

Perception of Community towards Internal Displacement

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Abstract- The overwhelming majority of Internally Displaced People (IDP) are mainly “women” and “children” struggling to survive with little hope of returning home. Many still faced threats of their safety, could not fulfill their basic needs and lacked prospects for development. A sample of 200 community members was selected from (Rural and Urban) i.e. 100 from rural and 100 from urban. All the respondents in this group were selected using Snowball technique on the basis of their willingness to respond to the issue on internal displacement. For data collection interview schedule for community members was devised to know the perception regarding various aspects of the border migrant women.

Index Terms- Internally displaced women, community perception to IDP’s, problem’s faced in the camps by the IDP’s.

I. INTRODUCTION

The recent years have seen an increased conflict along the international border leading to internal migration and displacement of people residing along the border areas, of Jammu and Kashmir. Around 3500 families were evacuated due to intensified firing and shelling from Pakistan side and also Indian army laid landmines on Actual Line of Control (ALOC) and occupied fields for border security, due to which people are unable to get back to their houses. Villages of Border area of Pallanwala, Akhnoor also deserted their houses, leaving behind their belongings cattle and initially taking shelter in Government schools and open areas in and around Akhnoor. People were forced to leave their home, hearth and move to internal areas, but for better relief measures, the government has accommodated such kind of displaced people in various migrant camps of Jammu District – Devipur, Kangrail, Ramnagar and Naiwala are also part of the main and major migrant camps in Akhnoor and Jourian areas. The people displaced from their homes and fields not only loose their livelihood but also suffer hardships of camp life. It is also revealed that not only the internally displaced but the rural and urban community members perceive that camp inhabitants face many problems due to lack of facilities in the camp such as medical care, water facility, education, ration, poor housing condition etc.

By analyzing all these problems the study has been conducted to know the perception of the community both rural and urban.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the knowledge and views of respondents regarding internally displaced persons.

2. To study the perception of community regarding problems faced in the camps.
3. To study the affect of internally displaced persons on the livelihood of local people.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted in order to fulfill the objectives are

- 200 community members were selected from rural and urban i.e. 100 from rural and 100 from urban areas.
- Snowball sampling technique was used for the selection of the sample.
- Interview schedules and observations were used for the study.
- Only those members from the rural and urban settings were selected who were in close proximity to the internally displaced camps.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1
Knowledge and views of respondents regarding internally displaced persons

Knowledge regarding IDP	Rural N=100 (%)	Urban N=100 (%)
Yes	94 (94%)	100 (100%)
No	6 (6%)	0 (0%)
Views of respondents regarding IDPs		
• Who have left their home	36 (36%)	-
• Those who are left to the mercy of God	35 (35%)	-
• Who had left their immovable property	23 (23%)	-
• Left home due to shelling on borders	-	11 (11%)
• Who are living in camps	-	72 (72%)
• Who are helpless people	-	17 (17%)

The above table indicates that all the respondents of urban community and 94% of the respondents of rural community are aware of internally displaced persons. Majority of the respondents of the rural community are of the view that internally displaced are those who have left their home (36%), those who are left to the mercy of God (35%) and those who had left their immovable property (23%). The table also reveals that

majority of the urban respondents are of the view that IDP's are those who are living in camps (72%), who are helpless people (17%), and who left their homes due to shelling on borders (11%).

Table 2
Perception of community regarding problems being faced in the camps

Problems faced	Rural N=100 (%)	Urban N=100 (%)
Yes	89 (89%)	71 (71%)
No	11 (11%)	29 (29%)
Problems related to*		
• Accommodation	47 (47%)	17 (17%)
• Economic Condition	31 (31%)	63 (63%)
• Education	46 (46%)	65 (65%)
• Sanitation	-	60 (60%)
• Medical care	80 (80%)	45 (45%)
• Ration	45 (45%)	63 (63%)
• Electricity	70 (70%)	63 (63%)
• Water facility	80 (80%)	70 (70%)

This table shows that majority (89%) and (71%) of rural and urban community members perceive that camp inhabitants face problems due to lack of facilities in the camps such as medical care. Majority (80%) of the rural and (45%) of the urban community accept to have less medical care in the camps. The only health services they get is provided by the NGO's and that to not in proper intervals. Majority (80%) of the rural and (70%) of the urban community reveals that there is lack of safe water facility in the camps. Results also revealed that the internally displaced face ration problem. The quantity of ration being provided by the authorities is 9 kg of wheat flour (Atta), 2 kg of rice and two liters of kerosene oil per member of the family, which is not sufficient for the individual. The result is also supported by the findings of Kim et al (2007) that the Sudanese who were displaced in South Darfur also reveal that access to ration was inadequate.

In the above figure 1, majority (71%) and 53% of the rural and urban community believes that their livelihood is affected by the presence of internally displaced persons. Majority of the respondents (71%) of the rural area reveals that their plantation is damaged by the IDP's for fire wood purposes. Similar results were found in the study conducted by Bandita (2001) as displaced people living in welfare centres in Srilanka have been responsible for the deforestation in local areas where they use trees as fuel wood for their own basic needs as a source of income. (70%) and (50%) of rural and urban respondents assume that labor cost has been increased.

70% of the rural community and 46% of the urban community feel that pollution around the camp is caused due to open defecation by the camp people as they do not have separate toilets. All the males as well as females have to share 3-4 toilets in the whole migrant camp. The rural respondents also reveals that most of the times it becomes very difficult for them to go to their fields early morning. The result is also supported with other studies conducted by Northidge et al., 2003; Galea and Vlahov, 2005, indicating that improper disposal of solid waste contribute to public health outbreaks.

Whereas 65% of the rural and 43% of the urban community believe that the schools have become over crowded due to the arrival of migrants thus affecting the space and quality of teaching in the schools.

V. SUGGESTIONS

1. In the relief camps, proper toilet facilities, health care, nutritious food and drinking water must be given a top priority.
2. In addition to the common needs of the IDP's like food, shelter, clothing and medical care, they also require special protection and assistance ranging from physical security to cultural.
3. Special attention to general and comprehensive reproductive health needs of internally displaced women is of key importance.

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Figure 1

Affect of internally displaced persons on the livelihood of local people



