**Sapatgram College**

**Subject:Environmental studies**

**B.A. 2nd & 4th Semester**

**Topic:**

**Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected person :**

**case studies (India)**

**Argeng Narzary**

India, after independence in 1947, geared towards the path to development, leading to construction of large multipurpose river valley projects i,e terminal power, mining, transport linkage etc . According to the working group on Human Rights in India and the V.N Report, India has the highest number of people displaced due to development projects in the world, largely the forest dwellers and scheduled tribes. The worst suffers being again the Adivasis or the Scheduled tribes of the country.

**1.Sardar Sarovar Project :** Sardar Sarovar Project! was the first to be taken up the construction of a high dam on the Narmada River, the creation of reservoir subermerging in the states of Gujarat, Mahastra and Madhya Pradesh and an extensive Canal and irrigation system in Gujarat that was likely to displace approximately 100,000 people residing in 245 villages of the state of said states. Despite the benefits, lakhs of people are displaced and R &R pakages also different in terms of land ownership but the tribal having no legal documents to prove were regarded as ‘encroaches’and the pakage as offered to them were limited. The resettlement site of Project in Gujarat reported that although the displaced population had been resettled and the new resettled sites had been provided the amenities of water, electricity, school, roads etc. About 96% of the households felt that their lives have deterioted relocation, the reason being the degraded quality of agricultural land and the other amenities at resettlement sites. The Sardaar Sarovar Dam finally completed in 2006 in Gujarat by the Govt. of India resulting in the displacement of approximately 320,000 people.

**2.Bargi Dam** : After the Bargi dam (Garhwal) project the displacement people are deaths due to starvation among the resettle people resulting from lack of planning and unfulfilled promises. Sometimes the resettlement population also face multiple displacement, where the places that they have been formerly resettled are again converted for development projects or have turned inhabitable for some related reason.

**3.The Hirakud Dam:** The Hirakud Dam was constructed on the Mahanadi River in the state of Odisha in late 1940’s by the government of India. For this purpose of project the number of displaced population more than 150000 lakhs. The displaced population resettled but they do not match up with the sites condition, host population, unproductive land and change in occupation, economic decline and dependence on informal money lenders, health issues and psychological issues.

**4.Kuno and Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary :** On the displaced population due to creation of the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka, deserved decline in self-sustaining communities being transformed into agricultural labourers, therby decreasing the per capita income of the resettled community, lack of access to resource base leading to unemployment, poor agricultural land, increase in migrant wage labour, higher incidence of poverty, inadequacy of rehabilitation package and gaps in implementation.

**5.Kolkata Environment Improvement Project:** After the introduction of the Kolkata Environment Improvement Project regarding the resettelment and rehabilitation it is observed that the people had improved after resettlement were satisfied, but some people who had not improved in income were dissatified. As a result this project shows a weak grievance redressal mechanism and the other issues were lack of coordination of impplementing agencies and inefficient administration procedures.