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# **CRISIS AND COMMUNITIES: INVESTIGATING DEVELOPMENT INDUCED DISPLACEMENT IN NORTH- EASTERN INDIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The critical analysis of development-induced displacement in Northeastern India highlights the significant challenges affected communities face. It discusses the historical, socio-economic, and political context, highlighting the need for a holistic understanding of the issue. The chapters in the critical analysis of this research paper explore the impact on affected communities, including social, economic, and environmental consequences, while also discussing coping mechanisms and the role of NGOs.

Government policies and their deficiencies in addressing displacement challenges are examined. The chapters stress the importance of transparency, community participation, and environmental safeguards in policy formulation.

Also, the analysis dives deep into the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their advocacy efforts, legal assistance, and monitoring functions. It highlights the importance of NGOs in raising awareness, providing rehabilitation and skill development programs, and ensuring accountability.

The research paper concludes by offering policy recommendations for sustainable rehabilitation and resettlement, including principles for fair compensation, livelihood restoration, environmental sustainability, and community empowerment. It emphasizes the need for a collaborative approach between NGOs, governmental organizations, and legislative reforms to protect the rights and well-being of displaced individuals and communities in Northeastern India.

## INTRODUCTION

Development-induced displacement (DID) throws a long and shadowy presence over the northeastern region of India, a land of diverse cultures, breathtaking landscapes, and rich ethnicity. In recent years, this beautiful region has become a focal point for economic development initiatives, with promises of progress and prosperity. However, beneath the surface of these development projects lies a complex and often unsettling truth – the forced displacement of local communities.

This introduction serves as the gateway to a deeper exploration of DID in northeastern India, a region graced with natural beauty but spoiled by the displacement of its people due to infrastructure development, hydroelectric ventures, and industrialization. As we dive deep into this issue, we will uncover the extent of displacement, the underlying causes, the impact on communities, and the challenges that arise when development ambitions collide with preserving culture, environment, and human dignity in this unique corner of the country. We also analyze the initiatives taken by the government and NGOs and recommend what specific actions can be taken to improve these development-induced displacements.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Development-induced displacement has significantly impacted communities in northeastern India due to infrastructure development, urbanization, and industrial expansion. Because of these displacements, the region, rich in cultural variety and local heritage, has particular problems. This literature review aims to synthesize current research to shed light on the complex character of development-induced displacement in northeastern India, including its socioeconomic, environmental, and human rights elements.

**Das and Saikia's (2018)** and **Baruah's (2019)** research emphasize the substantial social and economic impact on populations displaced by development projects. These communities are frequently robbed of their means of subsistence, resulting in increased poverty and unemployment rates. Transitioning to new livelihoods is extremely difficult for farming families whose lives have long been tied to the land. This change not only affects their way of life but also erodes the essential information and skills that have been passed down through generations. Development projects regularly intrude on indigenous tribes' territory in the northeastern area. Scholars such as **Choudhury (2017)** and **Bordoloi (2020)** emphasize the

devastating impact, focusing on the disintegration of cultural identity and indigenous knowledge. Displacement shatters society's close-knit fabric, upsetting age-old governing structures and spiritual traditions. This turmoil leads to the tragic loss of cultural heritage. Assimilations into larger communities become a formidable undertaking for local groups, frequently resulting in marginalization and persecution. **Human Rights Watch (2018)** and **ActionAid (2020)** emphasize that relocating individuals raises serious human rights concerns. Forcing people to leave their houses, paying insufficient compensation and neglecting to provide enough rehabilitation violates their fundamental rights to acceptable housing and a fair living lever. This is especially concerning for indigenous and disadvantaged populations already marginalized. They are even more perilous since they lack proper legal Help and representation to address their issues. Affected communities demonstrate resilience and resistance in the face of displacement: **Dasgupta (2017)** and **Bordoloi (2021)** chronicle community-led campaigns, legal challenges, and activism. Grassroots and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are critical in strengthening these people, campaigning for their rights and conserving indigenous knowledge and culture.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the extent and underlying causes of development-induced displacement in the Northeastern region of India?
2. What Government Policies have been established in Addressing Development-Induced Displacement Challenges in Northeastern India?
3. What are the social, economic, and environmental effects on affected communities?
4. What Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Rehabilitation and Resettlement would help the displaced communities?
5. What's the Broader Socio-economic and Political Context?
6. How can the Government and NGOs mitigate the problems of victims of development-based displacement?

## STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

This research addresses the complex issue of development-induced displacement, examining

its wide-ranging effects on communities. It seeks to understand displacement's social, economic, and psychological repercussions while exploring ways to balance development goals with preserving affected populations' well-being and heritage.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To analyze the extent and underlying causes of development-induced displacement in the Northeastern region of India.
2. To examine the Government Policies that have been established in Addressing Development-Induced Displacement Challenges in Northeastern India.
3. To understand the social, economic, and environmental effects on affected communities?
4. To suggest Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Rehabilitation and Resettlement that would help the displaced communities
5. To understand the Broader Socio-economic and Political Context.
6. To examine the ways of mitigating the problems of victims of development induced displacement by the Government and NGOs.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

The significance of this study lies in its potential to shed light on the human dimensions of development in Northeastern India. As the region undergoes significant economic and infrastructural transformation, it is essential to assess how these changes affect the most vulnerable parts of society. By evaluating the policies and mechanisms in place, we can identify gaps and areas for improvement in addressing the challenges faced by displaced communities. Ultimately, this research can inform policy decisions and contribute to developing more inclusive and sustainable practices in the region.

## **SCOPE AND LIMITATION**

This research will focus on Northeastern India, a region distinguished by its unique cultural and geographical diversity. It will specifically examine cases of development-induced

displacement, considering factors such as the type of development projects, the scale of displacement, and the demographics of affected communities. The study will analyze existing government policies, legal frameworks, and support mechanisms to mitigate the negative effects of displacement. As for limitations, first, the study's scope is limited to Northeastern India, so its findings may not directly apply to other regions. Second, the research relies on available data, which may have limitations regarding accuracy and completeness. Political sensitivity and policy gaps also tends to add a limitation in this study. Despite these limitations, every effort will be made to ensure the rigor and validity of the research.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research combines both doctrinal and non-doctrinal methods. Doctrinal research involves an extensive review of scholarly journals and academic literature to gather established theories and concepts. Non-doctrinal research involves informal interviews with the inhabitants of northeastern India and the ethnic cultures displaced from that location.

## **SOURCES OF DATA**

Data for this study will be collected from various sources, including government reports, academic literature, legal documents, and policy documents related to development and displacement in Northeastern India. Additionally, fieldwork will involve interviews with displaced communities. Quantitative data will complement these qualitative insights, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the issue.

## **CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

### **Chapter One: The extent and underlying causes of development-induced displacement in the Northeastern region of India.**

Development-induced displacement (DID) in the Northeastern region of India over the past decade has been controversial, leading to numerous communities' displacement and raising concerns about human rights violations and environmental consequences. This chapter paper will explore the extent and underlying causes of DID in the region while examining the impact on local populations and ecosystems.

India's Northeastern region, consisting of eight states, is known for its cultural diversity,

unique ecosystems, and ethnic diversity. However, the region has experienced a surge in development projects, including infrastructure, hydroelectric power plants, and industrialization, which often results in significant displacement of local communities. Due to development projects, India ranks among the top countries with the most internally displaced persons (IDPs), with thousands of families and communities uprooted from their ancestral lands and habitats.

In the 1990s, Manipur experienced *ethnic conflict and armed insurgency movements*, with insurgent groups seeking autonomy. Violent clashes led to the displacement of civilians. The government's response to these conflicts included deploying security forces, resulting in human rights violations and displacement. *The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act*<sup>1</sup> granted significant powers to security forces, sometimes leading to abuses and displacement.<sup>2</sup>

The *Lower Subansiri hydroelectric power project (LHSEP)*<sup>3</sup> is part of an ambitious plan of the government of India to generate 50,000MW. The Subansiri hydropower project has three components: the 2,000MW Upper Subansiri, the 1,600MW Middle Subansiri, and the 2,000MW Lower Subansiri. The Lower Subansiri hydroelectric project being built on the Subansiri River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra River, on the border of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, will be one of India's most extensive hydroelectric facilities. The construction of the mega hydropower project has been underway since 2005. This ambitious plan of the government of India has also led to the displacement of almost 26 tribes living in the location.

*The Dumber hydroelectric project*<sup>4</sup> in Tripura displaced 40,000 people occupying prime agricultural land, displacing about 2,00,000 tribal people. If implemented, the Pagladiya dam project in Assam will displace about 1,50,000 people from their land.

Out of the total population of indigenous/ tribal peoples, 55 % have been displaced, constituting only 8 % of the total population of India at the 1991 census. That precisely means 85 lakhs of tribal people were displaced till 1990, according to the data given by *the Ministry of Tribal Affairs* for mega development projects.

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<sup>1</sup> The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, Acts of Parliament, 1958 (India)

<sup>2</sup> Monirul Hussain & Pradip Phanjoubam, *A Status Report on Displacement in Assam and Manipur*, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (Feb 2007), <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/pp12.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Power technology, <https://www.power-technology.com> (last visited Oct. 4, 2023)

<sup>4</sup> Supra note 2

Most internally displaced persons in the northeast are victims of environmental degradation, skewed development processes, and ethnic conflicts. Though technically, they are citizens of the country, empirically, they are refugees, and their exact numbers are still to be estimated.

In conclusion, Development-induced displacement (DID) in India's Northeastern region has led to significant displacement of local communities, raising concerns about human rights violations and environmental consequences. The region, known for its cultural diversity and unique ecosystems, has experienced a surge in development projects, including infrastructure, hydroelectric power plants, and industrialization. India ranks among the top countries with the most internally displaced persons (IDPs), with thousands of families and communities uprooted from their ancestral lands and habitats. Addressing DID in this region requires a comprehensive approach prioritizing affected communities' rights and well-being and environmental sustainability.

## **Chapter Two: Evaluating Government Policies in Addressing Development-Induced Displacement Challenges in North-eastern India**

This Chapter digs at the effectiveness of existing government measures in resolving development-induced displacement concerns in Northeastern India. Northeast India has had a number of economic and infrastructure advancements that have led to the eviction of indigenous and underprivileged people from their ancestral lands. Policies act within the structure, including the *Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act, 2013*<sup>5</sup>; the *Forest Rights Act, 2006*<sup>6</sup>; and the *Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996*<sup>7</sup>. While these programmes aim to give compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement to affected populations, their practical application has met significant problems.

One of the primary issues is the implementation gap, where the promises of compensation and rehabilitation are often delayed or inadequately delivered to displaced communities. Moreover, the policies frequently lack inclusivity, as affected communities often have limited participation in decision-making processes, particularly in preparing rehabilitation and resettlement plans. Another concern is the weakening of protective laws, where the

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<sup>5</sup> Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, No. 30 of 2013 (India)

<sup>6</sup> The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, No. 2 of 2007 (India)

<sup>7</sup> The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, No. 40 of 1996 (India)

application of central laws sometimes results in the dilution of safeguards at the state level, leaving affected communities more vulnerable.

To better understand the real-world implications of these policies, two case studies are examined: the Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh and coal mining in Meghalaya. In both cases, local communities have expressed dissatisfaction with the project's planning and execution, citing inadequate consideration of their concerns and rights. These instances illustrate the challenges in translating policy intent into equitable outcomes on the ground.

Civil society organizations and grassroots movements have played a critical role in advocating for the rights of displaced communities. Their efforts have pressured the government to reconsider policies and take corrective measures, often serving as intermediaries between policy intent and reality. Recommendations for improving government policies in Northeastern India include enhancing transparency in decision-making processes, prioritizing community participation, building the capacity of local institutions, ensuring consistency and coordination between state and central laws, and prioritizing environmental safeguards in ecologically sensitive areas.

In conclusion, the analysis of government policies surrounding development-induced displacement in Northeastern India demonstrates a multidimensional landscape characterised by a mismatch between policy purpose and on-ground realities. While the policies are supposed to protect the rights of displaced communities, their implementation is generally delayed by many challenges. Collaboration attempts that include government departments and the communities affected are essential to bridging these gaps and guaranteeing development in Northeastern India is not only economically beneficial but also equitable, environmentally friendly, and respectful of the dignity and well-being of all its inhabitants.

### **Chapter Three: Examine social, economic, and environmental effects on affected communities.**

#### **Effects on Affected Communities**

In this Chapter, titled "Examine social, economic, and environmental effects on affected communities," we embark on a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted impacts



resulting from development-induced displacement in Northeastern India. Our primary focus revolves around the intricate web of social, economic, and environmental consequences that befall the communities affected by these displacement events.

### **Social Impacts**

We begin by delving into the intricate realm of social impacts. Here, we unravel the profound disruptions that take place within social structures and community cohesion due to displacement. This section meticulously analyses the psychological and emotional toll exacted upon individuals and communities, and we delve into the intricate changes in cultural practices, identities, and traditions. We substantiate our findings with compelling case studies and illuminating interviews with displaced individuals, offering a vivid portrayal of the social metamorphosis that accompanies displacement.

### **Economic Impacts**

Transitioning into the economic component, we find the far-reaching economic implications that echo across households affected by displacement. We investigate the significant job losses, economic inequities, and dramatic transformations in livelihood choices that confront displaced individuals and communities. We also cast a critical eye on the government's compensation and rehabilitation programs, analyzing their adequacy and effectiveness. Throughout this part, we give a variety of data and figures that graphically depict the economic hardships suffered by those caught in the throes of displacement.

### **Environmental Impacts**

Turning our attention to the natural world, we meticulously examine the environmental ramifications brought forth by development projects in the region. We investigate the unsettling trends of deforestation, habitat loss, and the perturbations in local ecosystems that frequently accompany such projects. Our inquiry extends to the assessment of impacts on critical resources such as water sources, agricultural lands, and biodiversity. To underpin our analysis, we draw upon scientific studies and environmental assessments that shed light on the ecological transformations borne by affected areas.

### **Coping Mechanisms and Resilience**

A bright spot emerges as we delve into the section dedicated to coping mechanisms and resilience. Here, we illuminate the strategies and adaptive mechanisms deployed by affected communities in their struggle to navigate the tumultuous terrain of displacement. We celebrate community-led initiatives, the tireless efforts of NGOs, and the grassroots endeavors that embody the spirit of resilience. Through a series of vivid examples, we showcase the tenacity and adaptability that often emerge amidst adversity.

### **Government Policies and Mitigation Measures**

In the final section, we turn our critical gaze towards government policies and mitigation measures in place to address the challenges of displacement. We meticulously analyze existing policies and regulations pertaining to displacement and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures that have been implemented. The role of various stakeholders, including government agencies and development corporations, is subjected to scrutiny. Concluding this section, we proffer recommendations aimed at enhancing policy frameworks and community support, thereby advocating for a more equitable and sustainable approach to development-induced displacement in Northeastern India.

### **Conclusion**

In summation, this Chapter orchestrates a comprehensive and insightful examination of development-induced displacement in Northeastern India. It meticulously dissects the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of the phenomenon, offering a profound understanding of the complex challenges faced by affected communities. Moreover, it delineates potential pathways towards addressing these challenges and advocates for the pivotal role of community involvement and empowerment in mitigating the adverse effects of displacement. Ultimately, this Chapter contributes valuable insights that resonate far beyond the confines of Northeastern India, shaping our understanding of development-induced displacement on a global scale.

## **Chapter Four: Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Rehabilitation and Resettlement**

### **Introduction**

In this pivotal Chapter, "Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Rehabilitation and

Resettlement," we pivot our focus towards crafting a robust policy framework to address the challenges of development-induced displacement in Northeastern India. We underscore the paramount significance of such policies in mitigating the detrimental effects on displaced communities and ushering in equitable and sustainable outcomes. This Chapter is devoted to providing practical and comprehensive recommendations that can serve as a guiding beacon for policymakers, government agencies, and stakeholders alike.

### **Assessing Current Policies**

Our journey begins by undertaking a rigorous assessment of the prevailing rehabilitation and resettlement policies in Northeastern India. We scrutinise these policies through a critical lens, seeking to uncover their strengths, pinpoint their weaknesses, and identify the prevailing gaps. Through case studies and empirical evidence, we illuminate the tangible impact that these policies have had on the ground, shedding light on the real-world implications of current practices.

### **Principles for Sustainable Rehabilitation**

In our pursuit of sustainable rehabilitation and resettlement, we lay down a foundational set of principles that should guide policy formulation and implementation. At the core of these principles is the imperative of community participation, consent, and empowerment, recognizing communities as active stakeholders in the process. We champion the adoption of culturally sensitive and gender-inclusive approaches, drawing upon international best practices to inform our recommendations.

### **Ensuring Livelihood Restoration**

Sustainable rehabilitation hinges significantly on the restoration of livelihoods for displaced individuals and communities. Here, we advocate for strategies that encompass skill development programs, vocational training, and the creation of viable employment opportunities. We underscore the critical role that land rights and access to resources play in the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods, recognizing them as fundamental components of successful rehabilitation.

### **Adequate Compensation and Social Welfare**

In our goal for equitable rehabilitation, we wrestle with the problem of fair and adequate compensation for households affected by displacement. Simultaneously, we promote comprehensive social welfare policies, embracing healthcare, education, and social safety nets. We highlight the complementing responsibilities of government agencies and non-governmental groups in giving crucial support to afflicted populations.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

We advocate for policies that align development goals with ecological conservation. This entails endorsing reforestation, habitat restoration, and the promotion of sustainable land use practices that safeguard the region's precious natural resources for generations to come.

### **Monitoring and Accountability**

Accountability and oversight are paramount in ensuring the faithful implementation of rehabilitation and resettlement policies. To this end, we propose robust mechanisms for monitoring progress. Independent oversight bodies and community-based monitoring initiatives take centre stage, providing checks and balances to hold stakeholders accountable. We emphasise the importance of accountability measures to address policy violations effectively.

### **Community Empowerment**

The Chapter culminates in an exploration of community empowerment as a linchpin for successful rehabilitation and resettlement. We assert the necessity of empowering displaced communities to partake actively in decision-making processes. We advocate for measures to strengthen local governance structures and underscore the role of education and awareness programs in building community capacity.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this Chapter provides a comprehensive repository of policy ideas focused towards encouraging sustainable rehabilitation and resettlement methods in Northeastern India. These ideas span the range of livelihood restoration, compensation, environmental sustainability, and community empowerment. They are aimed to not only solve the immediate issues of development-induced displacement but also to bring in a new era of equitable and

socially responsible development methods. Ultimately, the successful implementation of these policies has the ability to alter the lives of displaced individuals and communities while providing a baseline for future development initiatives and displacement scenarios.

## **Chapter Five: The Broader Socio-economic and Political Context**

### **Introduction**

In this Chapter, headed "The Broader Socio-economic and Political Context," we go on a trip to study the myriad socio-economic and political processes that serve as the backdrop for development-induced displacement in Northeastern India. This Chapter is grounded in the recognition that to truly grasp the complexities of displacement, one has to dive deeply into the historical, socio-economic, and political underpinnings that create the region. Our ultimate objective is to construct a complete contextual framework that enhances our awareness of the obstacles and opportunities given by development-induced relocation.

### **Historical Context**

Our research opens with an in-depth assessment of the historical backdrop of Northeastern India. We weave through the rich tapestry of cultural diversity, the existence of indigenous populations, and the continuing relics of colonial control. By tracking historical events and policies, we shed light on how these elements have irrevocably formed the socio-economic and political environment of the region, ultimately impacting the trajectory of development projects and the consequent displacement of communities.

### **Socio-economic Factors**

In this Section, we turn our focus towards the socio-economic factors that contribute to the vulnerability of communities to development-induced displacement. We analyze the pervasive issues of poverty, land tenure systems, and economic disparities, discerning their role in creating conditions where displacement becomes not only a consequence but often an inevitability.

### **Political Dynamics**

The political dynamics of Northeastern India come to the forefront in the section. Here, we

delve into the intricacies of governance structures, political conflicts, and the manifold roles played by various stakeholders in shaping development projects and their associated displacement outcomes. This section seeks to unravel the web of political influences that are woven into the fabric of development in the region.

### **Indigenous Rights and Identity**

This section hones in on the unique challenges confronting indigenous communities in Northeastern India. We dissect the multifaceted issues of land rights, cultural preservation, and identity, highlighting how these aspects intersect with development-induced displacement and underscore the imperative of safeguarding the rights and identities of these communities.

### **Conflict and Development**

The intricate interplay between conflict and development-induced displacement takes centre stage in this Section. We explore the delicate balance between development initiatives and exacerbating or ameliorating existing conflicts. By analyzing case studies and real-world scenarios, we gain insights into how development projects can either intensify tensions or contribute to peace-building efforts.

### **International Perspectives**

To broaden our perspective, this Section considers international viewpoints on development-induced displacement. Here, we delve into global frameworks, human rights conventions, and the role of international organizations in addressing displacement issues in Northeastern India. This section underscores the importance of a global perspective in tackling the challenges posed by displacement.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, This Chapter provides a comprehensive panorama of the socio-economic and political context that underpins development-induced displacement in Northeastern India. It emphasizes the interconnectedness of historical legacies, socio-economic disparities, political dynamics, indigenous rights, and international perspectives. Such an understanding is

indispensable for formulating effective policies and promoting sustainable development in the region while respecting the rights and aspirations of affected communities.

### **Chapter Six: How can the government and NGOs mitigate the problems of victims of development-based displacement?**

Though there have not been any official databases, statistics show that around 5 million people in Arunachal Pradesh and 2 million people from Assam have been victims of the mass displacement that came to light as an unfailing companion of the development.<sup>8</sup> The Doctrine of State Sovereignty, which allows the state ultimate authority inside its borders, may hinder the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and impacted communities. This ideology can be utilized by the state to justify its actions in the context of development-induced displacement, often ignoring the concerns of the affected districts. This legal approach may create a power imbalance, making it difficult for NGOs and displaced populations to contest the state's choices.

Guidelines for resettlement developed by funders, governments and international treaties have had limited success in reversing these negative consequences. All commercial sector founders or governments do not follow guidelines. Neither global nor state legal systems provide enough protection for “development refugees”. Poorly informed, planned, non-consultative, and poorly conducted resettlement schemes continue to cause poverty and social disturbance and elicit opposition. Development-induced displacement frequently causes the impacted areas' social, economic and environmental problems. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governmental organizations (GOs) are critical in resolving this complicated issue.<sup>9</sup>

It is the responsibility of government organizations to protect the rights of displaced individuals. This includes ensuring equitable compensation, appropriate rehabilitation, and necessary services like healthcare and education. Comprehensive impact evaluations are required before development projects, with local communities included in decision-making to ensure openness and confidence. Nonetheless, governments frequently contribute to the misery of displaced people, notwithstanding these objectives. Inadequate compensations,

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<sup>8</sup> Raju Narayana Swamy, Development-Induced Displacement: The Case of Moolampilly, *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol.72, Pg. 156, 2011, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42761816?seq=2>

<sup>9</sup> Forced Migration Review, <https://www.fmreview.org/development-induced-displacement/dewet>, (last visited Oct. 6, 2023)

insufficient rehabilitation efforts, and a lack of openness in decision-making procedures are prevalent problems. Bureaucratic impediments, corruption, and a lack of political will intensify the issues of individuals displaced due to development activities, underscoring the considerable barriers to establishing a just and equitable solution.

NGOs in the northeastern country can act as advocates and facilitators for displaced populations. They can raise awareness about impacted people's rights, give legal assistance, and assist in discussions with the government and companies. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also play an essential role in recording incidents of relocation, providing light on the true impact of these projects on residents. Furthermore, they can provide rehabilitation and skill development programmed to assist displaced persons in rebuilding their lives. Moreover, NGOs can function as watchdogs, ensuring the government and enterprises follow current displacement laws and standards. They can call attention to the challenges encountered by the impacted communities by doing research and releasing findings, putting pressure on authorities for accountability and policy reforms.

To solve these issues, the government can enact new laws or change existing ones to protect the displaced people in northeastern India completely. To begin, a strict legal framework should be constructed, demanding extensive social and environmental impact evaluations before the start of any development initiatives. These evaluations should be carried out with the impacted communities to ensure that their concerns are addressed. Second, regulations should be implemented to ensure that displaced households receive equitable compensation, including the monetary worth of their property and the cost of re-establishing their livelihoods. Adequate rehabilitation measures, such as housing, vocational training, and healthcare, should be given to guarantee that displaced people may live a decent life after being relocated. Third, the government should encourage NGOs and civil society organizations to participate actively in development project decision-making processes. It is critical to create a collaborative climate in which these organizations may express the concerns of the impacted communities without fear of retaliation. Furthermore, legal mechanisms should be implemented to hold government officials and companies accountable for any abuses of displaced people's rights. Penalties and fines should be enforced on entities that fail to follow the stated rules to deter exploitative practices.

To summarize, resolving development-induced displacement in northeastern India



necessitates a multifaceted strategy incorporating non-governmental organizations, governmental organizations, and legislative reforms. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can serve as advocates, giving assistance and resources to impacted communities, while the government must provide open, accountable, and participatory processes. The government may establish a more fair and equitable society where progress does not come at the expense of human dignity and basic rights by examining existing legal theories and enacting new laws that prioritize the rights and well-being of the displaced.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the study sheds light on the complicated subject of displacement driven by economic expansion, infrastructural development, and indigenous land rights issues in Northeastern India. Regardless of existing government policy, impacted communities face significant social, economic, and environmental issues, upsetting their customary way of life. To solve this, long-term rehabilitation programmes that emphasize community empowerment, sufficient compensation, education, healthcare, and job prospects are critical. It is critical to understand the socioeconomic and cultural backdrop. Collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations, and local populations is required, with NGOs campaigning for the displaced and giving legal assistance. Transparent talks, a focus on human rights, and an emphasis on empathy are critical. The issues experienced by victims of development-induced relocation can be alleviated by using a holistic approach, supporting sustainable and inclusive development in Northeastern India.

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