

## **Development Induced Displacement and its Effect on Women Livelihoods at Rehabilitation and Resettlement Colony, East Godavari District: A Review**

A. Lakshmi Prakash<sup>1</sup>, Prof. E. Manjuvani<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Home science, SPMVV, Tirupati,

<sup>2</sup>Department of Home science, SPMVV, Tirupati.

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**ABSTRACT:** Rehabilitation and Resettlement colony in Kakinada Special Economic Zone area is formed during the year 2008- 2011. Total 12 hamlet villages were identified and displaced from their original villages. The process of displacement continued for 3 years approximately and at present 919 houses were occupied by the Project Displaced families.

In the present study, livelihoods of women of the colony are compared with the livelihoods of their native villages. It has been observed that, earlier in their native villages, majority of the women were daily agriculture laborers. They were assured of agriculture work throughout the year. Most of them also had additional income sources through cattle rearing, poultry rearing and vegetable farming. Few of the women belong to small and marginal farmers, where they had helped their husbands in agriculture work. Presently all these livelihood options were deprived for these women as this Rehabilitation and Resettlement colony is very far from the cultivated land. Other farm related livelihoods were also not available for these women due to lack of grazing lands and less space at home. Only a very less percentage of women are availing alternative livelihoods at prawn processing factories and toys factories. All these resulted in depreciation of family income and financial dependency of women on their husbands.

The earning status of women will have an influence on their living conditions, nutrition and health status, children education etc. Hence the Government and concerned authorities should provide other livelihood options and appropriate trainings.

**Key words:** Development induced Displacement, R and R colony, Special Economic Zones, Livelihoods

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Since independence more than 50 million people have been displaced from their villages due to various development projects. During recent years state governments are acquiring lands for private players and offering concessions to the global capital. Land Acquisition Act is utilised for this purpose. The compensations given to the farmers appear to be very less, thus creating serious livelihood issues for them. Some of the major drivers of the current land acquisition phase are Special Economic Zones, various urbanization projects, and mining related activities. As per the official guidelines, SEZ is defined as a duty-free enclave with no issues of duties, tariffs and trade operations. The idea behind the introduction of SEZs was to give a boost to infrastructure development and export promotion with minimum official regulations.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh recommended the setting up of an SEZ at Kakinada in 2002 with private sector investment. About one thousand acres of land had to be acquired for this purpose. The present study on status of women livelihoods in Resettlement and Rehabilitation colony in special economic zone project, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.

R and R colony in Kakinada SEZ area is formed during the year 2008- 2011. Total 12 hamlet villages were identified and displaced from their original villages. The process of displacement continued for 3 years approximately and at present 919 houses were occupied by the PDFs (Project Displaced Families). These PDFs were provided with houses constructed in a colony called R and R colony (Rehabilitation and Resettlement colony). Among the displaced persons women account most of the population. They are highly vulnerable than other affected population, especially livelihood aspect. Other aspects like health care, education and livelihood trainings will also be affected (UNHCR Global Trends of 2010).

### **II. OBJECTIVE**

To compare the livelihoods of women and their income in R and R colony in comparison with the livelihoods of their native villages to know the effect of displacement.

### III. METHODOLOGY

Based on the nature of the problem and objectives, ex-post facto research design was adopted for conducting this study. The present study was carried out in Rehabilitation and Resettlement colony in special economic zone project, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. Demographic details were collected from data sources like family survey registers of Anganwadi Centres and Panchayat registers. Semi structured interviews and FDGs (Focussed Group Discussions) with women were used to elicit information regarding their experiences and facts.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected from the Anganwadi centres and Panchayat office was consolidated and the following details were elicited from the available data.

**Table.1** The Demographic Details of R and R Colony in 2018 and Native Villages in 2008:

Sl no.	Population Details	2018	2008
1	Families	919	996
2	Population - Persons	3362	4025
3	Population - Male	1679	2015
4	Population - Female	1673	2010
5	OC	751	1397
6	BC	1393	1398
7	SC	1218	1230
8	ST	0	0

It can be noticed from the above table 8% of the families were not displaced from their native villages. Among them OC population were more who stayed back in their native villages, refused to leave their villages and their lands. However, all SC and BC population were displaced to the R and R colony. The data of livelihood availability was compared between 2008 when they were in their native villages with 2018 in R and R colony.

**Table. 2** Comparison of Livelihood Availability 2018 and 2008

Year	Gender					
	Women			Men		
	Total No.	No. Going to Work	%	Total No.	No. Going to Work	%
2018	1673	183	11	1689	215	12.7
2008	2010	1100	54.7	2015	1200	59.5

It is observed from the above table that 54.7% women were employed in 2008 whereas only 11% women were employed in 2018. The above table also indicates that 59.7% men were employed in 2008 and only 12.7% men were employed in 2018. The results clearly indicate that more than 40% became unemployed after displacement to R and R colony.

Majority of the Men and Women previously depended on daily agricultural labour work as their native villages were in the vicinity of fertile agricultural lands.

**Table. 3** Types of Livelihoods Available for Women in R and R Colony

Sl no.	Name of the Livelihood	Number	Income Per Month	Working Hours
1	Toy manufacturing factory	119	5000/-	8 hrs
2	Prawn processing unit	17	8000/-	8 hrs
3	Cashew processing units	8	7000/-	8 hrs
4	De seeding of Tamarind	12	1500/-	10 hrs
5	Card board manufacturing industry	10	6000/-	8 hrs
6	Rural BPO	11	10000/-	8 hrs
7	Own business	6	8000/-	12 hrs
	Total	183		

The availability of various livelihood options is very limited in R and R colony. A toy manufacturing company has been established in 2015 near this colony. Women who were trained in tailoring could able to secure job in this company. Other nearby options available are prawn processing units where they do cleaning, peeling, grading, packing etc. Some women are going to cashew processing units. Some of the women are engaged in deseeding of tamarind at home. They will be paid Rs.3/- per Kg. They can earn up to Rs.50/- per day. Some women are going to card board manufacturing industries. Only a limited number of persons who are educated up to Intermediate and below the age of 25 years secured jobs in Rural BPO (Business Processing Outsourcing) jobs. Some of the women have their own petty shops.

Only 11% women are being employed among the total number of women. The remaining women could not avail any livelihoods and they are staying at home. They have expressed that the accessibility, working hours, less pay and eligibility criteria are not favourable for them to go to the work. All the factories are distant from the R and R colony, women need to travel for minimum 2 hours to attend to work place. Managing the working hours is also a difficult task for women as they have odd timing like 7 am to 8pm, 4 am to 12 am and 3pm to 11pm. Average income being Rs.5,560/- is very less and could not meet the minimum standard of living. Most of the employers prefer women below 35 years having minimum education i.e up to 7<sup>th</sup> class.

Employment in Rural BPO is the only preferred option because it is easy to access and working hours are flexible. But placement in this unit is limited to educated women.

In the above circumstances majority of the women are staying without any work to earn. They have expressed that when they were in their native villages, they had regular agriculture work, not only during paddy cultivation but other agriculture related works like weeding, cattle rearing, poultry rearing and vegetable cultivation. They have food security and nutrition security during that time. Presently women in R and R colony are facing hard time finding any job. They are dependent on Government schemes like MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), which provides work for one or two months in a year, subsidies under PDS (Public Distribution System) ration cards, midday meal programs for school going children and pensions given to old age persons and disabled persons. During agriculture season very few women opt travelling very far to attend daily labour.

The earning capacity of the family has visibly decreased. Many women stayed at home, this directly impacted the nutrition and health status of the family, their living standards and status of decision making at family. They are demanding Government and SEZ authorities to create employment opportunities to lead a secure and dignified life. In the words of one of the displaced women namely Santhamma-

“my husband died of cancer leaving the sole burden of the family on me. I need to look after my 3 daughters. I never had schooling or any training to earn my living. I can only do agriculture labour and agriculture related work. Here there is no availability of that work. Now I am working as cook in Government School, I get Rs.3000/- per month. Now I had to send my elder daughter as a domestic servant to support the family. I had decided to stop the education of my second one also at the end of this year. In this state, how can I expect me to send my children to school?”

## V. CONCLUSION

New employment and income-generating opportunities are hard to find during displacement. The present study clearly shows the state of displaced women in R and R colony, how they are deprived of the basic amenities of life. Concerned authorities are also insensitive to these issues. Authorities are taking interest only in resettlement aspect, whereas the later part of the issue i.e rehabilitation is simply neglected. The earning capacity of women will have a direct impact on other aspects like her property rights, decision-making priorities and gender-based violence. It is the primary responsibility to organise appropriate livelihood trainings to women and mobilise labour intensive projects like garment manufacturing units, marine processing units and other factories that can create employment to majority of the women irrespective of their age and education.

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