



## PREFACE

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India is a country with vast cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity. In independent national development has been largely equated with economic growth and surplus. A significant feature of India's development strategy since independence has been planned development with emphasis on large scale public sector funding for development projects including irrigation and multipurpose river valley projects which had promised to set India on the path of modernization and development, one of the inevitable outcome of this has been massive environmental degradation and development induced displacement.

Displacement is a phenomenon by which person is forced to live his or her original location and go elsewhere. It starts much before the actual physical displacement and continues for a long time after uprootment has taken place. The experience with development projects across the country reveals the fact that huge-backlog of almost 75 percent of those displaced have not been rehabilitated and the long drawn process of displacement has caused widespread adverse psychological and socio-cultural consequences. Thus, forced displacement has resulted in what Micheal Cernea calls – “A spiral of impoverishment”. Any development project can have different impact on different stake holders, benefiting some and causing harm to others. This study is about Psycho-social conditions of Sardar Sarovar project, which is interstate, multipurpose, water resource development projects has been controversial since it's inception. Several issues are involved with this project such as institutional arrangement, tribal identity, regaining quality of life, role of NGO's etcetera, of which issues of resettlement and rehabilitation at S.S.P. are of local, national and global dimensions and significance. The state (Government of Gujarat) claims that it has delivered the most compensatory package to Project Affected Families (PAFs). 90 percent PAFs to be addressed in the study are 'tribals', who are the masses struggling for their survival needs, human rights and social justice.

Relative isolation, largely self-sufficient life style with minimum specialization of functions, social system with no hierarchy and strong sense of belongingness to their habitat are main

socio-economic features of the tribal communities. Having understood the basic life realities of tribal people this study makes an humble attempt to visualize and study the post effect of resettlement and rehabilitation on social and psychological conditions of PAFs. Avoidance of gamut of eight risks (such as landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, morbidity, food insecurity, marginalisation etc.) indicate a successful resettlement at S.S.P. The question remains whether they are being rehabilitated or not? Basic concern of rehabilitation is people and regaining quality of life (QOL) is one major criterion of good rehabilitation. This study is an effort to explore the same.