 4 million people were displaced annually by 300 dams on an average large dams. In India alone, it is estimated that some 21 million to 42 million people have been displaced by dams and reservoirs. In literature it is mentioned that majority of the displaced people have not been properly resettled or given adequate compensation. For instance, in India 75 percent of displaced people have not been “rehabilitated”. The tribal people of Andhra Pradesh have been the disproportionate victims of dam displacement. With this backdrop, the study is aimed at understanding the issues pertaining to compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement of large-scale dams in Andhra Pradesh.

**Keywords:** dam, tribals, displacement, Rehabilitation, resettlement, compensation, andhra pradesh

### INTRODUCTION

Development-induced displacement studies emerged both as a major concern and as a challenge in sociology and anthropology discipline in 1990s. The concern arose because of a dramatic rise in development-induced displacement in the 1970s and 1980s propelled mainly by a global infrastructure boom and coupled with painful and disastrous outcomes in resettlement experience (Ranjit Dwivedi, 2002). If the 1980s was a decade of displacement, then the 1990s can aptly be termed ‘the decade of popular resistance to displacement. Mounting antagonisms to development-induced displacement resulted in new forms of political activism paralleled with new agendas in research. Village ethnographies combined

with tools of action research. These studies showed that displacement resulted not just in asset and job losses but also in the breakdown of social and food security, loss of cultural identity and heritage as well as economic impoverishment (Baviskar, 1995).

The report of Lok Sabha Secretariat says that between 60 and 65 million people are estimated to have been displaced in India since Independence, the highest number of people uprooted for development projects in the world. In India, “This amounts to around one million displaced every year since Independence,” says a report released in 2012 by the UN Working Group on Human Rights in India (WGHR). Of those displaced, over 40 per cent are tribals and another 40 per cent consist of dalits and other rural poor (Lok Sabha Secretariat 2013).

A majority of the displaced people have not been properly resettled or given adequate compensation. For instance, in India 75 percent of displaced people have not been “rehabilitated” (Fernandes, W, 1991; Fernandes, Walter & Thukral. 1989; Jaiswal, Jaiswal, 2013). Their livelihoods have not been restored; in fact, the vast majority of development resettlers in India have become impoverished (Mahapatra, 1999). Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R hereafter) policies have been unable to avoid the impoverishment of the displaced population and restore the previous level of well-being (Cernea and Mathur, 2008).

Due to large development projects in tribal areas, millions of tribal people have been uprooted from their lands and homes. Thus, affected people face a broad range of impoverishment risks (Cernea, 2000). Currently there are 26 major, medium and minor dams in irrigation sectors in Andhra Pradesh that are under construction on the river basins of Krishna, Godavari, Penna and other minor basins spread over the districts of Andhra Pradesh. Among them Indira Sagar Project (Polavaram) is a major multipurpose project under construction where the magnitude of displacement of tribal population is very high. Set against this background, the present study has made an attempt to find out the impact of involuntary displacement and rehabilitation of Indira Sagar Project (Polavaram) on the tribal community in Andhra Pradesh. With this backdrop, the study is aimed at understanding the issues pertaining to compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement of large-scale dams in Andhra Pradesh.

## **ISSUES RELATED TO INVOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT IN INDIA**

Since independence of India, there has been a sustained effort to develop the infrastructure through major industrial, power generation and water management projects. Projects of

such large scale were not established during the British colonial regime. However soon after independence, free India was in a hurry to make the shortfall in development to catch up the advanced countries of the world (Jaiswal, 2013; Mahapatra, 1994).

Modern development is associated with big projects requiring huge areas of land, such as dams, airports, extraction of minerals, industrial plants, and housing. Since huge chunks of vacant land at a particular location are available in rural areas only, though already under productive use by and large, it is the people in rural areas subsisting on these lands who bear the brunt of acquisition for them (Ramesh S Mangalekar 2013).

In recent decades, however, a “new development paradigm” has been articulated, one that promotes poverty reduction, environmental protection, social justice, and human rights. In this paradigm, development is seen as both bringing benefits and imposing costs. Among its greatest costs has been the involuntary displacement of millions of vulnerable people (Robinson W.C, 2003). Not only is development-induced displacement a widespread, and growing, phenomenon, but evidence suggests that while the beneficiaries of development are numerous, the costs are being borne disproportionately by the poorest and most marginalized populations. The long-term result of many development projects is land, air and water pollution in the surrounding areas, exposing many people to health risks and the threat of poverty. The indirect result of the negative consequences of development projects is therefore forced migration associated with deteriorating living conditions (Bogumil, 2013; Jaiswal, 2012).

Displacement constitutes a major human problem in India. It dislocates people from their home, land, and environment and has traumatic consequences for their lives (Saxena K. B, 2013). The building of large multi-purpose river valley projects and large-scale industries have ushered the path of infrastructural development in post-independent India as euphoria of sacrifice for the building of a newly-born nation. But, all these mega-projects have left an imprint of untold misery upon a section of population through displacement which has resulted in loss of land, home, livelihood and many more. Out of various projects, dams rank as the topmost displacing agent in India.

One of the consequences of displacement is the loss of livelihood, and this hurts people the most. Often, displacement forces the affected people to change over to altogether new ways of making a living. This happens partly due to the lack of income generation opportunities at the relocation. Moreover not all people who give up their land for development projects can hope to own land again. Jobs too are scarce, and the movement of people to distant locations, especially those from urban areas, seldom gets them back the kind of jobs that they were doing before (Jaiswal, 2004; Mathur, 2006).

Development is not the only cause of population displacement; Political upheavals, ethnic strife and wars often lead to massive flows of displaced people commonly described as refugees. Natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods may require resettlement of large numbers as well. Mathur, (1995) overviewed that displacement arising from development projects affects entire communities, but for poorer groups the effects of displacement are particularly traumatic. This, however, cannot entirely be blamed on development as some critics of the development process tend to suggest. It is mostly inadequacies in the planning of resettlement which tends to overlook concerns of the poor that accounts for its unsatisfactory performance.

To understand the displaced persons' problems in international society, the UN appointed a committee in 1992. The newly appointed representative of Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons was mandated to study the following:

- the causes and consequences of internal displacement,
- the status of the internally displaced in international law,
- the extent to which their needs were being addressed under current institutional arrangements, and
- ways to improve protection and assistance for them.

The representative committee, headed by Francis M. Deng, has framed Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement based on and consistent with international human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee law by analogy (Robert K. Goldman, 2009). The Guiding Principles are framed with 30 principles addressing the Internal Displaced Persons' problems and specific needs worldwide (UN, OCHA).

The Guiding Principles defines internally displaced persons as *“not only those displaced by armed conflict, situations of generalized violence and violations of human rights but also includes populations displaced by natural or human-made disasters and also those, by implication, who are arbitrarily displaced by large-scale development projects that are not justified by compelling and overriding public interests”*.

Displacement is of three types:

- Disaster-induced displacement,
- Development-induced displacement and,
- Conflict-induced displacement

At one end, in the context of disaster-induced displacement, states generally are not only willing but interested in seeking outside aid and attention for victims of floods, famines, earthquakes and the like. At the opposite end of the spectrum, when conflict-induced

displacement takes place, states tend to be quite restrictive or at least highly selective about who is to gain access to which displaced populations and for what purpose. And Development-induced displacement occupies a middle ground.

Development-induced displacement: involuntary or forced displacement population is always crisis-prone, even when necessary as part of broad and beneficial development programs. It is a profound socio-economic and cultural disruption for those affected. Dislocation breaks up living patterns and social continuity. It damages existing modes of production, disrupts social networks, causes the impoverishment of many of those uprooted, threatens their cultural identity, and increases the risks of epidemics and health problems (Jaiswal, 2012; Robinson, 2003).

In a developing country like India establishing river dams, large industries, mining projects, scientific research and defense centres are in the larger interest of the nation. These establishments are today's most controversial socio-cultural and environmental issues creating many problems such as social disorganizations, rehabilitation of the displaced population, loss of forests increased pressure on agricultural land and so on. The displacement population from their traditional habitat and the consequent exposure to new cultural milieu has created many problems for both the affected population and the administration (Reddy P.S., 1989).

**Table 1: Displacement of People and Submergence of Lands by Irrigation and Hydel Projects in India**

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>No. of Villages affected</i>	<i>No. of Families displaced</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>	<i>Total land submerged (ha.)</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Balimela	89	1907	7382	5272
2	Bhakra			36000	16629
3	Bhopalapatnam-Inchanpalli	200		75000	172000
4	Chaskaman	25	5000	15000	
5	Deolong			127000	51648
6	Dhom	29		17784	2050
7	Hirakud	249	1636	20000	
8	Jayakwadi			65300	39833
9	Kadana		65300	17722	
10	Koyna	100	30000	11555	
11	Lalpur	22	11346	4300	
12	Machkund	225	2406	9109	
13	Mahi	121	6795	35000	

*contd. table 1*

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>No. of Villages affected</i>	<i>No. of Families displaced</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>	<i>Total land submerged (ha.)</i>
14	Maheswar	58		9420	4856
15	Nagarjunasagar		28000	28480	
16	Narmada Sagar	254	129000	91348	
17	Omkareswar	27	12295	9393	
18	Panchet		10000	15327	
19	Pong		80000	30364	
20	Rengali	164	10000	60000	42877
21	Rihand	700	100000		
22	Salia	15	278	1416	1134
23	Sardar Sarovar	237	10758	200000	34867
24	Srisaillam	100	20728	100000	43289
25	Tawa			38600	20236
26	Tehri	95		70000	19600
27	Tungabadra	90	11684	54454	34936
28	Ukai	170		52000	
29	Upper Kolab	147	3067	9000	32163
	Total	3117	540200	1210954	521390

*Sources:* Reddy (1993); Fernandes & Thukral (1989)

No precise data exists on the number of persons affected by development-induced displacement throughout the world. Fernandes, Walter (2013) has pointed that proper database on dislocated population in India is also not maintained by the Government and India. For an indication of magnitude of displacement, most of the scholars, policy-makers, and activists rely on the World Bank Environment Department's (WBED) data. The Indian Institute of Public Administration estimates that the average numbers of persons displaced by a large dam are 44,182.73. Among the best known and most controversial cases of development-induced displacement in India is that of the Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada River.

### **Large Scale Dam Building in Andhra Pradesh and issues pertaining to compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement**

The magnitude of displacement is very high in Andhra Pradesh as well. Several development projects, unlike in most other states in India, were initiated in the erstwhile Nizam State (Mohan Krishna, 2004; Jaiswal, 2007). Nawab Ali Jung Bahadur formed an irrigation development department in 1886 to combat the problems of floods and famines. By 1925,

the department provided irrigation to about 7,000 acres through minor irrigation works besides launching an intensive drive to construct large and medium dams. Two major irrigation projects, viz., *Nizam Sagar* and *Tungabhadra* were initiated during pre-state formation under the regimes of Nizam and the British respectively.

*Nizam Sagar* project (on river *Manjira* a tributary of river *Godavari*) was constructed during the period 1923-31 by the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad, in *Banswada* taluk of *Nizamabad* district. At the time of conception and execution, it was not only the largest in the state but also one of the biggest projects in India. It was intended to irrigate 2,75,000 acres serving 326 villages spread over four taluks in *Nizamabad* district. The construction of the dam and the creation of the reservoir affected 40 villages in two taluks, viz., *Yellareddy* and *Andole*. A total of 5,037 houses in these villages got submerged. In addition, lands to the extent of 20,140 acres were acquired. In all 35,274 acres of land, including 15,135 acres of crown waste was inundated.

*Tungabhadra* project was an inter-state project actually proposed by the then *Madras* government to the Indian irrigation commission 1901-03. The project was delayed by 50 years of prolonged negotiations for sharing water between the two states, and due to long delay in project design, the notification for land acquisition was issued by the then government of *Madras* in 1941; and *Hyderabad* government did so in 1945. Three districts, *Bellary*, *Raichur*, and *Dharwar*, were affected by this project. 37 villages were submerged in *Hyderabad* State. The number of families and persons affected in these 37 villages stood at 5,225 and 30,000 respectively.

*Nagarjuna Sagar* project was launched in 1955 as a joint project between *Andhra* and *Hyderabad* States, and was completed in the mid-1960s. The dam affected 57 villages in two districts, viz., *Nalgonda* and *Guntur*. In all 25,000 people, comprising 5,098 families, were displaced. Most of them belonged to the tribal communities, viz., *lambada* and *chenchu*. About 2,05,948 acres of land was acquired for the project. *Yeleru* Reservoir project resulted in submergence of 10 villages, some of them partly and some fully in mandals. A total number of 2,326 families from eight villages were affected due to submergence. Some of the project affected families refused to move to the sites allotted to them because their new sites were located adjacent to the burial ground. Some of the families could not get relocated until the project took off as they did not want to leave their lands. As a result they dispersed to the nearest places when submergence occurred rather than to the places they were allotted.

*Sri Ram Sagar* is a major irrigation project meant to serve six districts of *Telangana* region of the State. The project was proposed to irrigate a total area of 16.109 lakh acres in stage-I and 8.930 lakh acres in stage-II. However, more than three decades after the

completion of the reservoir, it is only providing irrigation for about 5 lakh acres. As many as 91 villages of two districts, *Nizamabad* and *Adilabad*, were affected due to the main project dam. In addition, 26 villages were affected under the balancing lower *Maner* dam reservoir. In all, 117 villages with 47,599 families were affected. An area of 1,52,493 acres had been acquired for the reservoir construction. *Yeleswaram* dam was built in the 1980s for serving *Vizag* steel plant with water through a dedicated canal. This water supply, due partly to losses from the canal, has proven to be not enough, and the plant can now draw water from the Godavari via the *Kaniti* balancing reservoir.

Surampalem and Kovvada are the two medium irrigation projects that have just been completed. The displacement here was of five and two tribal villages respectively where the locals had to struggle to finally receive a rehabilitation package from the government. *Kovvada* is in *West Godavari* district about 10 km off from the *Polavaram* site. *Tadipudi* and *Pushkaram* are the two lift irrigation projects where work has recently been started downstream from the proposed *Polavaram* site. *Bhupathipalem* is a medium irrigation reservoir coming up very close to the *Surampalem* dam site.

There are 185 numbers of large dams under Major, Medium & Minor Irrigation sectors in the State of Andhra Pradesh that are constructed in the river sub-basins of *Krishna*, *Godavari*, *Penna* and other minor basins spread over the districts of AP. The Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2004 it embarked on a *Jala Yagnam*, water prayer, campaign to construct as many irrigation facilities as possible for the struggling farmers during its five-year term in power. Construction of irrigation projects is taken up on a massive scale in Andhra Pradesh (Roy, Arundhati, 1999). Twenty six major and medium irrigation projects are taken up for execution. Out of this, 8 projects are programmed to be completed within 2 years and the balance 18 projects within 5 years. In addition to these 26 projects, it is proposed to construct several other major irrigation projects like *Polavaram*, *Pranabitha* and *Chevella*.

People displaced by canals have not historically been considered as Project-Affected People (PAP) in any dam project in Andhra Pradesh. Most importantly, around 60 percent of these dispossessed people are tribals and dalits who constitute about 8 and 15 per cent respectively of the total population in India. It is even pointed that India's poorest people subsidize the life style of her affluent citizens (Roy, Arundhati, 1999). For instance, in the case of Srisailam Project in Andhra Pradesh, 80 percent of the displaced families belonged to Scheduled and other Backward Castes, and 75 percent of whom did not possess any land at all (Barnabas, A.P 1985). In Madhya Pradesh alone, about 36,200 ha of land have been taken away from the tribals for the implementation of various projects.



A report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Tribes reveals that about 119 large irrigation and hydro-electric projects, implemented in various parts of the country up to 1987, had displaced about 16.94 lakh people. Of them about a half (8.14 lakhs) are tribals (Rai, Usha 1987). The Working Group on the Development of Tribes has estimated that almost every development project has displaced tribals and their proportion among the uprooted ranged from 52 percent to 100 percent (Reddy, 1993). Resettlement and rehabilitation report of Polavaram dam was carried out in 1996 by Reddy N. S (CESS, 1996). The Indira Sagar Project is a major multipurpose irrigation project which is under construction across the Godavari River at *Ramaiahpet* village in Polavaram Mandal, West Godavari district. The project will affect 276 villages of which 259 villages are in Andhra Pradesh, 10 in Chhattisgarh and 7 in Orissa. The project is displacing 2, 00,000 people belong to Scheduled Tribes and submerging 37,743 ha of land of forests, farmland, and wasteland. The livelihoods and habitation of many tribal and poor people are likely to be at risk.

A combined study done by Patrik Osskarsson and Samata NGO (2005) stated that Polavaram Multi-Purpose Project - A 25 year old “solution” for all water problems in northern Andhra Pradesh returns to haunt tribal communities. Polavaram is at present another disaster waiting to happen for tribal people in India like other mega projects have a history of costing mega amounts, get delayed enormously and cause especially the poorest communities dearly in terms of displacement. Sardar Sarovar and Indira Sagar on the Narmada River, Teesta in West Bengal, Tehri in Uttar Pradesh and Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh are only a few of the major dams that have created controversy over the last decades. And now the days of this type of project appeared. It has mentioned that there can be no doubt that farmers in many parts of Andhra Pradesh have faced severe difficulties over the last years but it is doubtful whether this translates into a need for rushing through an ill-planned, extremely expensive dam at Polavaram that will displace thousands.

Stewart and Rukmini (2006) mentioned in their study ‘India’s Dam Shame: Why Polavaram must not be built’ that large dams have not helped India. Large dams contributed less than 10 per cent to provide food security and large dams are costly ‘white elephants’ with a history of cost overruns, non-completion and low potentiality. The Polavaram dam is economically unviable and affects adversely on Andhra Pradesh budget for many years, the benefits of dam will be to limited population but the dam will take resources from other vitally needed infrastructure.

Biksham Gujja, S. Ramakrishna et al (2006) brought a book comprising a set of useful debates by eminent scholars, activists and academicians. They write: the debate is not on

whether to build the dams or not, but on whether to build projects that benefit people without imposing unacceptably high costs for proper rehabilitation of displaced people and degradation of our ecosystem. Controversies around major water infrastructure projects are not new in India, Polavaram being no exception. As river disputes in India are bound to take centre stage of national politics, and environmental issues are set to dominate public agenda in coming years, Polavaram project is also engaging the attention of common man and intellectuals / activists. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has considered the perspectives in this book contributed by eminent people for making policy guidelines in implementation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

As a measure to make up for the injustice suffered by the ST in the form of land alienation and forest eviction, the former tribal land (including the land expropriated for the Polavaram project) belongs today to the Fifth Schedule Area and its administration and control is regulated by the Indian Constitution as a form of special protection for tribal people. The AP Government throughout the decades has reinforced this measure with a stringent legislation prohibiting alienation of tribal land to non-tribals: according to the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Area Land Transfer Regulation of 1959 (as amended by regulation 1 of 1970) in the Fifth Schedule Area non-tribals are prohibited to purchase land from tribals but also from non-tribals. The presumption is that all land in the scheduled area originally belonged to the scheduled tribes (Balagopal, 2007).

According to Chiara Mariotti (2009) displacement is a process of adverse incorporation, which is embedded in power relations. It implies an unequal redistribution of costs and benefits and deprives people of the basis of their livelihood. She suggests that compensation and R&R programmes fail because they fail to acknowledge these features of displacement. This shortcoming implies neglecting the dynamic consequences of displacement and therefore the inability to prevent the impoverishment of the affected population. The people who will be displaced by the Polavaram project will be deprived of the main sources of their livelihood, that is land and forest. The Polavaram R&R package attempts to restore social justice granting land compensation only to tribal people and cash compensation to non-ST families.

However the package is altogether likely to obtain the opposite outcome, deepening inequalities and divisions: because the land allotted is of low quality and need substantial investment to become productive, because the redistribution of property rights will lead to the creation of new non-ST landless families, because the price paid for cash compensation is too low and therefore unfair. So, because of power relations, unequal redistribution of costs and benefits and deprivation of the sources of livelihood, displacement has negative

dynamic consequences which cannot be addressed with the sole restitution of the lost assets, but so far have been ignored by the R&R package. Indeed, as a consequence of the loss of land, people lose a source of income and consumption and a form of informal insurance/buffer stock in case of shocks.

Activist Medha Patkar has visited the Polavaram Project area and interacted with the tribals of the project area and demanded that more pro-farmer policies be introduced to promote organic farming and water harvesting (The Hindu, 2005). She also said that The NAPM Organization would take up mass movements to pressurize the Government into forming gram sabhas (The Times of India, 2012). With the regard to the Polavaram Project, she made a statement that “People of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have been cheated by the Government”. Narendra Bondla, D.J and Sudhakar Rao (2010) in their study extensively discussed about the protests against the Polavaram dam. The study also finds out that participation or involvement of people in the construction of dam was lacking.

Umamaheswari (2015) has discussed the general deplorable condition of Koya and Konda Reddis and the victimization they are subjected to post the construction of the dam. She brings out the uncertainty the communities are going through interviews. She says that officials are showing a very callous attitude towards the tribals. Many of the tribals strongly voiced out that they ought to be considered martyrs and should be treated with equal respect because of their sufferings. One Koya man remarks, “It took us so long to send our children to schools and live as we are today. And now, the Government wants us to move? Where do we go now, a hundred years back?” The anger and anguish of the tribal man, leaves us with many questions answered.

Klara Feldes (2017), in her study *Imaginaries of Development: A Case Study of the Polavaram Dam Project*, discussed that the affected communities lose fertile land and their main source of livelihood, and they receive limited compensation in return. From living a rather independent life based on subsistence agriculture, they are being forced to integrate into a job market of day labourers. The promises of development made are therefore promises that may reap benefits for some sections of society, in this case most likely citizens of larger cities who will eventually benefit from an increased water supply, and large scale farmers who will benefit from improved irrigation.

The major issues facing tribal communities today is the continuing process of displacement. The tribals of Andhra Pradesh have been the disproportionate victims of displacement due to so called development projects such as setting up of industrial projects, construction of dams, and mining. Development projects in Andhra Pradesh are emerging as new sources of displacement in the scheduled areas. Because of development projects as

well as process of displacement many tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh are uprooted from their land resources. The previous record of AP governments on resettlement and rehabilitation is appalling. Various case studies show a progression from quite decent treatment of displacees by the *Nizam* State, with policies ensuring they shared in the benefits of dam projects, to a significant dilution of benefits. From the 1980s resettlement and rehabilitation in AP was typified by inaction and confusion or, perhaps charitably, by relative neglect – with a minority of people receiving some compensation but never enough.

Currently there are 26 major, medium and minor dams in irrigation sectors in Andhra Pradesh that are under construction on the river basins of Krishna, Godavari, Penna and other minor basins spread over the districts of Andhra Pradesh. Among them Indira Sagar Project (Polavaram) is a major multipurpose project under construction where the magnitude of displacement of tribal population is very high. The Indira Sagar (known as Polavaram) project is a major ongoing multipurpose irrigation project constructing on Godavari River, close to Ramayyapeta village of Polavaram mandal in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. The Indira Sagar Project is the most awaited major irrigation project for many decades. Most Central and state-based political parties have given priority to construction of this project across the Godavari River. The construction of Indira Sagar dam is a political and controversial issue involving political parties, civil society organizations, independent researchers and NGOs. Though, many people are agitating against it and there is much opposition but finally work on the project has gained momentum in the year 2004. The Andhra Pradesh State Re-organization Act, 2014 declared the project as a national project in March 2014 (Government of India, 2014).

According to the assessment report of Reddy, N.S (1996), total 276 villages are affected by the project housing 1, 77,275 people consisting 44,574 households. The project involves submerging 28,336 cattle sheds, 69,255 productive trees. Of these project-affected people, 47% are scheduled tribes and 14.4% are scheduled castes. And the IEA, 2005 mentioned based on the information extrapolated from the 2001 Census of India, total affected population is 1,70,000. Of the total, scheduled tribes (47%) and scheduled castes (14.4%) and the total affected villages are 157. It is reported that over 276 villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh are likely to be submerged. In Odisha 10 villages and in Chhattisgarh 7 villages are going to be submerged. The total submerging villages in this project are 293 (Reddy, N.S, 1996). According to a study by Agricultural Finance Corporation Limited based on the 2001 Census, a total of 2,36,834 people are affected by the project, of which the male constitute 1,17,321 and the female 1,19,513. Among them, 53.17 per are tribals. Tribals and dalits together account for 65.75 per cent of the displaced population.

A pilot study conducted in few villages of East and West Godavari Districts to understand the issues and concerns of compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement of Polavaram Project. And the displaced people responded that there was delay in payment of compensation. At time of acquisition of land they committed to complete the compensation package as early as possible but till today, some of the villagers have not received the package. Most of the displaced people reported that they faced many problems at the rehabilitation centres. The agricultural lands were not provided nearer their location. Overall officials did not properly implement the rehabilitation and resettlement policy in the study village.

## CONCLUSION

The Indira Sagar Project (Polavaram) brings misery to more than 2.0 lakh people, by submerging and displacing 276 villages - predominantly tribal villages in an area of about one lakh acres including forest land. The displaced will be forced to become migrant labourers and urban slum dwellers to which they will not be able to adjust in their lifetime. The situation thus would lead to many social and political conflicts. According to the latest estimates, the number of villages to go under submergence now is 276 from AP, 13 from Chhattisgarh and 10 from Odisha. The number of affected families also has gone up to 27,798 from AP, 1,372 from Chhattisgarh and 814 from Orissa.

The people likely to be affected by the submergence, mostly tribal people, have not been informed about details of the project since the executive summary of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report has not been made available to them in their local language. They are also not aware of the rehabilitation packages being offered, and in short the State administration has totally failed to make the affected people in remote villages understand the implications of the project. The people are by and large kept in dark about the project.

The Indiar Sagar (Polavaram) Project EIA is based on outdated studies as the report was prepared in 1985. It then expected 150,697 people to be displaced from 226 villages. Since then the population has grown considerably. The data contained in executive summary of EIA regarding number of villages and population to be displaced does not tally with 2001 census figures and is far from ground realities. Further investigations are needed. As the present EIA is not comprehensive and contains inadequate or misleading data, the authenticity of the report is questionable and needs to be put to a thorough scrutiny.

Serious implications of Indira Sagar (Polavaram) Dam is that the dam submerging 276 villages, over 2 lakhs people including villages in Orissa and Chhattisgarh, mostly adivasi population, human rights violations, public hearing violations, EIA violations, no proper

R&R plan, Submergence of deposits of chromites, graphite, iron ore and coal-bearing area, 3 705 ha Forest land under submergence, submergence of parts of Papi Hills WLS, environmental clearance under suspicious circumstance and environmental clearance without forest clearance. Issues related to social, economic and cultural aspects of the lives of local inhabitants are important to understand the social relationship and their dependence on the local resources that may be impacted, positively or negatively, due to the project construction and operation. Hence, a detailed research and social impact assessment is necessary.

Several issues and concerns of the project displaced families were noticed from the above studies. The Government must take necessary actions to address those problems of displaced population immediately and further, the Government should enhance the monitoring mechanism to fulfill lacuna in implementation of R&R policy in the project-affected area. Due to improper implementation of the policy, the affected population especially tribes are not fully compensated. Many households in the above displaced villages were not paid any compensation because they were not included in the award list. Similar issues were also noticed in the many affected villages. Therefore, the Government should ensure that the every affected person should get R&R benefits without fail.

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