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Ph.D thesis Title: Status of Resettlement and Rehabilitation in Development-Induced Displacement: A Study of Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) of Kerala

ABSTRACT

1. Introduction

Major objectives of the research is to find out types and nature of impoverishment caused by CIAL on social groups. Another objective is to examine the nature, type and scope of Resettlement and Rehabilitation mechanism provided by the CIAL. . Finally, objective is to assess the impact of Resettlement and Rehabilitation provided by CIAL. The study analyses the concept of displacement and role of state in the process of dispossession in Marxian perspective. So study relies on the IRR model for analyzing the impoverishment risks and impact of R&R of CIAL in pre– resettlement phase. The present research is not restricting its scope to critical analysis of development, but it also analyses the resistance and resilience of evictees.

2. Research Methodology

Mixed method research is the research design used in the study. The primary data was collected from the respondents by conducting a household survey with the use of interview schedule, Qualitative data was collected from using FGD, and interview among the resettlers. FGD was also conducted among women Self Help Group members in two Resettlement colony as well as among Dalits. Concurrent mixed method was adopted to analyse the collected data.

3. Major findings of the study

Displacement made a mixed impact among the DPS after resettlement. The people who owned less land and especially SCs who lived in Dalit colonies has gained more land and amenities in colonies compared to previous residential area. But people who owned agricultural and more land than offered land under R&R underwent to impoverishment. ‘Minor resettlement’ has limited impact of displacement on educational facilities, culture and common community services. Clear violation of right to home, right to development, the right to free legal remedy against eviction and enhanced compensation is visible in the

colonies. CIAL failed to gain public attention at mass level and remained as a local displacement issue rather than a mass movement. But it proved that resistance is effective and it is the only option available for the DPs to ensure a better R&R benefits to the DPs. In a democratic country, state induced displacement is condemnable and development paradigm which accelerates the dispossession of peasants and poor must be opposed. The state has a great role in avoiding or minimising displacement in possible circumstances and also in ensuring the proper implementation of R&R.

4. Suggestions

4.1 Policy Level

1. The state of Kerala should implement a voluntary and involuntary resettlement policy to address resettlement programme.
2. Collaboration with government housing schemes/departments in terms of construction and technical help may help to tackle the issue of homelessness in resettlement area.
3. Legal binding on the concept of benefit sharing principle especially for profit generating industries may help the DPs to get benefit without delay and effectively.
4. Working with local self-governments and grass root level NGOS may ensure transparency, accountability and participation of people in the R&R process.

4.2 Suggestions to CIAL

1. A centralized sewage network to deal with the toilet waste will help to minimize water pollution and people can use the well water for drinking purpose.
2. The creation of modern cremation facilities may help the resettlers to perform cremation irrespective of caste.
3. . Micro-enterprises and other income generation programmes under CSR may help the DPs especially, the women to create more livelihood options.

5. Conclusion

As a social work research study, research tried to understand the phenomena in a pragmatic and applied level than merely being critique of the issue of development. The study proposes a new pragmatic approach of coincidence of confrontation and intimidation with the state. Rather than sticking on a particular theoretical stand point, the study proposes resistance movements against land grabbing and community organization happened within the resettlement area so as to ensure maximum benefits to the DPs.