

## **Short Communication**

# **An Insight into the Phenomenon of Involuntary Migration and Resettlement at Ghazi Brotha**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The phenomenon of migration and resettlement is common in the world and even for Muslims and Pakistani's especial is not an alien concept if studied in their religious context. The displacement can be termed as involuntary or voluntary depending on the causal factors. Such migration though demonstrates lot of multi dimensional problems but has to be considered very necessary, essential and imperative for the benefits of coming generations in future. This article examines the effects of involuntary migration on the social and economic life pattern of the migrants of Gazi Brotha hydal project for the generation of electricity. The data revealed that the migrants are happy over their migration and satisfied, as the government has provided them all facilities, even which were lacked in their previous setup but enjoying in the new premises of the same geographic area. NGOs have played a very successful role in developing consensus on the project by using bottom-up approach to make it a success. However, there are still some problems, which need to be resolved for better economic opportunities and for the well being of the migrants.

**Key Words:** Involuntary migration; Resettlement

### **INTRODUCTION**

The human history from its inception justifies the concept of migration in one-way or the other. The concept of migration and resettlement is not an alien concept for Muslims and Pakistanis specifically if it is studied in context of their religious values demonstrated in the Islamic traditions. The displacement of human beings and their families can be termed as voluntary and involuntary migrations undertaken on individual or on collective basis.

**Voluntary migration.** The cases where the human beings change their places of residence permanently for availing opportunities can be termed as migration undertaken voluntarily.

**Involuntary migration.** From the close study of human social history, we understand that the involuntary migration mean as transferring the place of residences out of social and economic compulsions, geographical phenomenon occurring out of natural calamities, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic abruptions and chronic adverse climatic changes and or other such exposures of human beings which he can not resist, overcome and control.

**Resettlements.** After undertaking involuntary migration involve a long process of time and labor consumption which result sometimes in constructions and consolidation of human societies and sometimes prove destructive and harmful. It is a type of migration in which one has to render a lot of sacrifice in terms of matter, material, preferences of options, adjustments measurements, relations and associations. It is not fair & logical to discard or abhor involuntary migration simply for the reason that these are

not willful and intentional. Sometimes such migrations demonstrate a lot of multi dimensional problems but have to be undertaken because of their benefits for coming generations in future.

**Pakistan historical perspective of migration.** In our country's historical perspective, the concept of involuntary migration is very much familiar. Beside these, even for the completion of mega projects, which are vital for the very existence of national foundations, the involuntary migration has to be ordered by the official authorities and government agencies. Such orders have to be carried out under all circumstances by the residents of the locality/region where the project is going to be installed. Examples of such a forced migration and resettlements of communities can be witnessed in recent past history of Pakistan when Mangla and Tarbela dam were constructed and even presently on going resettlement of affectees of the Ghazi Brotha dam.

One of the most accursed aspects of large dams and other mega-development project is their inherent character to enhance the displacement of people and livelihoods. Large hydro-irrigation projects play an instrumental role in displacing people from access to natural resources and environmental inputs into their livelihood. Non-compensation of the affectee of such projects is a constitutive part of this mournful saga. Inequitable distributions of benefits, lack of will to compensate livelihood losses, exclusion of the weakest social segments from benefits are some typical social features of such projects.

Since the migration of Ghazi Brotha dam's affectees is a phenomenon of our times as such for updating

ourselves about the socioeconomic necessities of the construction of this dam, and knowing about the sufferings of the people being effected by this construction and viewing the mechanics and methods being used in resettlement of dislocated people. We made a visit to the project site with the objectives, i) To evaluate an impact of involuntary migration on social and economic life of the migrants, ii) To assess the resettlement process facilitating by the project, iii) To look in to the new model migrant villages to gauge the facilities provided by the project and migrants perception about the change

## METHODOLOGY

Activities initiated to achieve the objectives are defined chronologically as:

- Basic information was collected through GBTI (Ghazi Broth Taraqiati Idara) about the project perspective.
- Selected two model villages out of four by considering one, which was established fully and the second, which had some problems in its establishment of migrants.
- All other information /data was collected by using PRA (participatory Rapid Appraisal) techniques like; focus group interview, transit walk and racky survey.
- Two groups one male and other female were organized to perform the task in the field. Later, the two groups debriefed, discussed and crosschecked the information.
- Used the GBTI documents & information as secondary source.

**What is the Ghazi Barotha hydropower project?** Due to tremendous increase in population of Pakistan, the growth in settlements is very high. The demand for food and other basic needs is increasing every day. To meet this end innovative techniques have been introduced in agriculture and more area is being put under cultivation. Therefore, the demand for power is increasing rapidly. To meet the dire need of strengthening the energy sector and more specifically benefiting the country's acute shortage of electricity and costly supply, the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) envisaged constructing the power channel designed to generate 1450 MW of economically viable hydro-electricity.

For making the conversion of the theme into practical reality, there requires the participation of the affected communities in the project implementations and to ensure that the project gains are sustainable. The communities need a long-term organizational support and base. It was realized through past experience that a bottom-up participatory approach is desired to organize, involve and mobilize the communities to make the project a success.

**Location.** The River Sind was selected for this purpose. To meet the demand about 2000 cumics (1 cumic is equal to 35.25 cusions) water of river Sind is planned to be diverted, which after generating power will ultimately rejoin the river.

This power channel starts from 7 kilometers down stream Tarbella Dam and the name for this place is Ghazi and extends up to 52 kms i.e. Brotha where the power channel will take the shape of power complex and ends into river Sind. Due to the name of these two locations that is from start (Ghazi) and at end (Brotha) this project is called Ghazi Brotha Hydropower Project. A brief summary of the characteristics of the GBDP is given below:

Project area 60 kms long of 10 kms radius, Length of the power channel 52 kms, Total acquired area 5470 ha, Land for power channel 1000 ha, Land for barrage and pond 1880 ha, Land for power complex and colonies 950 ha, Temporary occupation of land for spoil banks 1640 ha, Affected districts 3, Affected villages 53, Total direct affectees 19875, Male affectees 12333, Female affectees 7542, Houses to be relocated 117, Families to be relocated 190, Capital cost of the project US\$ 2.6 billion, and Indirect affectees- residents of affected and adjacent village 02M

### What is the Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI)?

The WAPDA had a lot of experience during the construction of Mangla and Terbala dams. At that time there were many problems for the resettlement of dislocated families. It was envisaged that there would be a lot of dislocation, forced/involuntary migration and resettlement of people due to intervention of this new huge man made engineering project (GBHP). Therefore, to ensure the successful implementation of the project, WAPDA recognized that the assistance of an organization having experience in community development would be needed. The major task of this organization will be to:

- Interface with the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and maintaining a conducive liaison with them over the construction period and beyond, especially when there is state of mistrust between WAPDA and the affected communities.
- Ensure a sustainable socio-economic uplift of the project area through effectively tapping the opportunities granted by the project and implementing an Integrated Regional Development Plan (IRDP).

To carry out the resettlement and compensation matters in the light of above mentioned manner, WAPDA and the project donor consortium led by the World Bank approached the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) to assist in setting up a participatory Project Non-government Organization (PNGO), provisionally named as Ghazi Brotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI), an organization to operate on the same principles as NRSP, but with the mandatory roles of advocacy, facilitation and mediation, beside the specific tasks of helping to setup community organizations (COs) in the project area and implementation of IRDP. Meeting the above-mentioned requirements eventually, GBTI was established by NRSP and incorporated under section 42 of the companies' act 1894 in

October 1995. WAPDA provided Rs. 100 million as seed money for this purpose and promise to provide an additional amount of Rs. 176 million for IRDP implementation, which is not yet released.

The roles to be performed by GBTI are Advocacy Role, Facilitation Role, Mediation Role, Enabling Role and Liaison Role

**Role of Ghazi Brotha Tiraqati Idara.** GBTI in turn further established different community organizations for implementing the programmes and exploitation of opportunities generated by the project through implementation of the schemes and integrated regional development plans.

Appraising the forced migration undertaken as a result of GBTI's efforts through linkages and interventions between its community organizations and other official & non-official NGOs. We observed that the sole purpose was to strengthen the energy sector and to overcome the acute shortage of electricity in the country in the wider national interest. While implementing the IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Project) GBTI was supposed to focus on the productive sector in the following fields.

- Agriculture/Live stock/ Forestry development.
- Credit for enterprise development.
- Productive physical infra structure & technology development.

It also supports the availability of the services in education, health and family planning fields by following the development principles where by up-gradation of skills is undertaken. Saving & capital formation is done and organization is ensured in between the different institution established under the guidance of community organizations.

**Model villages.** Three model villages, i) Easa Model Village for 22 houses, ii) Feroze Banda Model Village for 37 houses, and iii) Barotha Model Village for 28 houses

GBTI in pursuance of the targets set by the WAPDA started resettlement of affectees in model villages. Important features were development of mosque 1, Primary school 1 boy 1 Girl, Community center 1, Dispensary 1, Paved streets all, Water supply all, Sewerage all, Electricity all, Size of houses minimum 1-kanal, Graveyard 1, Play ground 1, and approach road none.

GBHP also facilitated people to build their houses as per their own willful maps with the use of scrap & material of their previous houses.

**Assessment of social impact on the PAPS.** The following scale was used to express the social impact on affectees:

| Scale of impact         | Positive | Negative |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Not relevant/Negligible | 0        | 0        |
| Minor                   | 1        | -1       |
| Moderate                | 2        | -2       |
| Major                   | 3        | -3       |

## OVERVIEW OF MAIN FINDINGS

| Type of Impacts             | Scale | Main Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Impact on Land-less/poorest | -3    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose employment.</li> <li>• No compensation.</li> <li>• Difficult to construct new house.</li> <li>• No organization for poor women.</li> </ul>                                                      |
| Impact on children          | -2    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school distance increased and they have to travel more on foot.</li> <li>• Danger of kid napping.</li> <li>• Difficult to cross the channel.</li> </ul>                                          |
| Impact on women             | -3    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No credit facility for women.</li> <li>• Cumbersome to fetch water from a long distance.</li> <li>• Marriage of daughters was delayed.</li> </ul>                                                    |
| Incidence of conflicts      | -3    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high in Easa model village as we observe during the visit.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                           |
| Willingness to participate  | -3    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are not ready to take the responsibility of operating the public facilities like schools, water supply and others.</li> </ul>                                                                   |
| Environment Impact          | -2    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high-tension line is passing over the village.</li> <li>• The whole set up has been divided into two parts like Barlon Wall.</li> <li>• In Easa village air pollution has been created.</li> </ul> |

## SUGGESTIONS

To ensure better and consistent over all sociological development of resettled communities, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Workforce for health and education should be provided from the migrants in completing the settlement process.
2. Community organizations made more active and empowered to established close liaison with other departments of weight and control in the social sector on sustainable basis.
3. Special emphasis should be on gender participation specially the women in all-social uplift plans.
4. The local population should be groomed to accept the new environment and convinced that it is their own area, which they have to develop. It can be preceded through seminars, discussions and other suitable platforms and to create more harmony and brotherhood among the occupants.
5. GBHP immediately plan to issue the green card for the satisfaction of the migrants.
6. Through media by arranging the dialogue with the migrants to demonstrate that they are happy and have more opportunities for the well-being of their families and for themselves through the role they have played in wider national interest along with their own by this involuntary migration.
7. Arranged and sustained efforts by the NGO's may be used to highlight the positive change and well-being of the migrants to facilitate like this many projects required at this moment to make the favorable environment for their construction.
8. A well-planned study is also necessary to launch for considering the effects of voluntary migration rather brain-drain to other countries on the economy of the country since last five years.

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