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Editorial

The discourse on development has been a significant part of the globalised world. While multiple perspectives have been adopted to understand its various dimensions, the development projects, across the globe have invited serious concerns among the social scientists and social engineers due to the unprecedented havoc created in the social and economic fabric of the society. The core ethical concerns of the developmental projects are often validated by political power rather than by informed participatory discourse.

Series of deliberations, discussions are taking place both among academicians and practitioners on the forced/involuntary displacement of the people for the sake of the development projects. The deliberations aim to discuss various models and approaches for addressing the problems faced by the displaced population. Involuntary displacement is a global phenomenon and is one of the core issues that World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Fund are grappling with. They have attempted to adopt new development policies that favour the displaced at least in principle. The governments have tried to address this by developing compensation mechanisms for people who have lost their land and homes using an inventory approach. However, they have proposed these solutions without addressing the plethora of concerns faced by the population. The lack of dialogue between the implementing agencies and the people is cited as one important area of intervention. This issue of *Artha Journal of Social Sciences* aims to address these concerns.

Veronica Fynn Bruey looks at development-induced displacement in the context of the industrial expansion in Seattle, Washington, USA. This urban community has the third largest homeless population in the US and the situation is further worsened by the expansion of corporation like Google, Amazon and Microsoft. Displacement associated with the implementation of development project or industrialisation always demands human rights consideration irrespective of region or nature of people who are displaced. The author sketches the details of the risk of

homelessness faced and calls for further research and interventions in this area.

Puranjoy Ghosh and Abhishek Ray address certain serious concerns about the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. They argue that the process and provisions for acquiring land for development projects involve a Social Impact Assessment survey, a preliminary notification stating the intent for acquisition, a declaration of acquisition, and compensation but they fail to satisfy these conditions due to the political legitimacy and application of the concept of eminent domain. The Act stipulates that all acquisitions require rehabilitation and resettlement which is to be provided to the people affected by the acquisition in a timely manner and emphasises on the need to obtain consent without fail. The authors provide an overview of the policy, provide an analysis and conclude by suggesting that the acquisition of land by the application of this law must be focussed on sustainability and upholding people rights.

Neinunnem Grace K, Paramita Bhowmick, Jayakumar C and Sekar K discuss key issues related to displacement resulting from armed conflicts. The context here is Northeast India which has witnessed insurgency from across the border and the resultant conflicts have displaced populations living around this region. The conflict has affected the life of the displacees stressful and vulnerable. The study focusses on children who are vulnerable and sketches of how conflict-induced displacement impacted their life. The authors argue that the mental health of children exposed to prolonged violence has seriously affected and invites serious and series of interventions to address it. Displacement, whether development induced or conflict-induced, brings vulnerability and downward mobility in the life of the oustees. Nothing can promote human beings unless there is space for dialogue and freedom built on ethical values. The justifiability of projects depends not on mere technical advancement but a perfect blend of science and human values which are built ethically.

Pinki Kumari looks at risks related to human rights and insecurities that coexist with development-induced displacement. When development projects are undertaken either by the government or

as public-private projects, the population is often exposed to several risks. This study looks at human rights violations as well as insecurities that the populations face. The author argues that displacement is always associated with health, social and economic, insecurities which demand a rights-based approach for examining its efficacy and impact.

The consequences of displacement are better narrated in the case study presented by Hemalatha K through the voices of five women. The context again is development-induced displacement that resulted from Dam building in north Karnataka. The present study analyses the consequences felt by five women participant to validate her argument that while people are displaced for a development project, the female is more vulnerable than male.

Marginalisation as a risk resulting from displacement following development work is a serious concern and Norvy Paul and Hemalatha K present a discourse on transport-related projects implemented in Kerala which resulted in a serious concern for the ousted communities. Using qualitative data the authors how marginalisation has happened among the displaced with focus on four dimensions viz economic, political, social and psychological. The authors raise serious concerns about the social and personal identity or self of the oustees of displacement.

We would like to thank the authors for their contribution to make this issue a success. Finally, we are thankful to CHRIST (Deemed to be University) for giving an opportunity to present these issues to the academic community.

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Dr Hemalatha K
Issue Editors