

# Development Impacts

# Introduction

- Development emphasizes over exploitation of resources resulting in various impacts.
- Is this sustainable?
  - Can it meet the future needs of the current population
  - Can it meet the needs of future generations
- For this, we need to balance the social, economic and environmental.

# Displacement

- Conflict Wars, Ethnic Cleansing, Riots
- Environment Degradation, Destruction, Pollution
- Climate Extreme weather conditions, cyclones, floods
- Development Mining, Dams, Thermal and Nuclear power projects

# Development induced displacement and Dispossession

## Some Features

- Multiple - The displaced have been displaced again
- Forced - Most often forced, and/or dubious means (false promises) used
- Type/ Scale, Tribes/ Indigenous Peoples and other subalterns most affected millions displaced
- Legal cover Expropriation Laws (Land Acquisition Act, 1894 etc)
- Doctrine Eminent Domain
- Conflicts Protests (various types, violence, death)

# Eminent Domain (Doctrinal Foundation)

- Grotius - the idea that the sovereignty of the nations originates in the people, not in the kings by God's will. Then, the people agree to confer such authority to their authorities, including the kings
- Sovereign Right (Rulers, Govts)
- Any private land can be compulsorily acquired
  - Public Purpose/Use
  - Just Compensation
- Public Purpose/ Use benefit or use of public
- For the greater Common Good/Public Interest
- Just Compensation Equity or Justice

# Laws of Expropriation

- Land Acquisition Act, 1894 Colonial (British) Law
- Land can be acquired compulsorily for various public purposes and Losers to be paid compensation
- Public Purpose will be decided by the State and not the People
- Compensation based on Market Value
- Includes Solatium (Additional compensation for the grief arising from a sense of loss and alienation)
- Resettlement Rehabilitation (RR) Not in Land Acquisition Act, but governed by separate Policies and Legislations
- Dismal record of R R (leading to impoverishment.)

# Public Purpose

What is public purpose?

- Judicial interpretations The narrow and broad interpretations. Implications of these for ecology/ environment and human rights
- Can public purpose defeat human rights under the Constitution of India? – Failure to comply with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) unpredictable and, in some cases, arbitrary applications of expropriation law in practice
- Recent Supreme Court judgment (in relation to SEZs) establishes pre-eminence of public purpose as supreme
- A mass movement for genuine public purpose ?? Can it ever become a deterrent against state power??
- What else can check this fearsome power of the state? just compensation, peoples movements, NGOs, international pressure???

# Impoverishment Risks (Michael Cernea)

- Landlessness
- Homelessness
- Joblessness
- Food Insecurity
- CPR Loss (Common Property Resources)
- Morbidity (Health Loss)
- Social Disarticulation
- Marginalization

# Rights violations by the state

- State-caused impoverishment results in multiple violations of Rights
- Rights of citizens (individual and collective)
  - to life with dignity
  - to liberty/freedoms (to move and stay anywhere in the country)
  - to food, shelter, education, health, work
  - to a clean environment
  - to say No to Development
  - to culture, religion and language (minorities)

# Resistance and Protests against State violence

- The Language/Vocabulary of R P
- Dubenge par nahin Hatenge Mareng par nahin Hatenge
- vikas chahiye, vinash nahin
- Satyagraha (fasts/unto death) Mahatma Gandhi/Nelson Mandela
- Jal Samadhi (suicide by drowning) self-immolation
- Picketing Sitting on Dharnas
- Morchas and padayatras (long protest walks)
- Gheraos Hartals and Bandhs
- Sleeping on the railway tracks Blockades (roads, railways)
- Sitting on unlit pyres ready to die for their land and way of life
- Naxalism/Maoism (violent protests) as a response to state violence
- Hugging trees etc
- Laughter!

# Development – Human, Social and Environmental Costs

- TINA There is No Alternative
- You cannot make an omlet without breaking an egg/tomato
- People and the Environment will have to pay the price of development that is how it is
- Some people will have to make Sacrifices that's how life is
- There will be ecological imbalances cant be helped
- TAMA There are Many alternatives
- Next to killing a person the worst you can do is to displace her/him.
- Look for sustainable/ethical models of development
  - Minimum or zero impact on the environment
  - Minimum or zero displacement of people
- The most vulnerable should be taken care of limit consumption

# Economy, Industry, Manufacturing

- More stuff    More waste
- Increased use of tools, technology and Sciences
- Mining of minerals as raw materials for industry, Construction of dams
- Use of fossil fuels    Release of CO<sub>2</sub>    Green House Effect
- Chemical and waste by products of manufacturing

# Urban Development

- Urban sprawl – different kinds of pollution
- Decrease in biodiversity
- Water run off, temperature rise and other disasters
- Impact of population (density) on the environment

# Effects

- Fragmentation of natural habitats
- Loss of fertile soil
- Deforestation and soil degradation
- Pollution and climate change

# Solutions

- Small is beautiful – build smaller dams
- Become more local
- Move away from the accumulative culture
- Increasing biodiversity – sustainable exploitation of environment
- Use technology that is appropriate and context specific
- Alternatives to fossil fuels

# Four principles of sustainable development

- Decision making process should be based on best available (scientific) information and risk assessment
- Precautionary/ protective principle – in case of uncertainty and threat to serious risks
- Environmental impact
- Polluters must pay
  - Empowerment is critical

# Concluding thoughts

- The world has enough for our need but not enough for our greed.
  - Mahatma Gandhi
- From Having more to Being more
  - Eric Fromm
- Another World is Possible
  - World Social Forum
- Inclusive, Empathetic, Participatory, Ecosystem oriented, etc
  - Alternate Futures