

VIOLATION OF REFUGEE RIGHTS AND MIGRATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

Refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution any other natural disaster due to environmental crises in rural areas of India is increasingly an important cause for the migration of people. While it initiates to begin with ecological troubles and it creates various socio- economic problems. This paper analyses issues violation of refugees rights and their vulnerability of their livelihood rights and effected in the form of supression and this causes the migration of people in India. It is also explained that the shortage of water and land in rural areas, reasons by population growth, environmental change and imbalanced resource distribution and growth are influenced extensive landlessness, unemployment, unequal wages, income and poverty of human habitat leading to rights violation against environmental refugees .

Keywords: Environmental Refugees, Migration, Rights Violation

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Introduction

The executive director of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) reported that many people could become environmental refugees, if the world did not act to support sustainable development (Diance 2002). At present there have been a number of arguments to extend regular supports to the system of migration and refugees. Environmental Refugees is the creation of number of experiences of the modern era. These refugees' pupils can no longer get a protected livelihood in their own homelands because of drought, desertification, soil erosion, deforestation, poverty for population growth and other environmental problems. These people feel that they have no option but to try to find places of safety somewhere else and many of them are being internally displaced. Eventually their rights are been violated. Environmental migrant is a very important part of environmental refugees, because in these kinds of crises, people will leave their home due the effects of climate change and global warming.

As in 1995 the numbers of the total environmental refugees were at least 25 million people, compared with 27 million traditional refugees, i.e. people fleeing political oppression, religious discrimination and ethnic difficulty.. Moreover, it might increase gradually for good while thereafter as rising numbers of poor people pressing ever harder on over-loaded environments. When global warming takes hold, there might be as many as 200 million people go beyond by disruption of monsoon systems and other rainfall regimes, by lack of exceptional severity and interval, and by sea level rise and coastal flooding (Srikanta 2014).

Environmental refugee

Environmental refugee is a person, who might have left their home and community because of climate change, lack of resources, deforestation, livelihood and loss of agriculture or changing cropping pattern. Some of the important causes are explained below;

Drought

One of the most important serious climate change risks to India is the improved frequency, strength and geographical coverage of drought (Architesh Panda 2010). Rising seas level threatens coastal area people and it can make climate refugees internal. When people cannot grow produce on the land where they live, they have to move somewhere else in order to survive.

Millions of people in India are suffering their worst drought for more than four decades. The northern part of India is facing a water shortage worse than the severe drought in 1972 (Srikanta 2014).

Global warming

Global warming (Temperature rise) is a major important issue of climate change. Global warming could threaten large number of people with displacement in recent years. Cutting down forests contribute to global warming and they release greenhouse gases. Rising temperatures associated with global warming reason glaciers and ice caps to melt. This causes flooding and make sea levels rise. Rising temperatures also lead to droughts and destruction of land to desert. The effects can put land entirely underwater, making it not fit to live in. so the number of people will be moved temporarily or permanently from their dwelling.

Increasing Sea Level

In India, a large part of the coastal areas are at risk of proceeding faster sea level rise, increase of cyclones, and larger storm surges and at the same time roughly 37 million people will be at risk from the sea level rise by 2050. Increasing unfavourable effects of climate change along the Indian seaside may induce many people to migrate from the low lying and risky areas. India was estimated to be the second-largest population located in the low rise coastal zone of 63 million and seventh in terms of area (82,000 square kilometres). The Indian areas are closely populated, make long over 7,500 km and are inhabited by more than a 100 million people in nine coastal states (National Commission 2004). Latest observance suggest that the sea level has rose up to 2.5 mm per year from the time when the 1950s along the Indian coast. Further, it is expected to be between 15 cm and 38 cm by the middle period of this century and between 46 cm and 59 cm by the end of the century. Numerous cases of displacement due to climate change have been reported in the recent years. According to a recent study, 32% of India's coastal region will be at risk of inundation with sea level rise and intensified storm increases along with an additional 8,693 sq km of land area, 3,744 sq km agricultural land and 76,40,416 people at risk of storm surge and sea level rise (Architesh Panda 2010).

Failure of Livelihood in Agriculture Sector

Agriculture has been the base of Indian economy (Omprakash 2009) and 70 per cent of the people living in rural areas and their main source of livelihood is agriculture (Ritesh 2012). Any important change in climate on a global scale would impact local farming, and hence affect the world's food supply. Changes in the temperature, solar radiation, and precipitation would have an effect on crop productivity and livestock agriculture. The problems of predicting the upcoming course of agriculture in the changing world are compounded by the basic complexity of natural agricultural systems, and world food supply and demand by governing of socio economic status. Many climatologists predict a significant global warning in the coming decades due to increasing environment carbon dioxide and other green house gases. Climate change would also have an economic impact on agriculture, including changes in farm profitability, prices, supply, demand, trade and regional relative advantages. The size and geographical distribution of such induced climate changes may affect our skill to expand the food production area as necessary to feed the burgeoning population of more than 10,000 million people projected for the middle of the next century.

Environmental Challenges for Migration in India

Migration does not indicate that the rural livelihoods will not be fit for poor people at all time. Rather, it shows that the survival strategies of rural livelihoods are not rooted for people and it is related into the economics of rural and urban areas. It's related to rural urban communities and it will be supportive to survive in such climatically unbalanced environments. In rural India the lack of food, water, joblessness, wealth and climate conditions are the major reasons for forced migration. At the same time India is facing major problems of climate change and it reflected in water and food grain production for the future. Developing countries like India may lose up to 1.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Compare to the pre industrialization stage the temperature level is increasing one degree Celsius and it defeats the poor the most and is not taken to control the rise in temperature.

| The status of Refugee as regards India | |
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| Refugees residing in India | 188,395 |
| Asylum seekers | 3,675 |

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|---------------------------------|---------|
| Total population of concern | 192,070 |
| Refugees originating from India | 11,042 |
| Asylum seekers | 11,879 |
| Total population of concern | 23,332 |

Source: 2014 UNHCR regional operations profile- South Asia

In India, there is a general concern about environmental migrants that it would increase around 30 million environmental migrants within next 50 years. At the same time, the current illegal influx from Bangladesh would also rise subsequently. In future decades approximately 15 million affected persons in Bangladesh and around 30 million persons in China would be required to the rising sea level by to leave their local area, erosion and scarce soil fertility due to climate change. The average temperature in India would increase by 3 to 5 degree Celsius by 2100. The warming would be felt mainly in the Northern parts and would lead to a 20 percent rise in the summer monsoon rainfall. In addition, the estimated rise in sea level in the Bengal coastal areas may also be one meter in 2050 and two meters in 2100. This is not to say that environmental change is due to the existence of high risk environments with highly variable climatic and other factors behind large-scale rural migration. People have historically left places with harsh and deteriorating conditions, in terms of poor rainfall, high underemployment, or political upheaval or even some combination of these or other adverse factors.

Conclusion

Climate change is causing hundreds and millions of refugees suffer exploitation against livelihood rights displacing a large number of people and forcing them to migrate causing livelihood problems. There are many laws and schemes that should be formulated for their problems. But they must be effectively implemented; their rights must not be violated. On the other hand, still there are important gaps in many areas, first, we should understand the root cause of internal migration and how climate change is affecting the poor people in migration. Secondly, we should understand who are the product of migration and should take immediate action to save those people. Finally the effects of migration which causes instability in the livelihood of refugees must be understood. The awareness of climate change based migration

must be enhanced. There must be a better understanding of relationship between climate change and migration. And we must know the problems and suitable strategies to help the people displaced by climate change and should work effectively in dealing with the crisis.

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