

A STUDY ON HOW SOCIAL EQUITY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS LEADS TO FINANCIAL EQUITY

Desi Priya V¹, Mrs. Annapoorni. M²
Research scholar, Associate Professor,
Department of Commerce
Ethiraj College for Women, Autonomous

ABSTRACT

The concept of Internal Displacement helps us to understand how people become refugees of their own land. Unlike refugees who crossover international boundaries, the internally displaced persons are persons who are uprooted in their own homeland. The UN Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons describes Internally Displaced Persons as “persons or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effect of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border”. There are many countries across the world who have a huge population of Internally Displaced Persons; India is also not an exception to it. This study focuses on how social equity of Internally Displaced Persons leads to financial equity. The objective of this paper is to examine the relief activities taken up by various organizations and to examine the facilities relating to education provided to their children after Internal Displacement. This study uses both primary and secondary data to collect information about Internally Displaced Persons. A structured questionnaire focusing on the Internally Displaced Persons families and the role of various organizations is used.

INTRODUCTION:

One of the key characteristics of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is that they do not leave their homes out of intention but out of circumstances that force them to leave their place and shift to other safer areas within the country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), describes internally displaced persons as “probably the largest group of vulnerable people in the world”. The reasons for displacement are several. It can be due to development projects. Under the pretext of construction of better infrastructure, villages or towns are “relocated”, leading to internal displacement of people. Then, there are conflict – induced IDPs, who are forced to leave as their security and rights as citizens are jeopardized. There can be different types of conflicts, forcing people to flee. Some of these could be between tribes or

between communities as during communal riots. While it is possible to anticipate development induced displacement, and magnitude can be measured, conflict induced displacement is sudden, often bloody, having larger social and cultural implications for a nation or a region. It goes without saying that the worst affected in any kind of displacement are women and children. Their voices are unheard who sacrifice their peace, joy and lives for the development of the society. Another reason for displacement is due to natural disaster such as floods, tsunamis, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes etc. leads to temporary or permanent displacement of population from that area.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

OJO S. Stephen and FANTO N. Shendam (2017) conducted a study on Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Peace Building Process (A study of Barkin Ladi Local Government Council of Plateau State). The findings of the study were the IDPs go through numerous challenges, from shortage of food supply, poor sanitation and health care to lack of security and the prevalence of rape and abuses in the camp because of lack of commitment on stakeholder's part. **Habu Haruna, Gwary Mary, Emmanuel Okechukuru Chukuru, Inuwa Ahmadu, Dathini Hamina, Maigari Babaji, Lola Nelson and Alih Fred Innocent** (2017), conducted a study on Assessment of Psychosocial effects of Insurgency among IDPs in Wulari Camp, Maiduguri. The findings of the study were the psychological effect of insurgency exist in Nigeria, social effects with respect to getting children back to school and factor responsible for insurgency was promoting religious differences among the people of Nigeria. **Malinowski R.L.et.al** (2016) conducted a study on Displacement, Violence and Vulnerability: Trafficking among IDPs in Kenya. The findings of the study was the IDPs are more vulnerable to trafficking than the hosting local population and their vulnerability varies across different categories. **Elijah Mironga Getanda, Chris Papadopolus and Hala Evans** (2015), conducted a study on the mental health, quality of life and life satisfaction of IDPs living in Nakuru County, Kenya. The findings of the study were there exist poor levels of mental health, quality of life and life satisfaction. Older, widowed IDPs and those who did not perceive support from friends or the government found to be at the highest risk of poor health and well-being. **B. Roberts** (2008) conducted a study on Factors associated with the health status of Internally Displaced Persons. The findings of the study were the impact of deprivation of basic goods and services, traumatic events, fear and uncertainty had an overall physical and mental health amongst Internally Displaced Persons and evidences for greater assistance and protection of IDPs in North Uganda.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

The purpose of the study is to seek the attention of the society towards these Internally Displaced Persons and to understand whether social equity of Internally Displaced Persons leads to financial equity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To examine the relief activities taken up by various organizations
- To examine the facilities relating to education provided to their children after displacement.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A structured questionnaire used to collect primary data. Sample size consist of 31 respondents based on simple random sampling technique.

LIMITATIONS:

This study has a number of limitations. Sample size is limited. The period of study is also short. It focuses only on two aspects of the IDPs need. The geographical area covered for this study is limited.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:**TABLE: 1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

S.No.	Gender	Percentage	S.No.	Age	Percentage
1.	Male	90	1.	18 – 25	35
2.	Female	10	2.	25 – 35	45
			3.	35 – 45	13
			4.	45 – 55	7
			5.	Above 55	Nil
S.No.	Family size	Percentage	S.No.	Educational qualification	Percentage
1.	3 members	55	1.	Primary school	Nil
2.	4 members	42	2.	Middle school	Nil
3.	5 members	Nil	3.	High school	6
4.	6 members	3	4.	Graduation	58
5.	7 members	Nil	5.	Post-graduation	36

The above table shows that 90% of the respondents are male, 45% belongs to the age group of 25 – 35 years. 55% of respondents having a family size of 3 members and 58% are graduates.

TABLE: 2

S.No.	Time duration at this current location	Percentage
1.	> 6 months	3
2.	6 months to 1 year	19
3.	1 year to 2 years	39
4.	2 years to 5 years	29
5.	5 years to 10 years	10
6.	More than 10 years	Nil
S.No.	Distance between both the places	Percentage
1.	>10 km	Nil
2.	10 km to 50 km	23
3.	50 km to 100 km	55
4.	100 km and above	22

The above table shows that 39% of the respondents are living in the current location for a period of one year to two years and 55% of the respondents state that the distance between their original place of residence and present place of residence varies from 50 km to 100 km.

TABLE: 3 REASONS FOR DISPLACEMENT

S.No.	Reasons / causes	Percentage
1.	Construction of flyovers, bridges, roads etc.	6
2.	Construction of MNCs	10
3.	Construction of Government Undertaking	23
4.	Clearance of water bank areas	29
5.	Natural disaster	32
S.No.	Left original place	Percentage
1.	Days	3
2.	Months	23
3.	Years	74
S.No.	Location of original residence	Percentage
1.	Village	19
2.	Town	81

The above table shows that majority of the respondents (32%) was displaced due to natural disaster, 74% of them have left their original residence for many years and 81% of respondents are urban people.

TABLE: 4 RELIEF, DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN

S.No.	Shifted accommodation	Percentage
1.	Temporary relief camp	6
2.	School building	29
3.	Tents	6
4.	Community buildings	23
5.	Built settlements	10
6.	Religious place	16
7.	Any other	10
S.No.	Temporary cards issued at new location	Percentage
1.	PDS cards	3
2.	Health cards	42
3.	Job cards	19
4.	Voter cards	16
5.	Camp cards	13
6.	Any other	7
S.No.	Re – issue of lost documents – Government	Percentage
1.	Yes	29
2.	No	71

The above table shows that 29% of the respondents were shifted to school building from their original place of residence, 42% of them received health cards when they shifted to new location and 71% have stated that Government did not re – issue their lost documents.

TABLE: 5 RELIEF ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS

S.No.	Organizations	Relief items provided	Percentage
1.	Government Organizations	Clean drinking water	25.8
		Shelter	25.8
		Medicines	25.8
		Clothes	25.8
		Vessels	6.5

2.	Religious Organizations	Napkins	19.4
		Sanitation	3.2
		Medicines	3.2
3.	NGO	Grocery	6.5
		Cooked food	6.5
		Clean drinking water	3.2
		Sanitation	3.2
		Vessels	3.2
		Medicines	3.2
		Clothes	3.2
		Tents	3.2
4.	Other Organizations	Clothes	6.5
		Cooked food	3.2

The above table shows that Government Organizations have contributed majority of the relief items to the displaced persons (i.e. 25.8% of clean drinking water, shelter, medicines and clothes), with reference to article documented by Centre for Social Justice released by Dr.Syeda Hameed have quoted that displaced persons expect relief items from the Government and it must be transparent. This study shows that Government have heard the voices of these displaced persons. Then the relief items provided by various organizations were i)religious organizations provided napkins, sanitation and medicines, ii)NGOs provided grocery, cooked food, clean drinking water, sanitation, vessels, medicines, clothes and tents and iii)other organizations provided clothes and cooked food to these displaced persons.

TABLE: 6 EDUCATION AFTER DISPLACEMENT

S.No.	Children dropping out of school because of shifting	Percentage
1.	Yes	35
2.	No	65
S.No.	Children received scholarship	Percentage
1.	Yes	35
2.	No	65
S.No.	Schools in new location	Percentage
1.	Yes	42
2.	No	58
S.No.	Children comfortability with new teacher and children	Percentage

1.	Yes	35
2.	No	65

The above table shows that 65% of the respondents agrees that their children did not drop out of school because of shifting. However, their children did not receive scholarship to continue their education in the new location, 58% of the respondents stated that the facilities in the provided school is not sufficient so children need to travel far off places and 65% of the respondents agrees that their children were not able to mingle with teachers and children of the new school.

CONCLUSION:

This study concludes that Government has provided majority of relief items to these displaced persons followed by Religious Organizations. Therefore, this shows that the Government has taken some steps to fulfill the needs of these people. However, with respect to development induced displacement Government should first consider individual rights and then only development of the society. The individual have created the society to live peacefully and not to ruin the lives of one group for the lives of other. In addition, this study concludes that because of displacement, children of these displaced persons have not dropped out of school but they face certain difficulties with respect to receiving scholarship, they have to travel to far off places to get basic education and comfort level with new teachers and classmates. Therefore, this shows the interest of the parents and children of these displaced persons towards education. Government should take necessary steps to provide facilities in the schools located near their residence so that everyone can taste the fruit of knowledge because growth of India is in the hands of younger generation.

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