

Urbanization, Displacement and Dispossession: A Case Study of Two Villages of Lucknow



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Abstract

The study highlights the dark side of urbanization done without detailed planning for rehabilitation of the people owning land, who have to be displaced. As is abundantly clear, the small farmers do not possess any other skill than agriculture farming and find it extremely difficult to adjust with the new circumstances after transferring their land to the development authorities or the government. The adverse circumstances force their wives also to work as maids on the houses built on their own lands. What is needed is a sensible and advanced planning for rehabilitating such farmers. They must be trained to invest the compensation amount they get by selling their land.

Keywords: Displacement, Dispossession, Inclusive Development, Disempowerment.

Introduction

Recent years have witnessed interesting and engaging debate over the suitability of economic growth rate or gross domestic product (GDP) as the best indicator of development or progress of a nation (Pulapre Balakrishnan 2011). Quite a few economists do not accept GDP as the most appropriate indicator of development, on the contrary, find it a misleading measure of development which, at the most reflects economic progress of an economy. Indian economy presents a perfect example of unsuitability of GDP as a measure of development or prosperity of the population of the country. Similar examples we find in urbanization in India. In order to meet the increasing demand for housing in the cities, farmers' lands from the periphery of the cities are acquired on the promise of compensation. However, more often than not, the farmers find themselves in a strange situation where they are forced to work as labourers and their women as domestic help in those very houses built on their land. Grabbing away of the property of the poor in the name of development and their voluntary or rather involuntary displacement on the basis of promising future which is just a simple illusion is the pathetic picture of injustice with the poor.

Objectives of the Study

The present study attempts to highlight the plight of small farmers as a result of losing their land to attractive compensation, but in the process lose their ownership and secured self employment, leading to circumstances that force their womenfolk also to work as domestic help in the houses of the people living on their lands. A primary survey of two villages in the outskirts of Lucknow was undertaken taking 50 households from each village was carried out during November 2018- and January 2019.

Research Methodology

A simple random survey is conducted with the help of schedule confirming social and economic criterion of the chosen section of the society. The two villages were identified on the basis of dislocation generated by development authorities and then government respectively. Sample size of 50 households each has been taken. A focused group discussion has been initiated to get an insight on certain issues. The data is represented with the help of simple proportion or percentage.

Surveyed Area

The QuilaMohammadi Nagar and KhwajaPur located between two major transport routes of Lucknow i.e. Kanpur Road and Raibareilly Road are the areas which gives the glimpse of plebeianization. These two areas are the examples of displacement by colonisers and government. Where

QuilaMohammadi Nagar was dislocated by Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) and their land was rebuilt by renowned colonisers- Ansals and KhwajaPur's population was dislocated by then BSP government. They both being displaced by different authorities have become a reflection of each other depicting the same betrayal and disappointment.

The present view of the area which was being taken away by the rich and the powerful shows the occupation by posh colonies extending for a stretch of about eight kilometers including Sector -K, Sector-G, RatanKhand, RuchiKhand, Omaxe City, Ambedkar University, Maharaja BijliPasi P.G. College, Ramabai Rally Sthal, AmbedkarSmiriti Park, etc.

There are about 500 households in all which have been displaced where one house is accommodating approximately five families with an average size of five members each thus it makes a total of about eight to ten thousand affected persons. Such a big population is deprived of their needs after dislocation.

Both the areas comprise mostly the Scheduled Caste (SC) and the Other Backward Class (OBC) population where Lodhi, Yadav, Pal, Rawat comes in the category of OBC and Chamar, Raidas, Pasi, Dhobi, Dhanuk in the category of SC. The General category is negligible.

Findings of the Survey

General Description of the Issues

As described by the eldest member (Ram Dayal Dada, 104 years old) of the population surveyed, one fine or rather an odd day they received a notice from the authorities regarding their displacement and as he remarked, "*notice diya par ussme yeh nahin likha ki wadapura nahin karenge*". And that very notice changed their destiny. As told by them it was promised that in return they will get 11 *Biswa* land, one shop and employment for one member in the family. But Alas! They got nothing. Some replied that they even lost their 'pucca' houses in displacement and now living in 'semi-pucca' ones. Some replied that they were not given any extra price for their 'pucca' houses, Shivalaya (temple of lord Shiva), well or trees, etc. which were present on their lands. Even the total rate that was promised to them was Rs 4.50 per sq.ft. but they received only Rs 3.50 per sq.ft. They told that they were asked to take whatever rate they are getting or else move to court and fight a legal battle for years.

The residents of QuilaMohammadi Nagar have received the first *instalment* at the rate of Rs 1.72 per sq.ft. in 1983-86 and the second installment of Rs 2.88 in 2004. However the rate of land differed from 0.30paise to Rs 1.72 according to its type, level and location. Whereas the people who had lived near Kanpur Road have received Rs 1.72 per sq.ft. and then later on Rs 1.69 per sq.ft. more on reference (appeal).

In the same scheme the people with good connections with higher ups got Rs 14 per sq.ft. for their land. But these displaced people got to know about this fact after a gap of four years and since then they are protesting to get the same rate.

During the same period some of them went to the Tribunal Court and got Rs 8 per sq.ft. for their land. But 40 per cent of the amount received went to the lawyer and at last, after all the struggle, they got only 60 per cent in their hands.

Another twist in the tale is that as stated earlier the rate of land also varied on the basis of its type and location for example the land at higher level got the rate of Rs 1.72 per sq.ft. and the land near the pond got 0.69 paise per sq.ft., the land at depression got Rs 40000 per *Bigha*, etc.

Where some of them were cheated and were given Rs 1 Lakh per *Bigha* for high leveled land and Rs 1.3 Lakh for the low land. Thus the rate which was given to them is baseless and uncertain. The sufferers are relenting for it.

Moreover, as stated by Ram Dayal, the eldest sufferer from the group, the land of Aurangabad Khalsa was not given in the same scheme at that time and it is now being valued at Rs 1 Crore per *Bigha*.

Besides some got only 40 per cent of the total amount promised, some got only 50 per cent and there are some who got almost nothing and everything of theirs is gone.

These people at present are living in their respective allotted places occupying their pucca or semi pucca houses with roughly 10-20 members each. Most lanes and bye-lanes are congested with houses and people sitting on *charpaias* at their entrance enjoying the hot sun rays in the chill of the weather and destiny. At the time of rallies the narrow lanes gets packed up with people all around. Stray animals, garbage dumps, choked drains, water tankers, playing children, gossiping ladies, and staring and inquisitive eyes were the few more observations made during the survey where, some came up on their own to get their information recorded while some were reluctant, others were ignorant and carefree.

The talks with them revealed some of the general but important facts regarding their day to day life and its associated problems like the state of sewer line which has been laid down but are choked and not attended and when they come to clean up, they clean only few pits and go back leaving the rest still blocked. The residents have filled the forms to build toilets on subsidy but the work has not yet started. On the other hand some households which previously had their own toilets have been provided with the facility to build a new one. While those who are not so lucky, go to the open field/areas to meet the nature's call. Some of the lanes are pilfered with garbage while some are clean. The drains also tell the same story of being clean in some pockets and unclean and blocked in other. The residents of QuilaMohammadi Nagar complained about the drainage problem stating that during the rainy season the dirty water from the nearby pond overflows and block the narrow lanes pre-occupied with garbage dumps leading to vector breeding and ill health.

They have opted for door to door garbage picking up service at the rate of Rs 50 per month. The street light poles are present but not functioning and

standing erect inviting accidents in dark. However exceptions are always there.

There is a public water supply in both the areas. The QuilaMohammadi Nagar has a water tank which supplies water for 2-4 hours daily but the respondents are not satisfied with its quality and call it as dirty and non-drinkable. Some of them purchase water from water tankers at the rate of Rs 300 per month. The KhwajaPur's population receives water from Ramabai (at the time of dislocation they demanded regular water supply and were provided with pipelines running from Ramabai rally sthal i.e. ChhotaKhwajaPur from where they came) to their present village.

The social status of most has declined. They are deprived of their quality life. Those who are the daily wage earner says that they do not get enough work not even in the powerhouse, college, university, etc. which are built on their land. The females of the family are working as domestic help. The aged who are now comparatively well to do agrees that due to the change in standard of living and their son's and grandson's education, earning and their mere hard work their status has shown a positive change and not because of dislocation. While those who are more poor said that it was a bad bargain as they didn't get what was promised to them and whatever they got had been spend in making their houses pucca, or for some event like marriage in the family, or for health reasons, etc. some said it was a betrayal by authorities and family both.

They replied that when the land was with them there was no house tax and when they build their houses pucca from the money which they received from their land they came under the ambvit of house and water tax which they are not able to pay and says "*jab zamingayi to house tax nahin tha, jo paise mile uss se makan pucca kara liya to ab house tax laga diya par ab aamdani nahin hai ki tax de sakein*"

Now they don't have enough money to get their daughters married, or for treatment or to get some sort of employment for themselves and their sons. They have not paid the electricity bill since months and when the officials come they take some bribe and go away. They have no means left to earn their living besides the uncertainty which they face in their job and allowing the females of the family to work as servants who despite of doing all the house work have no value in the eyes of their masters living in lavish apartments which are built on their very land whom they were the sole owners and used to move with the head held high with a sense of prosperity, security, and pride. All this is leading towards incorporating a suicidal tendency in them.

Peoples' Struggles

Since past five and a half years they are protesting for their rights and are demanding for the rate of Rs 15-25 per sq.ft., 1 shop and 11 Biswa of land for each household dislocated, job for one family member, one government hospital in the village, and one community centre for family functions.

They have formed a platform for themselves named as 'Kisan Union' to raise their demands. They

meet on every Sunday of the month on the road in front of the Sunrise Apartments near QuilaChauraha, Lucknow, in order to discuss a strategy to sort out their problems. One of the members of the union confirmed that 'on December 20, 2017 about 10000 persons assembled near LDA to protest for their demands and rights. They were asked by the officials to come after one week to know the final decision. After one week when they talked to the officials they came to know that their demands remained unfulfilled. After all this, as a part of the protest, they stopped the construction of 'MansarovarYojna', a new residential society under construction. The authorities warned that they will lodge a FIR in their name'. *The fight is still going on..*

Descriptive Statistics of QuilaMohammadi Nagar Household Information

Table-1: Caste-Wise Distribution of Households

Caste	Number of HHS Percentage
SC	14 28
OBC	33 66
GEN	3 06
TOTAL	50

Table- 2: Gender-wise population of quila mohammadi nagar

Gender	Population percentage
MALE	177 51
FEMALE	167 49
TOTAL	344

Source: Field Survey

Caste

Population comprises of SC and OBCs with general category people as low as 6 percent. 22 per cent of the total population is SC, 72 per cent is OBC.

Housing

In this area all the Households have their own house. Where 27.27 per cent of OBC, 21.42 per cent of SC and 33.33 per cent of General category Households have semi-pucca houses and 72.72 per cent of OBC, 78.57 per cent of SC and 66.66 per cent of General category House Holds have pucca houses.

Table-3: Caste-wise house data of the households of Quila Mohammadi Nagar Village

Caste	House		Type of house	
	Owned	On Rent	Pucca	Semi-Pucca
SC	14	0	11	3
OBC	33	0	24	9
GEN	3	0	2	1
TOTAL	50	0	37	13

Electricity

In this area 92 per cent of the households have electricity supply and electric meters are installed in their respective houses however the irony is that they are not able to pay their electricity bills. Whereas, 8 per cent of the total households do not

have any electricity in their houses. 9.09 per cent of the total OBC and 7.14 per cent of the total SC House Holds together make this 8 per cent.

Water

In both the areas surveyed the residents replied for either the poor quality of water (in QuilaMohammadi Nagar) or average quality of water (in Khwaja Pur). In some cases they have opted for submersible or are even purchasing water to ensure its quality.

Table-4: Number of House Holds With The Type of Water Supply In Quila Mohammadi Nagar

Caste	Public	Private	Both
SC	8	1	5
OBC	19	4	10
GENERAL	1	0	2
TOTAL	28	5	17

Table-5: Number of Households with State and Quality of Water Supply in Quila Mohammadi Nagar

Caste	Regular	Irregular	Good	Average	Poor
SC	8	6	0	9	5
OBC	22	11	3	9	18
GENERAL	0	3	0	2	1
TOTAL	30	20	3	20	24

33.33 per cent of OBC, 42.85 per cent of SC and all General category House Holds have replied for irregular water supply and 66.66 per cent of OBC and 57.14 per cent of SC have regular water supply.

Literacy and Education

Of the total population surveyed 81.68 per cent is literate and 18.31 per cent is illiterate. Out of the total literates 29.54 per cent have the educational level upto Primary, 22.06 per cent upto Upper Primary, 18.14 upto High School, 17.44 upto Intermediate and 12.81 per cent upto Graduation or above. All the above stated values of number of persons in different educational levels is lowering down with an increase in the level of education showing a decrease in the educational level of the population surveyed.

All the three categories viz. SC, OBC and Gen. are showing a decreasing trend from Primary level to Graduation or above in the present level of education.

Occupation

Table-6: Castewise Occupational Distribution of The Total Working Population In Quila Mohammadi Nagar

Occupation	CASTE			TOTAL
	SC	OBC	GENERAL	
Painter	1	3	0	4
Domestic Help	3	29	5	37
Social Worker	1	1	0	2
Private Job	1	3	0	4
Labour	12	12	2	26
Tailor	1	3	0	4
Bussiness	4	20	0	24
Carpenter	6	3	0	9
Govt. Job	2	1	0	3
Sales	2	7	0	9
Teacher/Tution	1	3	0	4
Dhobi	3	3	0	6

Press /Ironing	2	2	0	4
Mason	3	6	0	9
Mochi	3	0	0	3
Plumber	0	9	3	12
Aanganwadi	0	1	0	1
Cook	0	6	0	6
Retd. (Govt.)	0	3	0	3
Security Guard	0	1	0	1
Vendor	0	5	0	5
Electrician	0	1	0	1
Total	45	122	10	177

Scheduled Caste (SC) Workers

Of the total working SC population of 45 persons, 27 persons are working as daily wage labourers in the works categorized as Painter, Labour, Carpenter, Mason, Mochi and Pressing making a percentage of 60 per cent of working SC population. Besides daily wage earners there is another lot of population working in various jobs like 6.66 per cent of the total working SC population is working as Domestic Help and Dhobi each, 2.22 per cent of the total working SC population is in the categories of Social Work, Tailoring, Tuition and Private Job each, 8.88 per cent of the total working SC population is doing their own business, 4.44 per cent of the total working SC population is in sales and doing Government Job each.

Other Backward Class (OBC) Workers

33.6 per cent of the total working OBC population is engaged as Daily Wage Labourers in the works categorized as Painter, Labour, Carpenter, Mason, Mochi, Pressing, Plumber, Vendor and Electrician.

Besides daily wage earners there is another lot of population working in various jobs like 23.77 per cent of the total working OBC population is working as Domestic Help, 0.82 per cent of the total working OBC population is in the categories of Social Work, Government Job, Aanganwadi and Security Guard each, 2.45 per cent of the total working OBC population is in Tailoring, Tuition/ Teaching, Dhobi and Retd. From Government Job each, 16.39 per cent of the total working OBC population is doing their own business, 5.74 per cent of the total working OBC population is in sales and 4.92 per cent of the total working OBC population is working as cook.

General Category (Gen.) Workers

50.00 per cent of the total working Gen.category population is working as Domestic Help and are only Females. 20.00 per cent of the total working Gen.category population is working as Labours and 30.00 per cent as Plumber.

In all, of the total population surveyed and working 25.42 per cent is SC, 5.65 per cent is General and 68.92 percent is OBC.

Income Levels

Table-7: Annual Range of Income Among The House Holds

Range	Class Interval
I	LESS THAN 50000
II	50000-100000
III	100000-150000
IV	150000-200000

V	200000-250000
VI	250000-300000
VII	MORE THAN 300000

Table-8: Caste-Wise Number of House Holds With Total Annual Income Caste in Quila Mohammadi Nagar

CASTE	RANGES OF INCOME							TOTAL
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	
SC	2	5	2	3	1	0	1	14
OBC	2	6	13	9	2	0	1	33
GENERAL	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	4	11	18	12	3	0	2	50

The highest number of House Holds fall in the III range (36 Per cent) followed by IV and II range respectively.

Category wise highest OBC count falls in III range, SC in II range and General in III range.

Analysis of KhwajaPur

Literacy and Education

Of the total population surveyed 79.04 per cent is literate and 20.95 per cent is illiterate. Of the total literate population 37.87 per cent is SC, 58.33 per cent is OBC and 3.78 per cent is Gen. Category. Out of the total literates 31.81 per cent have the educational level upto Primary, 24.62 per cent upto Upper Primary, 21.59 per cent upto High School, 17.80 per cent upto Intermediate and 3.4 per cent upto Graduation or above.

Table-9: Total Number of Literate and Illiterate Population in Khwaja Pur

Caste	Literate	Illiterate
SC	100	19
OBC	154	50
GENERAL	10	1
TOTAL	264	70

Of the total literates of Gen. Category population surveyed 20.00 per cent have the educational level upto Primary, Upper Primary and Intermediate level each, 30.00 per cent upto High School level and 10.00 per cent upto Graduation level or above. However Gen. Category population is only 3.29 per cent of the total population surveyed.

Of the total literates of SC population surveyed 25.00 per cent have the educational level upto Primary, 23.00 per cent upto Upper Primary, 26.00 per cent upto High School, 22.00 per cent upto Intermediate and only 4.00 per cent upto Graduation level or above.

Of the total literates of OBC population surveyed 37.01 per cent have the educational level upto Primary, 26.62 per cent upto Upper Primary, 18.18 per cent upto High School, 14.93 per cent upto Intermediate and 3.24 per cent upto Graduation or above.

Occupation

Scheduled Caste (SC) Workers: Of the total working SC population of 51 persons, 22 persons are working as daily wage labourers in the works categorized as Painter, Labour, Carpenter, Mason, Vegetable Seller, Mochi, Plumber, Vendor, Welder, Electrician, Auto Rickshaw Driver and Pressing making a percentage of 43.14 per cent of working SC population.

Table-16: Castewise Occupational Distribution of The Total Working Population in Khwaja Pur

Occupation	Caste			TOTAL
	SC	OBC	GENERAL	
Painter	3	2	0	5
Domestic Help	15	19	1	35
Milkman	2	0	0	2
Private Job	1	1	0	2
Labour	1	7	0	8
Tailor	0	1	0	1
Bussiness	5	18	0	23
Carpenter	2	1	0	3
Vegetable Seller	0	2	0	2
Sales	2	6	0	8
Teacher/Tution	0	0	0	0
Dhobi	0	0	0	0
Press /Ironing	0	0	0	0
Mason	6	10	1	17
Mochi	0	0	0	0
Plumber	2	6	0	8
Driver	2	1	0	3
Cook	2	0	0	2
Retd. (Govt.)	1	2	0	3
Security Guard	1	4	0	5
Vendor	6	4	0	10
Welder	0	3	1	4
Total	51	87	3	141

Besides daily wage earners there is another lot of population working in various jobs like 29.41 per cent of the total working SC population is working as Domestic Help, 1.96 per cent of the total working SC population is working in Private Job, as Security Guard or had Retd. From Government Job each. 3.92 per cent of the total working SC population is working as Milkman, Salesman and Cook each. 9.8 per cent of the total working SC population is doing their own business.

Other Backward Class (OBC) Workers

41.37 per cent of the total working OBC population is engaged as Daily Wage Labourers in the works categorized as Painter, Labour, Carpenter, Mason, Vegetable Seller, Mochi, Plumber, Vendor, Welder and Auto Rickshaw Driver.

Besides daily wage earners there is another lot of population working in various jobs like 21.84 per cent of the total working OBC population is working as Domestic Help. 1.15 per cent of the total working OBC population is working in Private Job and as Tailor each. 20.68 per cent of the total working OBC population is doing their own business. 6.89 per cent of the total working OBC population is working as Sales man. 2.29 per cent of the worked OBC population had Retd. from Government Job. 4.59 per cent of the total working OBC population is working as Security Guard.

General Category (Gen.) Workers

66.66 per cent of the total working Gen. category population is working as Daily Wage Labourers in works like Mason and Welder. However it is to be noted that out of the total 50 households surveyed only two were of General Category, thus the figures will mislead if compared.

Same is the case with the occupational category of Domestic Help in which 33.33 per cent of the total working Gen.category population surveyed is engaged.

Income

The total annual income of all the earning members of the House Holds surveyed has ranged between Rs. 36000 to Rs.300000. s.

The highest number of House Holds falls in the II range (48 Per cent) followed by III and VI range respectively.

Category wise highest OBC count falls in II range, SC in II range and General in both II and III range respectively.

Discussion

This is the peculiar case of "destruction for development". Just imagine a household owner of a small piece of land, enough to its members, living in its own house, and meeting all family needs comfortably. Then comes the wave of urbanization and the household is promised better prospects by selling off their land for the upcoming housing colony. They fall in trap. After a few years, the household is "transformed" from a small landed farmer to a landless household. In terms of occupation, while the male members are working for irregular daily wage work, the womenfolk have transformed from proud landowner farmer's wife to a maid servant washing dishes of the people living over their land in bigger houses.

In short more than half of them live in pucca houses which they built from their compensation and have electricity and water supply but with no money to pay the bills or the taxes. They were lured and deliberately pushed to these areas. The compensation promised to them was arbitrarily fixed and paid. Albeit they have drains and sewer lines but are choked and unattended, they have public water supply but is not much satisfactory. They do have a sense of clean environment and have chosen for door to door garbage collection and some are often seen cleaning their roads and drains. However they are disempowered, their social status has declined and are in the ambit of employment uncertainty and have no idea of how to meet their present and future needs which are rather unavoidable.

Conclusion

The study highlights the dark side of urbanization done without detailed planning for rehabilitation of the people owning land, who have to be displaced. As is abundantly clear, the small farmers do not possess any other skill than agriculture farming and find it extremely difficult to adjust with the new circumstances after transferring their land to the development authorities or the government. The adverse circumstances force their wives also to work as maids on the houses built on their own lands. What is needed is a sensible and advanced planning for rehabilitating such farmers. They must be trained to invest the compensation amount they get by selling their land. Alternate employment must be explored by the development authorities/ state government. The guidance for setting up income generating self employment units etc. This is a sensitive issue dealt

with insensitively in most places. Giving compensation is considered more than enough support to the people displaced, dislocated and in the process, disempowered. It will help a great deal if the issue is dealt with more compassionately.

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