



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DISPLACEMENT – A CASE STUDY OF  
HOUSEHOLDS RESIDING IN THE HOUSING COMPLEX  
VIVEKANANDA ABASAN, AGARTALA**

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**Abstract**

It is well known development does not benefit everyone equally and for some indeed, for millions of people around the world-development has cost them their homes their livelihood, their health and even their lives. This present work attempt to enquire about the impact on the households residing in the housing complex Vivekananda Abasan constructed under JNURM to relocate the dwellers from unauthorized Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony situated on government land (khas land) beside Agartala Medical College premises and from other such areas under Agartala Municipal Corporation. It investigates for the impact of displacement on the living condition of the dwellers and comes up with the findings that rehabilitation has improved living condition and income many other benefits of people although consumption expenditure has increased.

**INTRODUCTION**

As it is well known development does not benefit everyone equally and for some indeed, for millions of people around the world-development has cost them their homes their livelihood, their health and even their lives. While initiatives of economic development create enormous benefits for the society they also impose costs, which are often borne by

its poorest and most marginalized members. Large numbers of persons are forcibly displaced by development projects like dams, construction of roads, setting up of factories and many such ventures.

According to UN guiding principles on Internal Displacement 'Internally displaced persons are persons or groups 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 effects 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' (UN, 2004). Although internally displaced persons are often defined as those uprooted by conflict, natural or human made, they also include those displaced by development projects.

In regard to population displacement resulting from development there are typically two types: direct displacement, which leads to actual displacement of people from their locations and indirect displacement, which leads to a loss of livelihood. Forced to leave the home region to which they are attached and for which they have the knowledge to make a living most effectively, displaced populations often become impoverished. The displacement of people as a result of development projects, policies and processes therefore constitutes a social cost for development.

In towns and cities people live in informal and slum settlements. Overcrowding, use of space and amenities for living that should be available for education or recreation, for example, and uncontrolled urban sprawl are a drain and a burden on the ability of a city and its residents to see that conditions improve or at least do not deteriorate. These people in a city or town may not only generate problems for the city but also jeopardise its ability to plan for its future. The agenda for urban development should ensure proper housing facilities for the slum dwellers. The policy and programmes of recent years show a shift from the earlier emphasis of 'slum free cities'. In majority of the slums it has been found that attempts for relocation of slums would have adverse economic consequences. Further relocation of slums to outskirts of the city would lead to taking these slum dwellers far away from their place of working thus further worsening the welfare of the slum dwellers. Keeping this in mind, focus has been put on construction of housing and development of infrastructure facilities at the present location of the slums. Jawaharlal

Nation Urban Renewal Mission for the basic Services to the Urban Poor is perhaps the first major positive approach to addressing the issues related to urban poverty and slums.

### **SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

This work is an attempt to enquire about the impact on the households residing in the housing complex Vivekananda Abasan constructed under JNURM to relocate the dwellers from unauthorized Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony situated on government land (khas land) beside Agartala Medical College premises and from other such areas under Agartala Municipal Corporation. The immediate need for vacating the space and eviction of the dwellers from the Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony arose for securing the area for AGMC and G.B.Hospital. The transformation of the G.B. Hospital in to the first and only government medical college in the state has been a landmark in the educational scenario. While it required eviction of the unauthorized dwellers, the JNURM offered a scope to provide relief to the affected families. The households were offered ownership accommodation in a housing complex constructed within a distance of two kilometre of the colony, in lieu of payment of a small sum of Rs 200 in monthly instalments. However, there was lot of resistance to the relocation effort and even after completion of the construction, many refused to move. Some of the people still continue to live in the Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony and are demanding land ownership at any location. This situation offered a scope to study the issues involved and to examine whether the living conditions of the dwellers in Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony improved or not.

### **OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY**

The broad objective is to study the impact of relocation in terms of socio-economic factors. The research questions in particular are as follows:

- i) Whether living conditions have improved in terms of availability of drinking water, electricity, drainage and sanitation?
- ii) Whether there is any change in any economic condition in respect to income, asset and ownership?

Personal interviews on the basis of structured questionnaire were conducted for gathering information with respect to the above quarries. One member from each of the households

staying in the Vivekananda Abasan was interviewed. In all 111 persons were interviewed. Recall method was used to compare between situation prior to relocation and after relocation. The data are analysed on the basis of simple statistical measures using MS-excel.

## Hypothesis

**Null hypothesis:** There is no increase in income level after displacement.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** There is an increase in income level after displacement.

**Symbolically,  $H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu$  or  $H_1 : \mu_1 < \mu$**

Where,  $\mu_1$  = average per capita income before displacement

$\mu_2$  = average per capita income after displacement

## DISPLACEMENT SCENARIO OF NORTHEAST REGION OF INDIA

The eight states in the northeast are economically underdeveloped but they have 200 different tribal groups among 430 tribal groups in India. 30 to 40 rebel groups are currently active in this region. An influx of migrants from the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Nepal and Burma (Myanmar) has caused massive increase in population. This has also spurred ethnic conflicts over land and fighting for political autonomy or secession. During the past decades, the Northeast has been the scene of repeated ethnically- motivated conflicts in which the fight for a perceived homeland has sometimes resulted in ethnic cleansing. At least 50,000 people have been killed in such conflicts in the Northeast since India's independence in 1947. Violence has broken out in the states of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh, involving at least ten different ethnic groups (Bodes, Nagas, Kukis, Karbis, Dimasas, Paites, Mizos, Reangs, Bengalis and Chakmas).

The largest forced displacement movements have occurred in the states of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. During 2005, thousands of Muslims of Bengali origin were driven out by angry mobs, accused of being illegal migrants from Bangladesh. In November 2003, about 18,000 people was displaced and fled to about 40 camps in and outside Assam. At least 10,000 people have been killed in separatist violence in Assam over the past 25 years. Again in December 2005, around 110,000 people remained in relief camps in Assam's Kokrajhar and Gossaigaon subdivisions – a decrease of 40,000 people since

2003. However, the displaced have not been able to return to their former villages, as they remain occupied, mainly by Bodo communities. Tribal leaders say they were forced out of the relief camps because the state authorities decided to stop all humanitarian assistance. Today, they are landless and destitute.

The Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts of Assam have been the main scenes of ethnic violence in recent years and their thousands of peoples have been displaced due to fighting between Karbi, Kuki and Dimasa. In October 2005, there were clashes between the rival Karbi and Dimasa tribes, which continued until the end of the year. Up to 50,000 people from both tribes were displaced and took shelter mainly in public buildings situated in safer areas. The Indian government has successfully come to an agreement with several major rebel groups active in Assam. But at the same time, other long-lasting conflicts have re-emerged and threaten to destabilize Assam further.

Thousands of Hindi-speaking people have migrants are now fleeing in fear of the attacks. The Hindi speaking people, predominantly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, fled Assam after United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) launched a violent campaign, ordering them to leave Assam or be killed. The violence was triggered by a conflict over the allocation of jobs between Assamese and Hindi speaking groups. Violence took place both urban and rural areas. In Manipur, along the border with Burma (Myanmar), as well as ethnic clashes, have resulted in the displacement of at least 6,000 people from the Hmar and Paite ethnic groups. Like IDPs elsewhere in the Northeast, they are also reported to live in deplorable conditions, lacking food, medicines, warm clothes and other essential commodities.

Another major conflict in the Northeast has been the Naga people's 60 year-long struggle for a homeland. In April 2001, a decision by the Indian government to extend a five-year-old ceasefire to all Naga areas in the North-East was met with violent protests in Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Some 50,000 Nagas, fearing revenge attacks, fled the Imphal valley in Manipur to Naga-dominated districts in Manipur and Nagaland. According to the Naga International Support Centre, most of those internally displaced by this incident and previous conflict have returned to their homes. The riots forced the Indian government to reverse their decision, and limit the ceasefire to Nagaland only. During the last months of 2005, the two factions clashed at least five times over territorial

disagreements. Indian and Burmese security forces have also launched a campaign against Naga militant camps on both sides of the border.

In northern Tripura, it is estimated that internally displaced more than 100,000 people due to ethnic fighting and attacks. The main pattern of displacement is attack on villages inhabited by people of Bengali origin. The tribal population, they have increasingly become the target of local armed groups. Some 31,000 Bru (also called Reang) from Mizoram remain displaced after fleeing ethnic fighting with the Mizos in 1997. Another situation of displacement in Tripura has developed due to the building of a fence along the border with Bangladesh. This fence now covers more than one third of the border. More than 10,000 families, or 70,000 people are reported to have been evicted from their land in Tripura alone. The Indian government has rejected all claims for compensation to the evicted families, saying it is up to the state government to provide assistance to the displaced.

### **FINDINGS**

The displaced people come from various places of Agartala and Bangladesh and used to live in the Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony for 25-30 years, due to war, terrorist, search of new work and income, etc. They used to live in that Colony because this area is close to town and nothing have to play for staying there, because this is the government land (khas land) and no person of the household is the owner of that land. In Abasan, total number of quarters built was 256, out of these 221 quarters was allotted. But, 166 household has occupied the quarters and 55 stay outside. Survey was done for 111 household and remaining 55 household is unavailable during survey. And the ownership of the quarters has given to the woman of each household. The rooms of the allotted quarters is too small, all the family members cannot stay in one quarters as each quarters is allotted for each household only. So 25% of the total family members have shift to other place and they have taken rent so here one types of expenditure has increased.

**Table a: House Structure**

	Condition of the House			Number of rooms			
	Kaccha	Semi	Pucca	1 room	2 rooms	3 rooms	4 rooms
Past	96	13	2	16	51	28	16
Present			111			111	

*Source: Field Survey*

The above table (a), shows that out of 111 household, the condition of household improves for 109 household at present (Abasan) i.e; they having Pucca houses, but at past (colony) 96 household was Kaccha, 13 household was Semi Pucca and 2 household was Pucca house where as, at present (i.e; in Abasan) the entire household has Pucca houses. Each quarters in Abasan having 3 rooms where as in Colony 16 household have 1 room, 51 household have 2 room, 28 household have 3 room and 16 household have 4 room. So according to the numbers of room we can say that some household have same number of rooms, some have increased and some have decreased.

**Table b: Source of drinking water & Lighting**

	Source of drinking water			Electricity			
	Own	Govt.	Hand	Own	Rent	Hook line	No
Past	0	80	31	77	23	0	11
Present	111			111			

*Source: Field Survey*

In table (b), at past only 31 household used Hand pump & rest of the household of the Colony used Government tube well which is present at the side of the main road and it was difficult to carry. Whereas at present (Abasan) all the 111 households have their own tube well. In case of electricity, at past (Colony) 11 household having no current and 23 household have taken rent. But in Abasan, all the 111 household use electricity of their own named connections.

**Table c: Sanitation System**

	Past		Present		Total
	Kaccha	Pucca	Kaccha	Pucca	
Drainage & Sanitation	109	2	NIL	111	111

*Source: Field Survey*

In table (c), at past (colony) maximum household having Kaccha drainage & sanitation system, but at present (Abasan) there is improvement in Sanitation system the entire household has Pucca drainage & sanitation.

**Table d: Monthly Per Capita Income (PCI)**

	Past	Present
PCI	1440.964	2007.369

*Source: Field Survey*

The above table (d) shows that the average monthly per capita income at past were 1440.964 and at present it is 2007.369. So the per capita income has increased at present.

**Table e: Physical assets**

	Past	Present
Television	73	88
Refrigerator	12	27
Mobile	58	83
Radio	7	1
Two Wheeler	26	32
Three Wheeler	4	4
Four Wheeler	0	1

*Source: Field Survey*

From the above table (e), at present (Abasan) only radio decreases and two wheeler remain same and rest of the assets improve due to increase in income.

**Table f: Livestock**

	Past	Present
Cow	29	NIL
Goat	30	NIL
Pig	11	NIL
Hen	60	NIL
Duck	45	NIL
Total	175	NIL

*Source: Field Survey*

The above table (f), shows that at past (colony) the people especially women have extra source of income due to presences of livestock, but at present (Abasan) this source of income is not there due to shortage of place people cannot keep their livestock.

**Table g: Cooking fuel & Electricity**

	Past	Present
Cooking Fuel	10	111
Electricity	100	111

*Source: Field Survey*

Above table (g), shows that expenditure on cooking fuel has increased for 110 household because at present they used gas & kerosene but in earlier they used fire wood which cost is low comparing to gas & kerosene. On the other hand, the expenditure for electricity

has increased for 10 household because at past (colony) they don't have the electricity where as at present (Abasan) they have to pay for that.

### **Z- Normal Test result**

Here,  $Z = (\mu_1 - \mu_2) / S.E. (\mu_1 - \mu_2)$  Where,  $S.E. = \sqrt{(\sigma_1^2/n_1 + \sigma_2^2/n_2)}$   
 $\mu_1 = 1440.964$ ,  $\mu_2 = 2007.369$ ,  $\sigma_1^2 = 803.4341$ ,  $\sigma_2^2 = 908.4117$ ,  $n_1 = 111$ ,  $n_2 = 111$   
 Then, S.E. = 115.1074

Calculated Z value = -4.92067

Critical Z value = -1.645 at 5% level of significance.

Calculated Z falls in the critical region. Therefore, we reject the Null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis i.e. average per capita income of household has increased after displacement.

### **CONCLUSION**

The displaced people of Jyotirmoy & Lenin colony situated on government land (khas land) beside Agartala Medical College premises have rehabilitated in Vivekananda Abasan. This shows that rehabilitation has improved living condition and income many other benefits of people. But their day to day consumption expenditure has increased because they are now using gas and stove for cooking purpose where as in earlier they used fire wood and other sources. While staying in the Colony some people did not have electricity, but now they have. On the other hand, it is also found that people are not satisfied due to shortage and small size of rooms compared to earlier case. So 25% of the total family members have shifted towards rented house. This type of problem is faced by families having relatively larger families.

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