A study on socio economic reorganization and health status of internally displaced persons of India

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Abstract: Studies relating to socio-economic conditions of IDPs in India are very scarce. Few studies that cover them are mainly journalistic or media studies and are not based on scientific/systematic design, and majority of those are done during the outburst of the displacement/conflict without further trace of the affected population. Thus, this research tries to find the impact on socio economic reorganization and health status of persons displaced internally in India. It is found during the research that, there is significant improvement in their social as well as economic organisation. However, mental illness issues have been found among them.

Keywords: Social reorganisation, Economic reorganisation, Health status etc.

1. Introduction:

Majority of population displacement is the main features of the present days aggravating few of the bluntest examples of violation of human rights (Toole, 2001). Displacement of population or compulsory migration is the reason for weighty economic and social disturbance to the displaced persons and there by social material of the communities of the area gets totally disturbed. Such displaced persons have been known by dissimilar terms depending on reasons of displacement, distance they travel and administrative boundary they cross. "People or group of people who have been forced or gratified to escape or leave their homes or areas of customary residence specifically as a result of, or in order to evade the impact of, armed battle, situations of generalized fierceness, defilements of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and have not crossed an internationally recognized state border" are known as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

IDPs are differentiated from refugee on the ground that they remain within the national territory, thus in spite of all other problems remaining same; they are less assisted by international organizations (Keely et. al., 2001; Raj and Kaur,1990).

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More than 50 countries across the world have a huge population of IDPs. As of today, the Democratic Republic of Congo has perhaps the highest number of IDPs in the world. The UN High Commission for Refugees says, "Since the beginning of 2012, ethnic tensions and inequitable access to land is the reason behind renewed fierceness in the east and north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), resulting in the displacement of approximately 2.2 million people inside the country." All these persons have immediately are categorised as IDPs, a term which acquired recognition in the UN vocabulary in 1998 after it was found that, the difficulty of the expatriates within a particular country remained mainly ignored both by National authorities and also International organizations.

Another key characteristic of IDPs is that they do not leave their households out of choice but out of circumstances that force them to leave their place and shift to other safer areas within the country. The reasons of displacement are several. This can be due to projects involving economic development. Under the pretext of construction of better infrastructure, whole villages or towns are "relocated", leading to internal movement of people.

The IDMC provides following details of IDPs in India:

(1) 250,000 Kashmiri Pandits displaced from the valley of Kashmir since 1990.

(2) Ferocity and fight in north-east India, in which at least 115,000 people have been expatriate. The details include: 36,000 Muslims internally displaced in Assam by inter-communal violence in the month of July and August 2012, staying in official camps, with potentially lakhs of remaining in displacement outside of official camps; more than 46,000 Adivasis, Bodos and Muslims displaced by inter-ethnic violence in Western Assam in the 1990s; more than 30,000 Brus displaced from Mizoram State to Tripura State in 1997 and 2009; More than 3,000 lake dwellers forcibly evicted by the authorities from floating islands on Loktak Lake, Manipur in November 2011, probably as part of a counterinsurgency measure;

(3) Naxalite conflict in Central India, leading to at least 148,000 people. This includes: 40,000 Adivasis breathing in displacement at the end of 2009, out of them, 50% were staying in camps in Chhattisgarh and remaining 50% were dispersed across Andhra Pradesh; approximately 8,000 Adivasis staying in displacement in West Bengal; more than 100,000 people expatriate from Chhattisgarh since June 2009; and

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(4) Communal violence in Gujarat and Orissa States, leading to 26,000 people remaining displaced, including: 16,087 people who still remain displaced as a result of the 2002 Hindu-Muslim violence in Gujarat State, all of whom are living in 86 relief colonies in Gujarat State; and at least 10,000 people displaced in 2007 and 2008 by Hindu-Christian violence in Orissa State.

2. Literature review:

Friedman defines development as an innovative process leading to the physical conversion of social systems. Displacement for development is the procedure of physically uprooting great sections of persons from their land, economy, resources and culture. The scale and rate of growth related displacements makes unintentional resettlement a problem of worldwide relevance[1]. Involuntary resettlement is a consequence of planned change generated by major development projects or programmes.

Hiralal (2007) found that Sikh social relations in KwaZulu/Natal (Durban, South Africa) tend to be largely intra ethnic. Primary social relations are still to some extend defined by kinship. However, inter-ethnic social relations, of a casual and instrumental nature, have developed with other communities. Sikh community leaders have tended to have wider and closer links with non-Sikhs as a result of their roles as cultural and political brokers. The youth on the other hand, tend to develop wider inter-ethnic social networks through school and recreational activities.

According to Castles (2006) Violence and forced migration also causes social transformation. Compulsory migration is therefore a major factor that extends under development, deteriorates social bonds, and reduces the volume of communities in the society to achieve an optimistic change. Post conflict reconstruction rarely lead stores to ration of the pre-conflict situation, but rather to a new and often problematic social relationship.

3. Rationale of the study:

When a person or group of persons is displaced, entire social and economic network gets disrupted. They have to be in a new place without proper living condition, no proper occupation, have to face hostile locals etc. Hence, it is also very difficult to ignore the conclusion that these people are likely to be very different than they were before they became refugees or internally displaced and from those people who did not undergo similar trials.

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Studies relating to socio-economic conditions of IDPs in India are very scarce. Few studies that cover them are mainly journalistic or media studies and are not based on scientific/systematic design, and many of them are done during the outbreak of the displacement/conflict without further trace of the affected population. Thus, systematic study to understand the socio-economic impact on IDPs are highly necessary.

4. Objective of the study:

1. To examine the social reorganisation of internally displaced persons in India.
2. To examine the economic reorganisation of internally displaced persons in India.
3. To know the health status of internally displaced persons in India.

5. Research Methodology:

5.1 Research Design: In this paper, the researcher has applied descriptive research design to describe the factors describing social, economic and health status of internally displaced persons of India.

5.2 Data Collection: In the present research, primary data collection technique has been used so as to collect the data from persons who are displaced due to the 2002 Hindu-Muslim in Gujrat State. Hence, online questionnaire and telephonic interviews were scheduled to collected the data from the respondents.
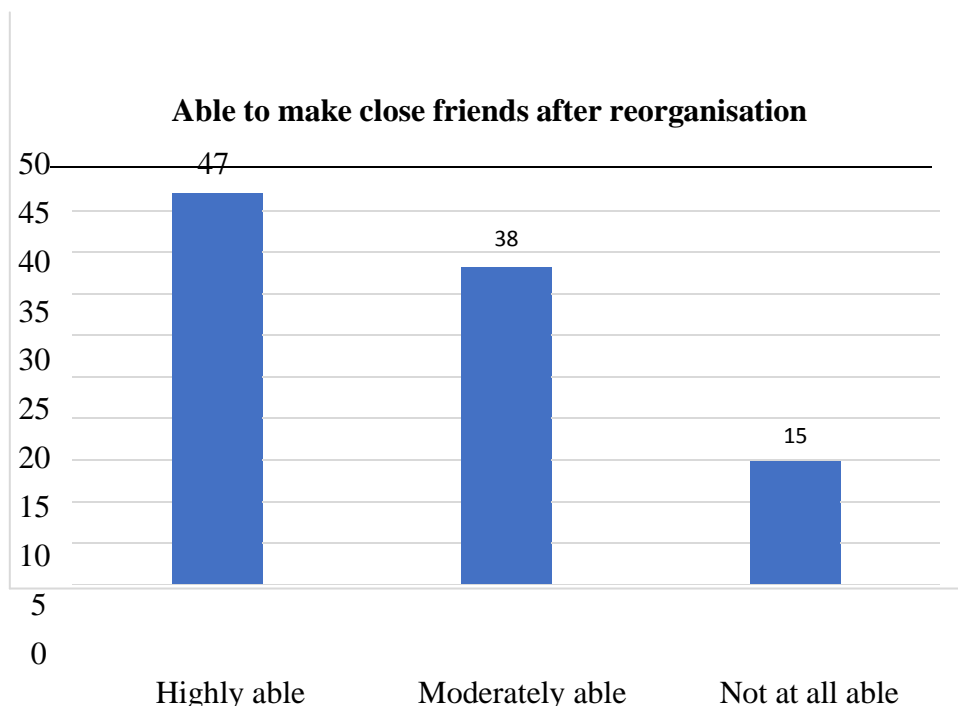
5.3 Sampling Technique and Sample Size: In this research, convenient sampling technique has been used by the researchers to collected the data from persons who are displaced as a result of the 2002 Hindu-Muslim in Gujrat State. Here in this research, the data has been collected from 100 respondents.

6.1 Social Reorganisation:

The experience of internal displacement is an extraordinary life experience, often shared collectively, and is capable of causing in any person a wide range of sufferings like physical, economic, social, psychological etc. Most often community bonds are disrupted, resulting in the creation of new groups connected by a common experience of displacement. Hence, according to Kagee and Soto (2003) group cohesion plays a significant role in shaping the ways

in which people might respond to their status as IDPs. Often, the presence or absence of group support may play an important role in creating conditions for ongoing survival and coping.

In the present research the social reorganisation status of internally displaced persons has been measured at two different levels, one at individual level where level of friendship has been

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measures and another at community level i.e. receiving invitation to attend religious programs, marriages and political gatherings.

Individual Level: As it is known fact that normally new comers are not well accepted in the host community on the other hand the new comer takes sometimes to adjust in the news society. In the present study researcher has tried to understand the social reorganization of IDPs through the friendship pattern.

Figure 1 Ability to make friends after reorganisation

It is found from figure 1 that majority i.e. 47% of the respondents were able to make close friends outside their village after reorganisation, this shows that these people have been positively accepted by the locals. Similarly, 38% of the respondents were also been able to make good friends, however only 15% were not been able to make friends.

Community Level: As mentioned earlier, in the present study the researcher tries to measure social reorganisation of the IDPs at the community level i.e. receiving invitation to attend religious programs, marriages and political gatherings. The results are discussed below:

Received invitation to attend	Yes	No
Religious Program	83	17
Marriage Ceremony	73	27
Political gatherings	44	56

Table 1 Receiving invitation

It is found from table 1 that majority of the internally displaced persons have been receiving invitations to attend religious programs and marriage ceremonies. However, the ratio of not

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receiving invitations for political programs is a bit higher that those receiving invitations. This shows that IDPs have started gaining social reorganisation

6.2 Economic Reorganisation:

Various studies (Baboo 2002, Hussain 2000; Galtung 1996; Reddy 1990; Lightfood 1978) have shown that forced displacement of population disrupts the entire economic setup of a community. But few of the studies on development induced displacement shows improvement in the economic condition of some of the IDPs (Satyanarayana, 1999; Mukharjee 1990:97). It is therefore studied in the present research that whether there is any impact on economic condition of IDPs from Gujrat. Economic status include improvement in income, saving and standard of living of the internally displaced persons.

Improvement in Income: In order to understand the acuteness of economic burden, researcher has tried to know the improvement in income per month of the internally displaced persons.

Improvement in Income

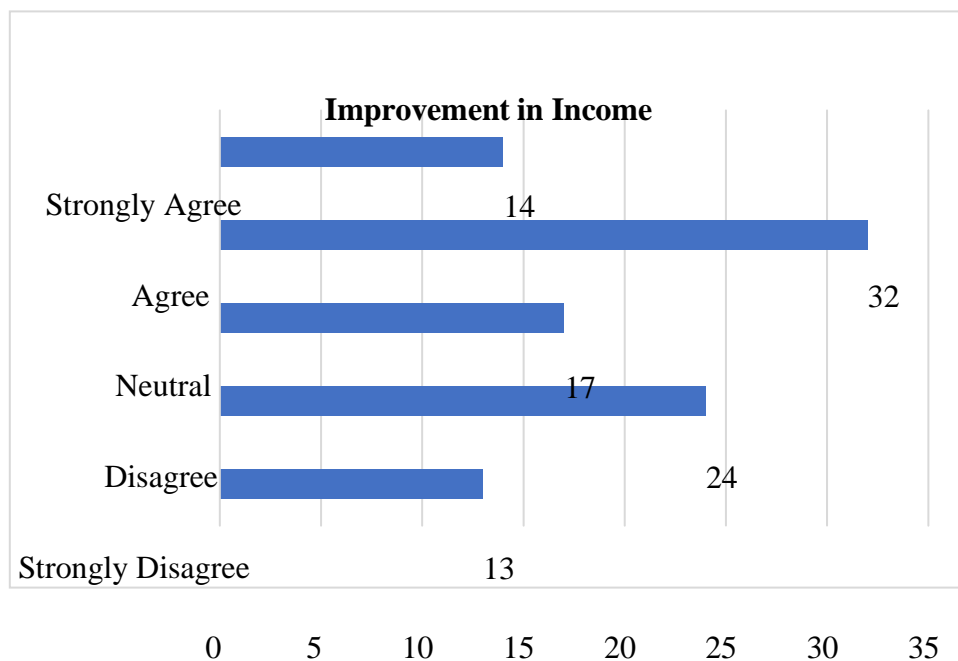| Category	Value
Strongly Agree	14
Agree	32
Neutral	17
Disagree	24
Strongly Disagree	13

Figure 2 Improvement in Monthly Income

It is found from the above figure 2 that majority of the respondents i.e. 56% (39 + 17) agree that there is considerable increase in their income after reorganisation, However, 12% of the respondents neither agree nor disagree to this and remaining 32% (21 + 11) disagree that there is improvement in their monthly income after displacement. Hence, it is concluded that income of majority of the IDPs have been increased after displacement.

Improvement in Savings: Apart from studying the improvement in income of IDPs, researcher has tried to know the improvement in savings per month of the internally displaced persons.

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Improvement in Savings

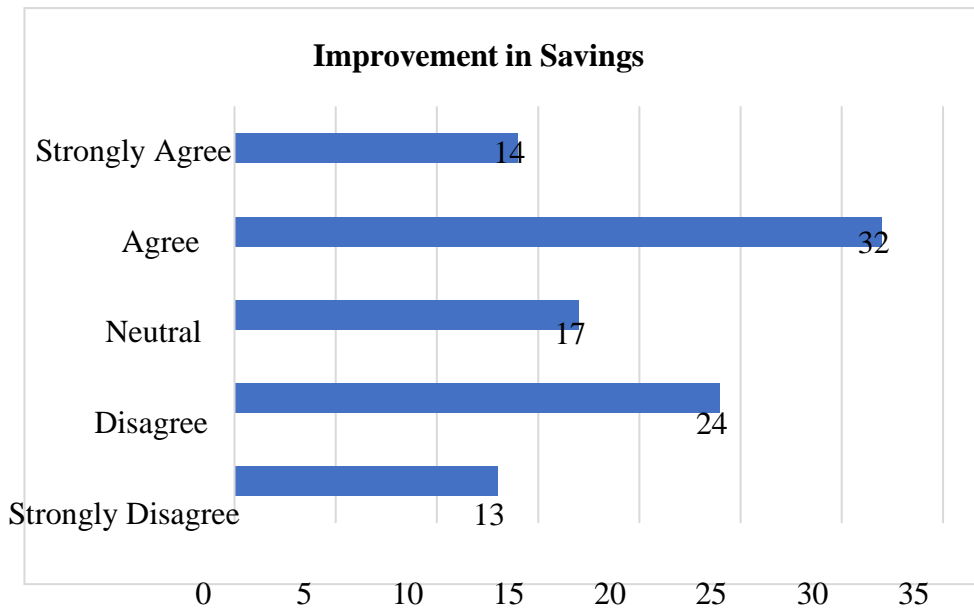|	
Strongly Agree	14
Agree	32
Neutral	17
Disagree	24
Strongly Disagree	13

Figure 3 Improvement in Monthly Savings

It is found from the above figure 3 that majority of the respondents i.e. 46% (31 + 15) agree that there is considerable increase in their monthly savings after reorganisation, However, 13% of the respondents neither agree nor disagree to this and remaining 41% (27 + 14) disagree that there is improvement in their monthly savings after displacement. Hence, it is concluded that savings of majority of the IDPs have been increased after displacement.

Improvement in Standard of Living: Another factor that is considered to study the economic reorganisation is improvement in standard of living of internally displaced persons from Gujrat.
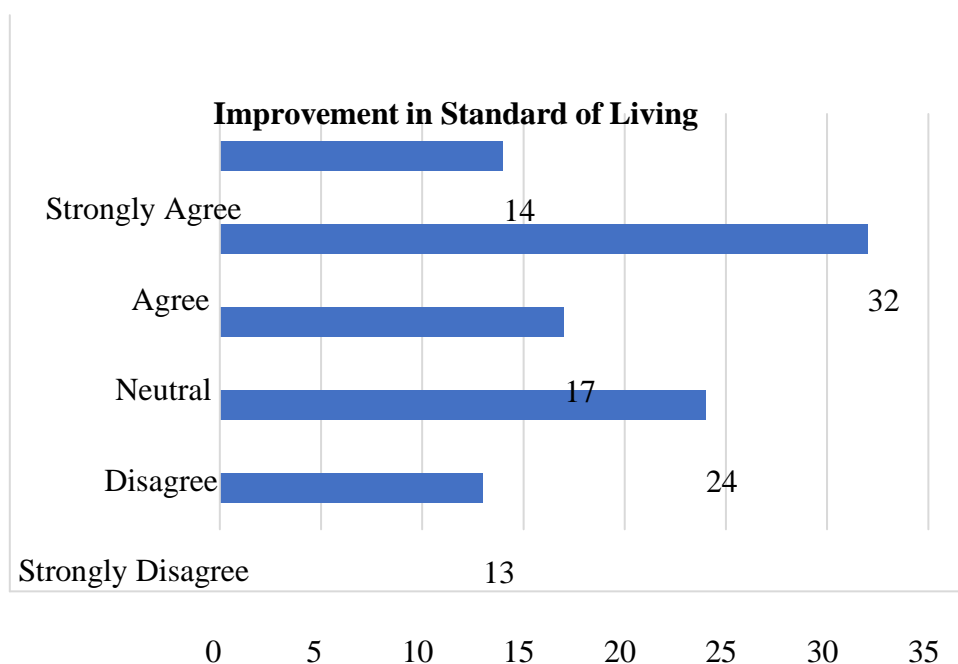
Improvement in Standard of Living

Strongly Agree	14
Agree	32
Neutral	17
Disagree	24
Strongly Disagree	13

Figure 4 Improvement in standard of living

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It is found from the above figure 4 that majority of the respondents i.e. 46% (32 + 14) agree that there is considerable increase in their standard of living after reorganisation, However, 17% of the respondents neither agree nor disagree to this and remaining 37% (24 + 13) disagree that there is improvement in their standard of living after displacement. Hence, it is concluded that standard of living of majority of the IDPs have been increased after displacement.

6.3 Health Status:

The health status of IDPs is one of the key public health issues presently facing the humanitarian community. Poverty, which is the other name of IDPs, is the harbinger of mental ill health The concept of mental illness is often not defined and the criteria used is not reliable and valid (Dohrend and Dohrend, 1965). Psychologically, involuntary displacement put foundation stone for jealousy, inferiority, imitation, humiliation and frustration (Verma, 2004) and thereby causes various illnesses, especially psychological.

It is found during the research that majority of the IDPs are suffering from mental illness rather than physical illness. The illness found among IDPs is Insomnia basically due to tension, worry, poor economic condition, family problem, heavy work etc. and to cop up with this problem majority of them have started drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes and bidis, some remain idle and keep on thinking all the time, etc.

7. Conclusion:

As the common definition for IDPs is very wide, for the present study we define IDPs as those persons who are displaced due to situation of generalized violence. In this research, the data has been collected from persons who are displaced as a result of the 2002 Hindu-Muslim in Gujrat State. An attempt has been made to study their socio economic reorganisation and also their health status. It is found that there is significant improvement in their social as well as economic organisation. However, mental illness issues have been found among them and to cop up with the mental health issues majority of them have started drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes and bidis, some remain idle and keep on thinking all the time, etc.

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