

RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT AFFECTED
PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES; RELEVANT
CASE STUDIES

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Introduction

- The pursuit of development led to environmental devastation and exploitation of nature.
- The construction of large dams is specially affected small farmers, landless laborers and tribals and rendering them homeless.
- A large dam alters the course of nature and the construction of dams has connected ecological hazards and a deep impact on livelihood of people.



The Tehri Dam Case Study

- The [Tehri](#) Dam is the highest dam in [India](#), 2nd highest in [Asia](#) and 8th highest in [World](#). It is a multi-purpose rock and earth-fill [embankment dam](#) on the [Bhagirathi River](#) near [Tehri](#) in [Uttarakhand](#), [India](#). It is the primary dam of the [THDC India Ltd.](#) and the Tehri [hydroelectric](#) complex. Phase 1 was completed in 2006.
- **Reasons behind protest**
 - *Religious beliefs*
 - *Tehri dam has been conceptualized as one of the highest dams of the world on two Himalayan Rivers, the Bhagirathi and Bilangana. One reason was that Bhagirathi was considered as a scared river and constructing a dam would irreparably harm the holy places on the banks of the river downstream.*
 - *Seismic prone area*
 - *In addition to the human rights concerns, the project has spurred concerns about the environmental consequences of locating such a large dam in the fragile [ecosystem](#) of the [Himalayan](#) foothills. There are further concerns regarding the dam's geological stability. The Tehri dam is in the Central Himalayan Seismic Gap, a major [geologic fault](#) zone*



- **Displacement**

Apprehensive about the rehabilitation and resettlement policy of the government. When in 1972 the Planning Commission gave its approval, 35 Goan Subhas in the Tehri district passed a joint resolution to oppose the project. The UP Government went ahead with the project in spite of opposition from all quarters. The reservoir would displace over 100,000 people.

- **Livelihoods** Livelihoods of the displaced people and those of partial submergence would be affected .

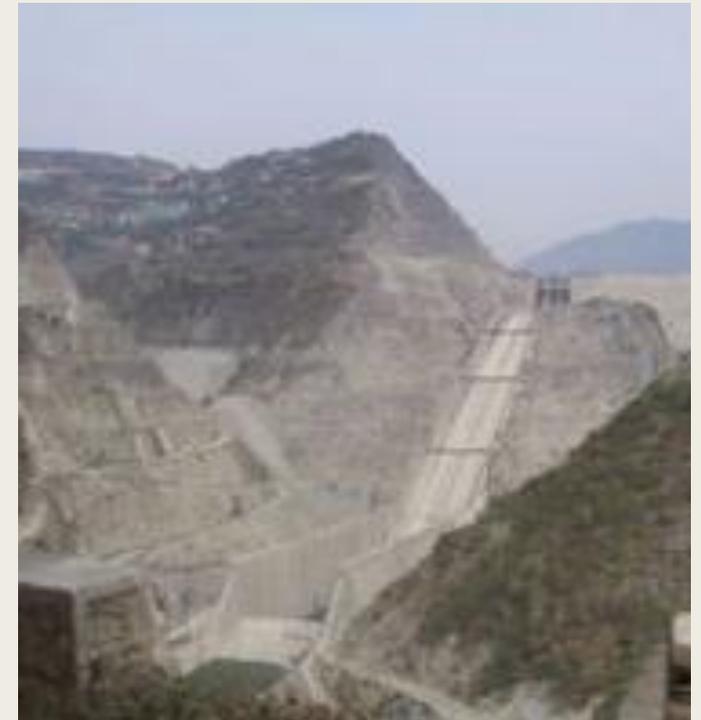
- **Environmental Consequences**

The Tehri Dam has been the object of protests by environmental organizations and local people of the region. V.D. Saklani, lawyer and founder of the Anti-Tehri Dam Struggle Committee, was quick to point out the consequences associated to the large project. Environmental activist [Sunderlal Bahuguna](#) led the Anti-Tehri Dam movement from 1980s till 2004. The protest was against the displacement of town inhabitants and environmental consequence of the weak ecosystem.



Anticipated impacts of the dam

- The dam would rise to a height of 260.5 meters and stretch to 1,100 meters wide at its base. The reservoir behind this formidable wall would stretch over 70 km long, 40 km up the Bhagirathi valley and 35 km up the Bhilangana. The valley contains the region's best agricultural land.
- Tehri Dam would submerge 5200 hectare of land. The construction of the dam would effect one town i.e.,Tehri, 37 villages fully and 88 villages partially. The number of families affected fully in urban area was 5291 and in the rural areas, 4278 families would be partially affected.



Efforts of TBVSS

- Tehri Bandh Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti (TBVSS) was constituted and in January 1978 launched an organised struggle against the campaign. The commencement of diversion tunnels by the Govt. led launch of Satyagraha Movement.
- An alarming incident of huge mass silt falling into Bhagirathi river, blocking it and creating an artificial lake caused flooding, massive destruction and loss of property.
- TBVSS played an active role in rehabilitation and resettlement issues.

Protests

- ✦ 1978 - Tehri Bandh Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti (TBVSS)
- ✦ 74-day hunger strike in 1996 by Sunderlal Bahuguna
- ✦ Many Anti-dam rallies and protest





Rehabilitation Plan

- The Rehabilitation Plan for families under submergence had two components:
- Rural
 - (where 5429 families were fully affected who had to be rehabilitated and another 3810 families were partially affected for which they were not displaced but were paid compensation for their land under submergence)
- Urban rehabilitation
 - (All 5291 families were considered fully affected)

Rehabilitation problem:

Displacement of people is always traumatic. The large scale migration of people is cannot be quantified in money values The compensation offered to the people was totally inadequate to buy new lands.

- TBVSS filed Writ Petition to the Supreme Court on 20th Nov, 1986, stating the following points.
 - *The **land allotted as compensation** was 2767 acres in Dehradun. There was problem of erosion and denudation in the entire area and was pressurized by urban expansion, tourism and limestone quarrying.*
 - ***Rehabilitation of individual families as against villages as a whole.***
 - ***Divide and acquire the land***
 - ***Monetary compensation** : The general principle was land for land and land for landless. In actual implementation it was cash for land and nothing for landless. The people living in and around the forests were not given land as compensation for they were not living on public land.*

- **Faulty estimation on the number of affected people.**

Proper estimation of villages in and around the rim of reservoirs was not done properly.

- **Lack of Public Relations Efforts:**

- *the displaced lot comprised of tribal, scheduled castes, adivasis etc who were totally unaware of their rights, rehabilitation and resettlement. There was no public relation authority to guide them properly*

- **Monuments and Archaeological Buildings** with religious and historic importance have a unique significance making it impossible to rehabilitate.

- **Compensation for homes:** the immovable properties like houses, wells, cattle stalls etc is evaluated on the basis of the current worth or the value after depreciation. The question is their living between the blast of the hold house and the construction of the new house.

Rehabilitation

Although land acquisition started in 1979, resettlement of affected people is far from complete. There is no master plan for rehabilitation nor even a clear estimate of the number of people affected.

According to the 2002 Status Report of the Public Works Department of Tehri, a large number of people who will lose their lands but have not



THANK YOU