

Abstract

The study attempts to study a) the issues of women with regard to information, compensation, rehabilitation, and participation in the displacement and rehabilitation process; b) the socio-economic impact of displacement on women.; c) the gender relations and the changes in gender roles in the post-displacement scenario; and further d) to measure the gender development in the context of displacement and rehabilitation. 306 women from the displaced families on account of eviction for the Upper Indravati Hydroelectric project were interviewed to elicit their opinion. Besides, focus group discussion was conducted with selected women oustees to understand their specific problems and needs. Results reveal that in the entire process of displacement, rehabilitation and resettlement, women's participation is for name sake only and no attention is paid to consider their viewpoints by the project authority. The study further reveals that displacement has further marginalized women with regard to their socio-economic, cultural and political situation. Consequently, women shift from their traditional livelihood practices to menial and marginal labour that not only undermines their social status, but also affects their economic well being. Reduced agricultural production and loss of access to forest resources coupled with increased physical labour has adversely affected the health and nutritional status of women. Displacement has also given rise to other social evils, like alcoholism, gambling, dowry etc. The Human Development Index (HDI) value indicates low level of human development in case of oustees. Similarly, the value of Gender Development Index (GDI) shows imbalanced development among male and female oustees. The findings of the study suggest involvement of women oustees at all levels of project operations as a policy measure in order to address their socio-economic concerns.

Key Words: Ousteas, Displaced women, Participation, Compensation, Rehabilitation, Livelihood.