

INTERFACE BETWEEN INVOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CRITICAL ISSUES  
FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF GUJARAT STATE, INDIA

HINAL PANDYA

B. A. , M. A. , M. Phil

(The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda)

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**To my parents**

**Mr. Dinesh Pandya      Mrs. Bhagirathi Pandya**

**With Reverence**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis examines the impact of the Narmada Dam Project on the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the displaced indigenous tribal people living in the state of Gujarat, India. The impact of relocation is discussed in terms of policy making, the institutional framework, human rights violations, and planning and execution. In order to analyze the impact of government policy and its implementation, elements studied include rehabilitation, resettlement, land alienation, education, health, security, basic amenities and gender issues. The study is based on a review of the official documentation together with the governments' policies, followed by an anthropological survey of the people concerned. Interviews were conducted with a sample of the affected families in the displaced communities living in their new villages, who had been settled there for some twenty years after their relocation.

The researcher visited a sample of sixteen villages resettled as a consequence of the Narmada Dam and situated in the Vadodara district of Gujarat State during the period September 2010 to February 2011. She toured the villages and their facilities and interviewed affected people, government officials and NGO personnel, as well as organizing focus groups.

The results of the field research show that rehabilitation and resettlement has not been provided adequately or according to the existing policy norms. The displaced tribal people are not satisfied with the compensation provided to them because it did not help them to improve or restore their pre-displacement status. On balance, the results of this study suggest that the planning and administration of the resettlement programme were both poor.

Overall findings indicate that the uprooting of indigenous people from their homeland not only disrupts their way of life but also erodes and eventually destroys their social, cultural, religious and economic traditions. Based on the findings from Gujarat State, displaced people require a planned approach to rehabilitation in order to minimize their hardships in resettling. Accordingly, some suggested measures for systematic planned rehabilitation of displaced tribal people are outlined.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Chapter 4 Managing Rehabilitation & Resettlement of the Involuntary Displaced People: Lessons from the Narmada Project in Western India** (This chapter has been published in “Journal of Internal Displacement” (2011) Vol.1 No. 2 pp. 81-100 Canada <http://journalinternaldisplacement.webs.com/>).
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- Chapter 6 “Never Mind the Policy, Feel the Pain”: Development-Induced Displacement and Tribal Women: A Case Study of Narmada Project in Western India** (This chapter is an under review by the Multidisciplinary Journal of Gender Studies, Hipatia Press, Barcelona, Spain <http://www.hipatiapress.info/hpjournals/index.php/generos>).
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- Chapter: 8 Involuntary Displacement: An Analysis of the Role of Non-Government Organizations and contribution to the Narmada Project affected communities** (This article has been published in the International NGO Journal- Vo. 8 (2), pp. 44-53 February 2013 Available at <http://www.academicjournals.org/ingoj/PDF/pdf2013/Feb/Pandya.pdf>

## GLOSSARY

Block	: Administrative unit, better known as development block
Compensation	: Payment or money, which the affected people are entitled to in order to replace their losses.
Development	: Planned intervention to accelerate the economic development of a country through continuous process involving various projects such as dams, mines, power plan and industries etc.
Guntha	: Measurement of Land
Kachha	: House made of walls consisting of mud, reeds, grass, bamboo, etc. and roof made of thatch, reeds, grass, leaves etc.
Panchayat	: Village Administration or Village Council
Pucca	: House made of walls consisting burnt bricks, metal steel, stone, cement, concert etc. and roof made of titles, metal steels, bricks, limestone etc.
Patta	: Land Title
Schedule Caste	: Any community or section of a community notified by the President of India as Scheduled Caste (Article 341 of the Constitution of India).
Scheduled Tribe	: Any community or section of a community notified by the President of India as Scheduled Tribe (Article 324 of the Constitution of India).
Taluka	: This is smaller than a district and bigger than a village.
Tehasil	: Administrative unit next to district and sub division in descending order.
Vasahat	: Resettlement Site/village

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AP	: Andhra Pradesh
BBC	: British Broad Corporation
CCD	: Centre for Culture and Development
CSS	: Centre for Social Studies
CWEC	: Central Water and Electricity Commission
DRDP	: District Rural Development Program
DST	: Divya Sewa Trust
ECOSOC	: Economic and Social Council
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
GOG	: Government of Gujarat
GOI	: Government of India
GR	: Government Resolution
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economics, Social and Cultural Rights
IDPs	: Internally Displaced Persons.
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ILO	: International Labour Organization
IMDC	: Internal Monitoring Displacement Centre
RCC	: Roller-Compacted Concrete
IRM	: Independent Review Mission
IRDP	: Integrated Rural Development Program
LAA	: Land Acquisitions Act
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
NBA	: Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement)
NVP	: Narmada Valley Project
NWDT	: Narmada (Name of the river) Water Dispute Tribunal
NPRR	: National Policy for Rehabilitation and Resettlement



MP : Madhya Pradesh (Name of the State in India)

MH : Maharashtra (Name of the State in India)

MOEF : Ministry of Environment and Forests

NHRC : National Human Rights Commission

PAFs : Project Affected Families

PAPs : Project Affect Persons

PHC : Public Health Centres

RCC : Roller Compacted Concrete

R&R : Rehabilitation and Resettlement

RRM : Risk and Reconstruction Model

SHG : Self Help Group

SSP : Sardar Sarovar Project

SSPA : Sardar Sarovar Punarvasvat (rehabilitation) Agency

SC : Scheduled Caste

ST : Scheduled Tribe

TSP : Tribal Sub Plan

UN : United Nations

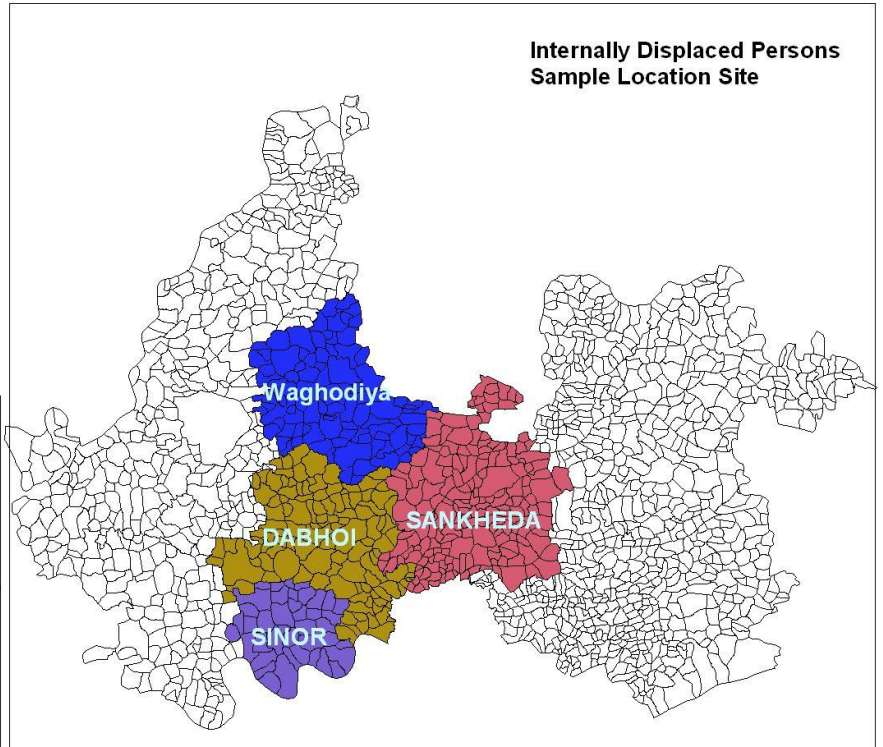
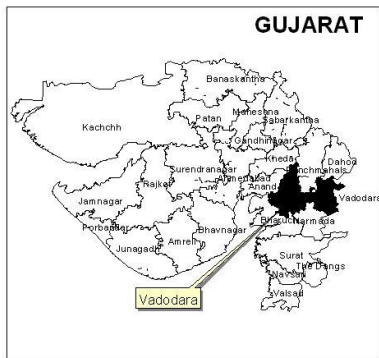
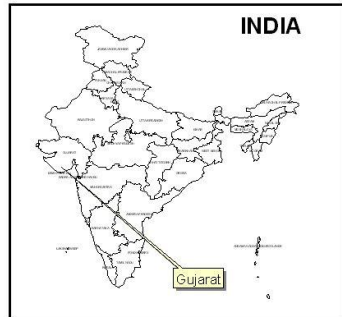
WB : World Bank

WBED : World Bank Environment Department

WBOED : World Bank's Operations Evaluation Department

WCD : World Commission on Dams

# MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



[Source: Author's own]

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