

Impact of Industrialization on the Well Being of the Rehabilitants: An Empirical Study

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Abstract

Based on the data from an ICSSR Sponsored Research Project on 'Assessment of Impact of Industrialization on the Rehabilitants of Haldia and Formulation of Future Rehabilitation Strategy' conducted between February, 2011 and April, 2012, by the author, this paper argues that industrialization in Haldia and Durgapur is able to increase the well being of the majority of the respondents of the rehabilitation colonies.

Key words: *Industrialization, Investors' Destination, Compensation, Rehabilitation.*

Introduction

In our country, at present, industrialization is considered as a major component of development and poverty reduction after sustained squeezing of agriculture. Both the Central and the State Governments has recognized the role of industrialization for achieving higher growth of national income and reduction of poverty. But the greatest hurdle of industrialization in India is unavailability of proper land. Industrialization is absolutely essential but it cannot be pulled out of thin air. Industrialization involves not only building up factories but also of infrastructure, roads, bridges, seaports, airports, townships, shopping malls and entertainment centres for the emerging professional class. No investor would consider investing in the state if the basic infrastructure is not available. A recent review shows that almost seventy per cent of industrial project is delayed due to land acquisition problem. The economy and society have not been able to cope with the increasing relative scarcity of land because of various reasons. Out of them the most important is there is a general belief in common mass that those who suffer due to land acquisition will not be adequately compensated or rehabilitated. During the course of land acquisition, the son of the soil becomes minority in their own land after losing their houses, land and economic activities. They are losing everything in lieu of mere compensation, even not enough to carry on any future profession. Industrialization is essential but at the same time we should not forget the responsibility and accountability in implementing industrialization.

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The land-industry controversy remains one of the most vexed issues in the country and in the state as the decade turns. Every state has to acquire land for encouragement of private investment but in most cases fails to face the issue of affected people's improvement, food security and the right to a life with dignity. Expectations, uncertainties and protests related to land acquisition on the part of the displaced have become the most significant bottleneck for investment. The Indira Sagar Pariyojana (ISP) is one of several large dams being built on the river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh. According to the government estimates made during the time of dam construction, the ISP was to submerge 248 villages and one town named Harsud and displaces 80,572 people. The living standard of people has deteriorated as incomes of most families have fallen by more than half as compared to the pre-displacement years. Sharma (2005) reported absence of a rehabilitation plan, inadequate compensation, and loss of livelihoods and lack of alternative employment.

Overview of Literature

There is no dearth of availability of literature on the subject of industrialization and its possible impact especially on the Indian context with special reference to West Bengal. Scattered materials relating to Haldia's industrialization are available. In spite of best effort we hardly found any book or comprehensive research work on this topic. The following books have been primarily consulted and used.

P.K.Dasgupta (1978) has thoroughly investigated the impact of industrialization on the tribes of South Bihar. The author critically assesses the social problems faced by the Ethnic groups, Minorities, Tribes, etc. in his book entitled 'Impact of industrialization on a Tribe in South Bihar'. In the same spirit, A.K.Das (1962) has tried to give an idea on the changing pattern of life of the tribes of West Bengal affected by the industrialization in the book captioned 'Impact of industrialization on the life of the tribes of West Bengal'. Sukumar Banerjee (1981) dealt with the impact of industrialization on the tribal population of Jharia-Raniganj Coal Field Areas and also the social problems, ethnic group and minorities in that particular locality. M.M.P.Sinha (1980) has discussed on urban sociology and land use in Patna due to urbanization in Patna, Bihar. J.F. Balsara (1964) had detected the problems faced by the Indian society due to rapid urbanization in his book "Problems of Rapid Urbanization in India". He also suggested some remedial measures that could be adopted to tackle such problems.

M.R. Chowdhury (1977) has vividly discussed the industrialization process in India and he has successfully correlated the process of industrialization with urbanization in the book captioned "Industrialization & Urbanization in India". K.L. Gupta (1989) has discussed on the industrialization process and employment situation in the developing countries. According to his opinion, there should be a balanced approach between industrialization and employment. E.J. Hobsbawn (1968) in his book "Industry & Empire" has emphasized on the need of industrialization and he has also suggested the way how industrialization creates the resources of a country.

H.E. Hoelscher and M.C. Hawk (1969) in their book "Industrialization and Development" elaborately discussed the relation between industrialization and development. Moreover, they emphasized on the industrialization for the development of a country. In the same spirit Ray Kiely (1998) gives an idea about the mutual relationship between industrialization and development. K.M.Kapadia (1972) has observed the industrialization process in Atul-Bulsar Region and its impact on the rural society. He has also noticed the changes in attitudes of rural people due to industrialization. A.B. Mountjoy (1982) had expressed his scholastic view

towards industrialization process initiated in various developing countries in the book captioned “Industrialization & Developing Countries”. He has also given an idea about the social transformation process of the developing countries due to industrialization.

S.Y. Thakur (1985) gives an idea about the role of industrialization in the development of an economy in the book entitled “Industrialization & Economic Development”. He also proposed for the acceptance of some strategies by the developing nations. W.F. Whyte (1946) in his book “Industry & Society” focuses on the issues of reciprocal relationship between social order and industrialization in general. H.B. Newbold (1942) has identified the rapid changing rural life styles due to industrialization in the book “Industry & Rural Life”. He has also pointed out the conflicts arising due to industrialization in rural lives.

Biswanath Ray (1996) had vividly discussed the socio-economic transformation in India in last few decades in the book captioned “Socio- Economic transformation in India”. He has also raised some questions on the transformation process due to industrialization. R.K.Ray (1979) has pointed out the increasing role of private corporate sector in the industrialization process of India in the book entitled “Industrialization in India: Growth & Conflict in the Pvt. Corporate Sector”.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Radhika Krishnan, Nesar Ahmad (2012) in their article “Land Acquisition and Dispossession Private Coal Companies in Jharkhand” have presented an investigation into strategies employed by privately-owned companies to gain access to land for resource extraction in Jharkhand where much of the land being put under the shovel is inalienable ‘*adivasi*’ or ‘tribal’ land and deedless commons. They concluded that although policy reforms are welcome, cosmetic changes in mineral governance laws are inadequate to protect the interests of the poor. They suggested for an alternative vision, a complete overhaul of mineral ownership to allow the poor to share the revenue benefits.

Background of the Study

Once obscure in rural cluster, called Haldia in erstwhile undivided Medinipur District some 120 kilometers away from Kolkata, transformed to an industrial area and became the destination for a large number of industrialists within a span of 40 years. Active facilitation from the Government of West Bengal has accelerated the process of industrialization in Haldia. The industrialization process has tried to transform the hitherto rural economy to a modern, vibrant industrial economy with extended opportunities for livelihood to a large section of stakeholder class. Increased educational facilities, enhanced infrastructure, improved health care system, increased economic opportunities with an uninterrupted supply of low cost skilled and unskilled labour have made Haldia as the ‘investor’s destination’ particularly in the 90’s. Till the first half of the 20th Century the name of Haldia was totally unknown to the outer world. Historical evidences prove that the place was under water and it has emerged from the Bay of Bengal in the last part of the 19th century. Gradually, people from adjoining areas came and settled there. Agriculture and fishing was their livelihood. With the establishment of the Haldia Port in 1972, a large number of core industries promoted by leading corporate houses came up and is called today the “Haldia Industrial Region” having an area of 326 square kilometers. Haldia’s exciting prospects, industrial base, infrastructural facilities, transportation linkage make this region a good choice for further growth of industries. Within a span of 40 years an obscure rural pasture oblique by the traditional agriculture and fishery became an urban expansion with the aid of industrialization.

Haldia's 40 years of journey towards industrialization has accompanied by huge number of people who became victims of land acquisition for the industrial process. In Haldia, land acquisition process started in the year 1959 when the government acquired 9,000 acres of land for the introduction of Port Complex Project. In this process, more than 12,000 peoples of 68 villages were affected and uprooted after getting mere compensation. Some of them, after getting small amount of compensation, left Haldia and moved towards an unknown address with the expectation of better life. The rests preferred to take shelter in the rehabilitation centers, with a hope of getting some meaningful livelihood in the industrialization process. In last 40 years, 10 rehabilitation colonies have been set up to provide more than 4,800 families who have sacrificed their homestead and land for providing place to industries. The evictees after losing their ancestral occupations, land and houses were forced to take shelter in the rehabilitation colonies. The rehabilitants started a new phase of life in the rehabilitation colonies in Haldia. Since Haldia Industrial Region was predominantly rural, industrialization creates huge changes on the socio-economic life of its people. Industrialization not only changes the economic activities but also changes habit, customs, behavior as well as social status of the rehabilitants. With the passage of time, industrialization starts playing a more important role on the socio-economic life of the rehabilitants. Thus habit, customs, culture, living style intermingles with economy and commerce and undergoes a revolutionary change.

In West-Bengal, Durgapur is another industrial center where Durgapur Steel Plant has been constructed over the sacrificed land of the evictees. Industrialization has created huge impact on the evicted people of Durgapur. In comparison with Durgapur, the problem of rehabilitation in Haldia is far wide and has become complicated. After independence, the Government of India and all the State Governments went on rapid industrial development throughout the country. In these days Durgapur was projected as an ideal place for industrialization for some favourable reasons, such as availability of land, electricity, raw materials, transportation etc. Since 1960, number of industries like DSP, ASP and MAMC etc. were established here and marked the name of Durgapur as a promising industrial centre. It is a notable fact that in Durgapur, there was enough barren land which was acquired for industries without affecting huge number of people. In the year 1957, when Durgapur Steal Plant (DSP) was proposed to be established, 16,225 acres of land were acquired that affected 1,953 families of 15 villages. 5,735 acres of land was required for construction of factory and 10490 acres for construction of township. The evictees were provided with new settlements in three colonies named Gopalmath (966 families), Benachity (825 families) and Dhandabag (162 families).

Objectives of the Study

The industrialization process which was initiated earlier with the commissioning of a sea-port in Haldia has received a progressive surge after 1990. Industrialization of this area expedites the process of development. In Durgapur also industrialization process has accelerated the process of development. During the last four decades, commercial activity of the rehabilitants in these areas has dramatically changed. To be more precise, there are some positive indications of upward movement in terms of income, employment opportunity, education and basic amenities of life. Briefly, it may be said that there has been an improvement in the quality of life. On the other hand, they became landless because vast area of land covering agriculture, residences, fisheries, pasture, etc. was acquired and converted into industrial zone. Naturally, the ancestral livelihood of the large number of inhabitants have already vanished and have gradually been substituted by different types of occupations related

directly or indirectly with the process of establishment of industries from time to time. Under the above perspective, the study has been designed to assess the impact of industrialization on the rehabilitants in the above two areas by analyzing the Well Being Index before and after displacement.

Methodology of the Study

In order to address the broad objectives, in the initial stage the study has examined the theoretical understanding of the process. After thorough literature survey and consulting books and journals relevant to this topic, the study has formulated the theoretical aspect of industrialization and rehabilitation. In the next stage in order to empirically examining the objectives of the study, a survey has been conducted among the selected respondents of the rehabilitation colonies of Haldia and Durgapur. The survey has been undertaken through a structured and guided enquiry schedule. A uniform five per cent of sample has been drawn from each colony following the method of Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement using random number series. In this study the total number of respondents are 344 out of which 244 respondents have been chosen from 10 colonies of Haldia and 100 respondents has been chosen from 3 colonies of Durgapur. Data has been collected from the respondents in relation to occupation pattern, per capita income & expenditure, access to educational facilities, access to health care, facilities of potable water and sanitation etc. For base year information, data has been collected from the respondents and other secondary sources available for the period of 1970s and 1980s. A comparative analysis has been made between data collected from Haldia and Durgapur. In order to assess the impact of industrialization by acquisition of land upon the evictees, we have constructed a Well Being Index of the evictees on the basis of field data. The Index is developed by the methodology of Human Development Index (HDI) as constructed by the UNDP. Following this we have used level of education of head of the families, income level and access to health care facilities for both pre and post acquisition period as components of our Well Being Index. In this regard, we have calculated dimension indices using the following formula:

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{(\text{Actual} - \text{Minimum Value})}{(\text{Maximum} - \text{Minimum Value})}$$

In case of health related data, we have used access to health and sanitation facilities as proxy variable for health related index. Using this we have developed a composite sub index for health. In case if income, we have collected monthly income of the families and by dividing them with the number of family members we have developed per capita income of the respondents. Then we have developed sub index by using suitable natural logarithm for both levels. For Composite Well Being Index at Pre and Post acquisition period we have used the following formula.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i)} \quad & \text{Education Sub -Index (ESI)} = \frac{(\text{Actual Value} - 0)}{(100 - 0)} \\ \text{ii)} \quad & \text{Health Sub-index (HIS)} = \text{Access to Health} + \text{Access to Sanitation Facilities} \\ & = \frac{(\text{Actual} - \text{Minimum Value})}{(\text{Maximum} - \text{Minimum Value})} + \frac{(\text{Actual} - \text{Minimum Value})}{(\text{Maximum} - \text{Minimum Value})} \end{aligned}$$

For income we used monthly income of families. By dividing them with the number of family members we have developed per capita income of the respondents. Then we have developed sub index by using suitable natural logarithm for both levels. We have given equal

weight to the constructors as education, income and health care are the most important factors for human subsistence.

$$\text{Normalized value of Access to sanitation} = \frac{(\text{Actual}-\text{Minimum Value})}{(\text{Maximum}-\text{Minimum Value})}$$

$$\text{Normalized value of Distance of the house from hospital, nursing home, PHC} = \frac{(\text{Actual}-\text{Minimum Value})}{(\text{Maximum}-\text{Minimum Value})}$$

$$\text{Health Sub Index (HIS)} = \frac{(\text{Access to Sanitation}) + (\text{Distance of the house from hospital nursing home PHC})}{2}$$

$$\text{Normalized value of Income Sub Index (ISI)} = \frac{(\text{Actual}-\text{Minimum Value})}{(\text{Maximum}-\text{Minimum Value})}$$

$$\text{Well Being Index (WBI)} = \frac{(ESI+HIS+ISI)}{3}$$

We have given equal weight to the constructors as education, income and health care because these are the most important factors for human subsistence. To consider different views regarding the issue of industrialization and displacement, there was some discussion with the industry representatives, local administrators, beneficiary groups and officials of different government agencies. For undertaking this type of statistical analysis and data processing Microsoft Excel and SPSS has been used. The following two tables depicts the rehabilitation colonies of Haldia and Durgapur with year of formation, total number of population, number of sample taken, etc.

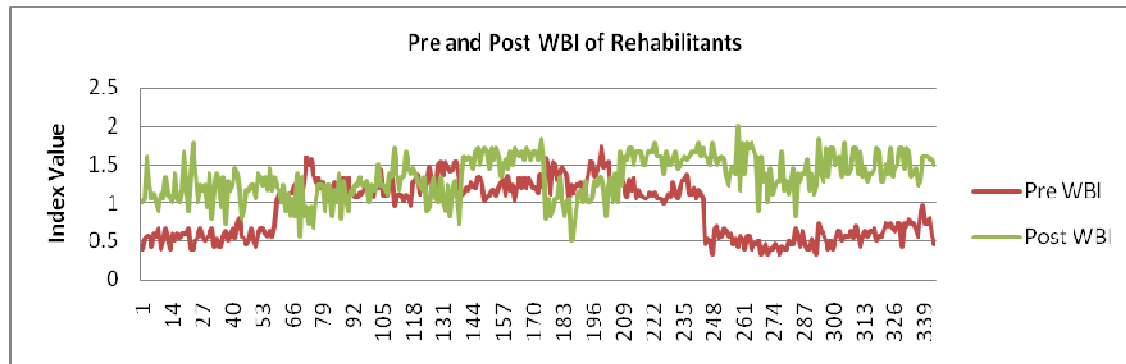
Analysis of Well Being Index

Agriculture and fishery was the major source of income for the rehabilitants before displacement in both the areas. At present salary or wages is the major source income for the respondents in both the areas. Some of them are engaged in the factories or offices and are working as skilled/semi skilled workers or office staff. Some people are doing business directly or indirectly associated with the industries. The percentage of agriculturists and fishermen has been reduced drastically which signifies the changing pattern of livelihoods of the rehabilitants due to industrialization.

At present, monthly income of majority of the respondents is between Rs. 3001 to Rs. 7000. This is possible because of greater employment opportunities in secondary and tertiary sector for the people of the adjacent areas. Nearly 22% of the respondents in Haldia and 26% of the respondents in Durgapur falls in the income group of Rs. 7000 and above.

Industrialization has changed the occupational pattern of the rehabilitants. Industrialization has opened up an array of new occupations to the displaced people. It is a never denying fact that the people who have uprooted overnight are mainly rural people. So they had not enough skill and knowledge required for the industrial jobs. But with the passage of time the people have tried to adjust themselves with the requirement of the industries. The distribution of WBI in the pre and post displacement period has been shown in the following figure

Figure 1
Compound Bar Diagram showing Well Being Index in pre & post displacement era



It is noteworthy in this respect that from sample 1 to 244 has been collected from Haldia and the rest from Durgapur. It has been found that the Average Value of Pre WBI is 0.918014 and Post WBI is 1.33301. It is very much evident from the figure that in most cases there has been some positive indication on the well being of the people due to industrialization. The amount of compensation that was offered to the evictees was mere, which could not able to compensate their losses. Otherwise the difference of WBI between pre and post displacement era would be much more than what has been found. It is noteworthy in this respect that WBI has been increased by a large amount in case of the respondents who has been evicted from their land particularly during pre seventies. Industrialization has created a huge positive impact on the well being of the evictees.

In Haldia and Durgapur, in the initial stage of industrialization, land has been acquired for setting up of industries like Haldia Port Complex, Indian Oil Corporation and Durgapur Steel Plant. At the time of land acquisition the socio-economic condition of the evictees was very poor. They have very limited scope of economic opportunities and the facilities of education and health care were very limited. Industrialization in these two places has created a lot of employment opportunities for them and the education and health care facilities have improved a lot. That is why WBI has been improved by a good margin. WBI has been decreased in the case of particularly three rehabilitation colonies namely Khudiramnagar HDA colony, Khudiramnagar Phalguny Block Debhog colony and Geonkhali colony. It is interesting to note that all the three colonies were established during the period of 1992-2002. The study has also found that index has been decreased in particularly three colonies namely Geonkhali, Debhog and Khudiramnagar. The people, in three colonies were displaced during 1992-2000 when they were staying comfortably in the heart of Haldia. They were getting the benefits from industrialization through different types of jobs and they could avail the benefits of developing city life. But when they were rehabilitated in the colonies located in the outskirts of Haldia, they lost the opportunities of getting easily available jobs in the industries. At the same time they had to face a completely new environment in the colonies. Unfortunately they were evicted at the time when Haldia was in the path of progress. The saddest thing is that those city dwellers were shifted to the outskirts of Haldia. It is noteworthy in this respect that compensation offered to the displaced was inadequate in terms of the amount of compensation and considering inflation rate. The amount of compensation was so mere that the evictees were not able to raise their standard of living on the contrary their standard of living was relegated to a lower level. Eventually their standard of living had a drastic fall. The following table shows the derived value of Well Being Index, Standard Deviation and Skewness of the WBI.

Table 1
Temporal Evaluation of Statistical Indices

Parameter	Pre Displacement	Post Displacement
Well Being Index	0.918014	1.33301
Standard Deviation	0.358657	0.280341
Skewness	0.007016	-0.33261

The Standard Deviation of WBI in pre displacement period is found to be 0.358657 and post WBI is found to be 0.280341. It has been found that the value has been decreased which is a very good sign. It reveals inequalities in the three dimensions used in this study among the evictees have reduced in post accusation period. In order to get a more specific outlook in the later stage the skewness of the WBI has been done. Skewness is used to denote the extent of asymmetry in the data. When the frequency distribution is not symmetrical, it is said to be 'skew'. Skewness literally denotes 'asymmetry' or 'lack of symmetry', and 'skew' denotes 'assymmetrical'. In case of symmetrical distribution the value of skewness is zero. This implies equal mean median and mode. In case of positive skewness (Mean>Median>Mode) and for negative skewness (Mean<Median<Mode). The value of skewness of WBI in the pre displacement period is 0.007016 and in the Post displacement period is -0.33261. It has been observed that in the pre displacement period the value is 0.007016 which signifies that the value of mode is higher than median and mean. It signifies that most of the respondents are corresponding to the lower values of the Well Being Index. In the post displacement period, the value is -0.33261 which signifies that the value of mean is higher than median or mode. It means that most of the respondents are corresponding to the higher values of the WBI. This clearly signifies that industrialization has created a lot of positive impact on the well being of the most of the rehabilitants. Industrialization directly and indirectly influences changes in employment and income opportunities in the colonies. In most cases such changes constitute a permanent change in the employment and income profile of the community. Assessing these types of changes is an important component of social impact analysis because growth in employment places additional demands on community services and resources.

Conclusion

Industrialization in Haldia and Durgapur has been able to achieve a stirring growth in manufacturing sector and this has led to an increase in employment and income generation process of these areas. In the near future more land will be required in Haldia and Durgapur for setting up of industries and creation of infrastructure and eventually some people will be displaced. The people who will be evicted are mostly farmers including landless agricultural workers all of whom will lose their sources of income as well as homestead lands. It is true that they will get compensation. But adjustment to new type of life will be difficult for them, specifically for the people in higher age groups, say beyond 40/45 years, who will find themselves ill-equipped to cope with an altered lifestyle. The younger people are likely to opt for the jobs offered by the industries. Technical training including basic educational programmes has to be formulated to make them suitable for such jobs. For the old people, it may be necessary to offer opportunities for primary sector activities, such as animal husbandry, setting up of poultry, pisciculture, etc. It is expected that a detailed survey will be done among the possible evicted families in the near future to find out their qualifications and aptitudes for future jobs. Simultaneously, the need of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled

labour force for the proposed industries are to be ascertained so that an adequate training programme could be evolved to train the older people in primary sector activities. The rest may be provided opportunities in establishing commercial and service facilities for which necessary bank loan and orientation training are to be arranged. Another important thing is that the rehabilitation colonies must be located adjacent to the core industrial area so that the rehabilitants may get the opportunities of getting jobs within their adjacent areas. It will also be helpful for getting the facilities of basic amenities of life of a developed industrial area. Otherwise they may miss the socio-economic benefits created in the process of industrialization. Finally the study concludes that when there are so many instances in all over the country that land acquisition for industrialization has deteriorated the standard of living of the numerous evicted people, the case of Haldia and Durgapur may be considered as an exception where well being of living of most of the evictees were improved due to industrialization.

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