

**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IASCP- THE COMMONS IN AN AGE OF GLOBALISATION: MARGINALISATION DUE TO LOSS OF CULTIVABLE LAND AND CHANGE IN STATUS OF COMMONS IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION.**

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Since 1950's the large dam construction activities are continuously taking place, in India. The magnitude of forced population displacement caused by irrigation development programmes was of the order of 10 million people each year, or some 200 million people globally during the last five decades. (from Cernea 2000:11).

For those who are displaced, there development projects usually have overwhelming negative consequences, resulting in social and psychological disruption long-term economic impoverishment and marginalisation due to loss of cultivable land.

The physical exclusion of commons from a geographic territory with economic and social exclusion out of a set of functioning social network has changed the status of commons to a lower strata.

There are conflicting time frames involved in these process. The time frame of the development activities of the project is almost always shorter than the time frame required for economic and social recovery.

**Globalisation process in India and status of commons.**

From July 1991, the Indian government is slimming down its activities specially for weaker sections of the society. Though the country already had a burden of poverty and unemployment since independence. This policy of globalisation is not benefiting the poor sections or people displaced from particular

project. The marginalised land holders the suffers of earlier development activities have not been settled properly in the planned era. Now in the marker scenario the MLH (Marginalised land holders) will not going to get higher compensation for their settlement and the chances for getting employment opportunities for them is very remote.

### **Research Area and Problem :**

It is case of Kuhi-Bhiwapur talkua (KBT) of Nagpur District of Vidarbha region in India. From last ten years, the construction activity of a biggest irrigation project of Vidarbha - the Goshikhurd irrigation project on Vainganga river is going on. It will going to be completed by 2002 to 2003. Various socio-economic problems are emerging due to this activity. For present study two talukas Kuhi and Bhiwapur has been focused as they are most affected places in terms of problem of marginalisation of commons. Some sharp problems are emerging

1. Loss of land, which includes cultivable land and kuchha houses of PAP's. This is the first affected group which will have dark future. Hence they are losing (a) their material circumstances (b) their range of options or choices and (c) their control over day to day affairs.
2. If these PAPs demand irrigated land for the agriculture than the only option available with the government is to provide cultivable land already owned by the farmers dwelling in near by areas. Which will create loss in the ownership of cultivable land to these farmer because they have to sacrifice some part of their land because of government orders.

As such this area is considered as low-income group and at present their downward changes in the status of commons it is further intensification of the process of the concentration of poor, marginalising their status as land holders in this area. This is a second affected group.

3. There is no conscious commitment from government regarding effort and resources need to be provided to them (PAPs). Hence they are facing the problem of disguised employment or unemployment due to this activity.
4. These PAPs are from fragile economic and ecological system. Hence, in the process of globalisation, they will have less provisions of resettlement. And PAPs will not be able to extract from the government for their benefit.
5. The impoverished situation of second type of PAPs (MLH) are facing problems of low crop production like rice, chillies, jawar, vegetables etc.
6. The quality and quantity wise this area is substantially rich for production of above food grains (one of the best in Asia). The loss of such crops due to cultivable land encroachment by the government may create negative long-term impact, like increase in pressure of population compelling us to import from outside with heavy prices.
7. In this area, the forest with low quality (where only bushes / shrubs can grow) is available. But according to the government forest policies, they cannot use this land for resettlement purpose. This is the time to ponder over and give a second thought towards this policy of forest protection with such type of economic development.
8. The villages of this area were fully dependent upon the agricultural activities after resettlement the PAPs have to search employment for their livelihood at their own. Starting new activities like cottage or tiny industries are difficult because they are unskilled or untrained in this respect. They are trained in agricultural activities only. Hence it is difficult for them to get the new opportunities to work in other sectors.

9. In development process the construction of irrigation dams considered to be important function for providing opportunities for achieving the stage of take off in the economy. But unfortunately lacking of futuristic approach in economic policies toward the side effects of these developments prevents commons to improve their living conditions. Such situation is compelling the cultivators of the region to engulf themselves into rising pressure of poverty.

**Survey Based Observations :**

In the process of construction of dam 22, 258 hectares of land will be occupied by the dam and canal system. Hence 186 villages are on way to total submergence and another 252 will be partly submerged. In all 65,198 families has to be rehabilitated.

Total 276 respondent from 14 villages of Nagpur District have selected for this study on the basis of totally submerged and partially submerged areas. They were further selected on of distance criterion.

- i) Villages of interior areas.
- ii) Villages near to main road.

The schedule and questionnaire method is used for three aspects ;

- a) Present situation of PAPs.
- b) Changed situation likely to be faced by commons.
- c) Effect of globalisation on commons.

#### **A. PRESENT SITUATION OF PAPS**

**The details of the observations are :**

It appeared that as yet the PAPs are not in a mood to think on the direction of searching for any type of employment activities other than farming or working as agricultural labourers. Because for generations, their main occupations has been the same i.e. individual agriculture.

The procedure adopted by the state government for resettlement of PAP for this irrigation is as follows :

- i) The give house sites to all in proportion to present house sites.
- ii) PAP's have to make application if they want cultivable land.
- iii) They can get cultivable land, if available, to the extent of 25% of the present land.
- iv) Procurement of alternative cultivatable land from adjoining areas is becoming very different for the Government, If PAPs, apply for cultivable land, although compensation is being slowly paid, government is asking 65% of the estimated cast to be deposited immediately. This is also creating a problem for the people of adjoining areas and their status is changing fast and converting into M.LH.

The information collected with the help questionnaire and the related statistical data are as follows :

- i. Average number of members per family is 6.8

- ii. 42.93% of PAPs held very small area of agricultural land. Hence their production capacity is also low. They are marginal farmers large land holders are very few (21.26%).
- iii. 87.5% are engaged in agricultural activities, mainly farming.
- iv. Only 5% PAPs are engaged in other occupations like pottery, fisheries, milk production etc.
- v. Large number of present land owners and farmers will face acute unemployment problem after full resettlement in new locations.
- vi. 25% irrigated land will be provided to the land holders against their respective total previous land holdings. This land can be provided to the land holders in demand and consent in writing. For this purpose he / she has to deposit 65% of his cash - compensation to the government authorities. Such lands holders will get Rs. 600/- (per hecter per season) as a support compensation amount till his / her new land gets completely irrigated. They can also demand a specially advance of Rs. 10,000/- for the improvement of that land. This facility will be available to the farmers having less than 4 hectares of cultivable land.
- vii. About 9% farmers are interested in having irrigated land if it is near (3-4 kms) to their new dwelling. They will going to create pressure on about another 42% of the land holders. The status of these land holders will convert from cultivate land holders to Marginalised land holders.
- viii. 95.2% PAPs admitted the livelihood situation will warren to great extent.

- ix. Only 4.8% big land holders are not accepting this fact because they are having their own sources of living even after resettlement i.e milk production, pottary, fishery etc.
- x. Only a few who got the opportunity to work as workers on the construction of dam are relatively satisfied. But it is a temporary phenomenon and no further employment guarantee can be foreseen.
- xi. 83% of PAPs are still interested in doing farming after displacement, but resettlement plans are not helpful for agricultural work or farming because to get cultivable land is a difficult process.
- xii. They are gradually understanding the necessity and importance of self-employment. They are showing some willingness to think (WTT) about initiative for group activities.

**B. CHANGED SITUATION LIKELY TO BE FACED BY COMMONS**

On the basis of opinion expressed by the PAPs during the survey four groups is formed to know the futuristic problems going to develop due to marginalisation of commons.

	<b>Those who :</b>	<b>% of PAPS</b>
i)	Would like to out - migrate	52%
ii)	Would like to be agricultural labourers	25%
iii)	May opt for irrigated land	09%
iv)	And likely to accept new activities for their livelihood	14%

**Problem of Assessment:**

Five variables have been selected to assess the problem of marginalisation of common. These variables are further co-related with the above mentioned groups. The variables are :

1. CLPR - Cultivable land provided for resettlement
2. TCLL - Total Cultivable land loss of KBT.
3. MCDA - Marginalised commons due to deprived assets and facilities.
4. EBPG - Extra burden for purchase of basic goods.
5. CPP - Change in purchasing power due to foreign goods in rural market.

The governments plan for their irrigation project for resettlement of PAPs is to shifted 51 villages (submerged) of Nagpur (KBT) in 38 villages, already existing in the adjoining area. Every village have to accommodate 26% of PAPs which will going to increase congestion in 38 villages. It will going to create the problem of provision of infrastructure facilities.

Some positive aspects from Government side- though some of the facilities will be provided in the new resettlement areas like - Bore wells for drinking water, school with play ground, electricity facilities, public toilets, bus facilities, market facilities, cremation center etc.

But various negative aspects are affecting other kinds of PAPs in resettlement process. Host communities are not accepting incoming resettles and most of them will suffer loss of resources, space and autonomy. Tension and fear of conflict tend to arise between hosts and resettlers. And some of them (about 5.1% of PAPs) are not qualified for compensation because of various reasons like not having their own land. Unable to produce proper documents etc. They will encroach land at the resettlement area or some may migrate to near by cities.



The following table shows the increase in density of population in these talukas. Density from submerged areas to non-submerged areas has increased, is shown in the table

Old Settlement			New Settlement			Difference
No. of villages *	Population	Density	No. of villages **	Population	Density	
BHIWAPUR 18 Villages	10590	588.34	12 Villages	10590	882.5	294.16 / Villages
KUHI 33 Villages *	20562	623.09	23 Villages**	20562	894	270.91/ Village
Total Village = 51	31152	610.85	35 Villages	31152	890.05	279.23/ Village

\* Going to submerged (Re-settlers)

\*\* Not submerged and used for resettlement (Host communities)

With the help of above table and earlier mentioned four groups some conclusions can be drawn. The of five variables (mentioned on page 8) are quantified in this context.

Out of 31152 (from table) villagers 52 ( from group) will be resettled. Hence the remaining villagers (PAPs-about 16199.04) will like to settle in the new settlement areas. Thus 145.19 population pressure per village will increase i.e. 52% of 279.23 is 145.19. Every village will accommodate (35 Host villages) about 145 to 146 people. This population pressure will create various problems like :

- i) Government is providing some facilities at resettlement but PAPs have to construct their own house. They can use their cash compensation either construction of house or for purchase of new irrigated land or for new economic activity. This takes fairly long time to settle themselves and it often results in their material impoverishment.
- ii. **Income diminishes but demand for Food, product, increase :**

Pressure on new settlement areas the demand for food products will increase. Commons are started facing problems because of shortage of food products. Their purchasing power has declined and it shows, the sharp decline in the standard of living of people over there.

- iii. those who want to work as agricultural labourer will find difficult to get the alternative work. If the PAPs will be accommodated as labourer then they will have to cover long distance to reach their workplace. It may not be possible for some of the villagers to opt for this work. Again the problem of livelihood will occur.
- iv. **Those who opt., for irrigated land:-** The percentage of such PAPs is very small. But they will going to get the land of existing land holders of that area. There host land holders should have minimum 5 acres cultivable land with them. These cultivable land holders have to vacate their land because of government orders. Hence the well settled land holders will be marginalised and nothing has been done far them

The study is focused on the approximate quantification and analysis of resettlement problems of some selected villages. The variables, are selected as a proxy far marginalsied commons.

#### **Factual Analysis :**

1. CLPR - Cultivable land provided for resettlement

#### **The Quantification of CLPR :**

Out of 31152 population about 9% of population will going to apply for irrigated land (based on observation). Hence about 2803.68 people will require irrigated land. The average number of members per family is 6.8 (mentioned earlier). Hence the number of households for this population will be about

$$280.4/6.8 = 412.35$$

412 households will demand irrigated land. Suppose there H.H. wants to purchase 3 acres land on the basis of cash compensation they are getting in their land. Thus  $412 \times 3$  acres = 1236 acres land will be needed to fulfill the demand of PAPS (It is about 494.4 Hectares land).

Roughly the government will ask host community to vacate cultivable land up to minimum 3 acres than 412 land holders will be in the verge of marginalisation process. The sacrifice of 3 acres will be poverty induced activity. This situation will forced them to buy essential commodities like purchase of rice from the market, which was earlier easily available to them at cheapest rate. This has already happened with 18 H.H. in 4 villages of Kuhi.

## 2. TCLL = Total Cultivable Land Loss

Due to construction of dam the total submerged area is quite big. But the approximate loss of cultivable land is 1032.30 hectares of these talukas. The construction activity is taking too much time (about 12-13 yrs,.) to take its final shape. Thus, it is creating deeper impoverishment in this area.

As mentioned earlier 494.4 hectares cultivable land will be provided to PAPS. These new marginalised land holders will take some time to adjust and the productivity of crops will be hampered to some extent.

## 3. MCDA = Marginalised Commons due to deprived assets and facilities.

As usual these PAPS are from less powerful and the economically more marginalised , sections of a society. There is no conscious commitment of effort and resources has been formulated for livelihood of PAPS in this construction activities, hence this situation is responsible for worsening the economic conditions of PAPS.

The PAPs are compensated for material losses they incur, that very process of compensation results in their material impoverishment. Because all of them are getting arable land then before. (See Appendix -1 on proxying the marginalisation of commons)

### **C. EFFECT OF GLOBALISATION ON COMMONS :**

#### **The Another side of the coin is :**

About 42% of PAPs are responsible for not utilizing cash compensation for their future livelihood purpose . On the other hand work But they used it for enjoyment and luxurious purposes. 31% are not having the idea regarding the proper utilization of cash compensation. Even they have not deposited it in the banks. 27% of PAPs are not able to utilize this money due to internal conflicts between the members of their family.

#### 4. EBPG : Extra Burden for Purchase of Basic goods.

Because of loss of cultivable land of PAPs they have to purchase essential items from market with heavy prices. About 39% PAPs are spending about Rs. 380/- per month for purchase of food grains, and other PAPs are spending Rs. 200-220/- per month for such articles. This has increased burden on them and they are deprived from the purchase of other necessity items. Hence it is an indication of decrease in social and economics welfare of PAP's

#### 5. CPP- Change in Purchasing power due to foreign goods in rural market.

Due to globalisation process the slimmer government has broadened the scope for multi national corporations to enter at the villages level to sale their products. Hence opening of cottage and tiny industries in villages will be the threat of dieing before maturity in this sector.

I. This is helpful for the MNC's to invest in rural sectors. They are benefited in two ways -

- a) Attraction for foreign goods is natural and
- b) Lower prices for MNC's goods will be another way for boosting their sale in this area.

About 68% young generation is attracted towards the sale of foreign goods. About 39% of their cash compensation is spend for foreign goods purchases.

II. This transition from plan to market has shrinked the budgetary allocations for weaker sections of the society. Though the total amount of allocation of resources has increase but in percentage terms the amount for facility for weaker section has decreased. Now in the market scenario the MLH will not going to get higher compensation for their resettlement and chances for getting employment opportunities is very remote. Though the development activities are increasing with the help of world Bank sanctions, but nothing has been positively done for PAPs of such projects.

Because of lack of funds this project has not been completed from last 12-13 years. Hence the problem of compensation provision is pending.

III. Unfortunately, the record shows that resettlement casts then to be underestimated because pre research relate to the project work as well as post researchers for the upcoming problems is highly lacking in this area.

IV. The forest land cover in this area also have a low quality of forest land (bushes / shrubs), near resettlement plots. Due to forest conservation act that land is not permissible for any type of use. Such land could have been better alternative four resettlement of PAPs and marginalisation of commons at new settlement areas could have been reduced. This is a time to ponder over and give as second thought towards this policy of forest conservation. Because the agricultural land is shrinking down and population pressure is increasing.

V. In this area (KBT) every PAP has affected differently. Rich are affected differently from poor, men from women, old from young etc.

Still some homogenous marginalised commons have showed their willingness to start new economic activities. They are mostly belongs to women group (11%) and young affected PAPs (3%).

They showed their co-operation in this respect if they will get training apart from agricultural activities.

Though in the era of globalization all above five variables cannot be easily improved to form proper co-relation among the above aspects there is a need for proper surveys of affected population before the authorities move ahead specially in the context of marginalised commons.

## **APPENDIX -1**

On Proxying the marginalisation of commons :

Explanatory Variables	Dependent Variables resettlement Of PAPs Linear Specification
CLPR	-0.18
TCLL	0.3
MCDA	0.2
EXPG	-0.27
CPP	-0.31
KBT Dummy	-0.29

From above table it is clear that there is a strong negative correlation exists between the resettlement area available to PAPs and the cultivable land they are going to get. The distance the PAP's have to cover from resettled area to new cultivable land is quite far.

There is a clear cut total loss at KBT have to suffer in terms of cultivable land. The positive correlation shows that for resettlement cultivation and other development purposes the loss of agricultural land is heavy .

The commons have to face all problems related to marginalisation. Hence it is proved that due to such activity PAPs are deprived from their inherited assets and pattern of living. As the process of marginalisation increasing the commons are become more poor. Because due to globalisation various subsidies, benefits, assistance have been reduced by the government.

The purchase of the basic goods due to loss of cultivable land. It shows the negative correlation between purchase of extra goods and land available to them. PAPs have to pay more for the some products which they were getting easily from their earlier assets.