

Disaster-Induced Displacement: A Socio-Legal Analysis

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Abstract

Throughout the years, disasters have been the second biggest reason for displacement after conflict and have displaced millions of people. India, due to its geographical location, is facing natural disasters every year. This has increased the population of internally displaced people significantly. Both sudden emerging and slow emerging disasters have a serious impact on man and the community. This study explores displacement due to natural disasters through a socio-legal lens. Secondary data from the reports of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre has been used to put forth a picture of the degree of displacement due to disaster.

The study talks about disaster-induced displacement, its effects along with review of literature and provides a brief discussion of the existing legislative frameworks. This study concludes with an emphasis on the need for a more holistic approach in addressing displacement as an effect of disaster and a comprehensive disaster-induced displacement framework.

Keywords: Natural disasters, climate, internal displacement, internally displaced people.

Introduction

The last few decades have seen frequent devastation due to natural disasters and climate change. For ages, apart from war and conflict, natural disaster has been another reason for large-scale displacement. It has wreaked havoc in society injuring both man and the community. While the devastation has always been the focal point of many discussions, displacement which is another effect of these disasters, is often sidelined. Displacement due to disaster is one of the leading causes of a large number of internally displaced people. Displacement hits the socio economic condition of the people and leaves a lasting effect on the community in general, disrupting both life and livelihood. Disasters force movement both internally within the boundaries of a State and across borders, making it an international issue which is another hassle.

Disaster is the second biggest reason for internal displacement in India. There are various definitions of disaster; however, for this study, we intend to stick to the definition of disaster provided by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). UNDRR has defined disaster as “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events

interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.” Both sudden and slowly emerging disasters affect society and life equally. Earthquakes, volcano eruption, tsunamis, cyclones, typhoons, landslides are some examples of sudden approaching disasters as these disasters approach with little to no warning.

Drought, desertification, rise in sea level, extreme temperatures are examples of slowly emerging disasters as they build over time due to the degrading condition of the environment and change in climate. The rise in sea level can lead to an increase in hydro-meteorological disasters like floods, tsunamis, cyclones etc. Sometimes the disaster is so bad that it becomes difficult to continue living in a particular area and gradually the place becomes uninhabitable. Additionally, the deteriorating state of climate and extreme weather conditions multiply the occurrence of such disasters. For this study, we have limited the discussion to displacement due to suddenly happening natural disasters only.

There exists an overwhelming amount of literature on the broad topic of displacement or migration due to change in climate and disasters. Different studies have different interpretations of such a movement and the ongoing discussion is largely based on defining the people so displaced and the legal framework that would assist them. Zaman¹⁷ has explained that climate induced movement, due to both sudden and slowly emerging natural events results in the displacement of a vast amount of people. This displacement can be for a minimal period or for a prolonged duration and would hamper the economic condition of the displaced population seriously. The author while mentioning various social, economic and health impacts identified the root causes that lead to large-scale displacement and also mentioned that the existing vulnerabilities amplified the impact of the disaster.

Renuka¹⁴ has stated that there are three key components of disaster-induced displacement; how intense the disaster was, how the people and their property are affected by it and how vulnerable their present state is. According to the author, the environmental and socio-economic conditions along with the increasing population elevate the risks of the disaster. In their work, Lyster et al¹⁰ have highlighted three barriers to climate displacement or migration. The first is the definitional controversy, which is defining the people displaced. The second is the failure to make an adequate legal framework to address the issue and guide the policymakers and the judiciary. The third is the poor compensation amount and inadequate recovery assistance.

Mentioning various international instruments, the authors have stated that there has been an encouraging effort in bridging the inadequacy of frameworks at the present time.

The people who are affected by disasters are termed under titles like the displaced, the homeless or the evacuated people regardless of any particular understanding of the situation^{7,12}. Islam and Hasan⁸ have discussed the post-disaster effects of cyclones on coastal people of Bangladesh. According to the authors, the cyclone shattered their social networks and severely affected their land and water along with livelihood prospects and education of the children. The authors mentioned that while some people returned to their homes after the disaster ended or subsided, some chose to move to the nearby or commercial cities and some to the capital concentrating in slums due to poor socio-economic conditions.

Fernando et al⁵ mentioned that displacement or relocation is a common effect of disaster and is a frequent sight in the island nations. Despite various Ministries of the State being involved in the disaster management and resettlement plan and policies, there still lacks an authority that could be held accountable to address the issues of the displaced people. This reflects the absence of a strategic framework which would consider a holistic approach towards all the issues of the people so displaced. The authors stated that it is not just the sudden effects of disasters leading to displacement. The slow onset disasters also lead to displacement of various grades; the most prominent effects of it are seen on the agriculture industry.

Chatterjee et al² mentioned that disasters like flood affect the land and water severely and have a serious impact on the agriculture sector. The health industry also faces tremendous stress due to the large number of people affected by disasters. Waterborne diseases are common during this time due to the availability of poor quality water which is often contaminated.

Dakua et al⁴ clearly showed that there is severe property destruction followed by loss of human life and cattle. There was also a large amount of crop loss due to floods, cyclones and landslides. It was found that due to the continuous onset of disasters, there was not sufficient time for the affected people to recover and restart their lives. The fact that some people are displaced more than once, needs to be highlighted as a disaster is a recurring event which eventually leads to difficulty in the implementation of the laws and policies formulated for them.

McNeill et al¹¹ presented a comparative analysis of displacement due to climate change and natural disasters between India, Bangladesh and the Pacific island countries. The case studies highlighted how the human rights of the displaced are given minimal attention by policymakers eventually causing marginalization. The different geographical difficulties and social inequalities cause

vulnerability among the displaced leading to poor resilience post-disaster and displacement. The authors after examining the legal frameworks suggested some policy changes that would be effective in combating the displacement issue which includes generous consideration and effort from the respective governments. The authors talk about integrating the possibility of displacement in the disaster management and climate change framework to make an effective and holistic approach towards reducing displacement due to disaster and climate change that would protect human rights¹⁶.

The said approach consists of 4 key points namely, governance which focuses on legislative and policy framework, the procedural part which focuses on the community participation and consent of the people along with their right to information, the substantive part which talks about the rights involved and lastly the element of equality and non-discrimination. Sapat and Esnard¹⁵ have briefly mentioned applying the theories of social construction which in a way shapes the re-emergence of life and society post-disaster. If we put the social construction concept into the Indian context, it would not be wrong to say that our society is still dominated by issues of discrimination on the basis of caste, race, gender, economic situation etc.

According to Kamthan⁹, disasters amplify the already existing differences and vulnerabilities in society. Although disasters affect the rich and poor equally, the severe effects of it can be seen on the poor and marginalized section of the society aggravating them socially and economically. Further, the author strongly argues that the “right against disasters” should be accepted and included into the national disaster management framework.

For the purpose of this study we have a twofold objective. First, to understand the displacement of population caused due to natural disasters in India and secondly, to know the relevant legislative frameworks available internationally and nationally on disaster-induced displacement.

To examine these objectives, two hypotheses have been proposed. The first one states that natural disasters lead to large scale displacement of population globally and locally. This is followed by a second hypothesis which states that there is no proper legislative framework to address disaster-induced displacement in India as of now.

Material and Methods

This study uses a doctrinal method of research to understand the element of displacement as an effect of natural disaster. Secondary data has been collected and analyzed from the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)⁶ to understand the degree of displacement that took place due to natural disasters globally and in India over the years. Apart from that, literature has been reviewed to understand the effects of disaster and the legislative frameworks to deal with the problem of displacement.

Results

Displacement due to natural disasters is a growing issue globally. It disrupts the community in various ways and leaves people vulnerable to its impact. Each year, millions of people are being displaced with a very slim chance of returning to their habitual place of residence. This number has exceeded in the last two decades due to the frequency of natural disasters along with its intensity. The number of people displaced due to natural disasters is staggering. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), disasters are significant cause of large-scale displacement globally after conflicts (Table 1).

The mass movement affects the host community as well since, the displaced people fight for space and resources affecting the originally established community. If this situation escalates, it can lead to a secondary displacement due to overcrowding and other potential problems associated with it. Due to its geographical location, India is frequented by disasters every year.

According to the World Risk Report 2024, India holds the 3rd spot after the Philippines and Indonesia on the list of countries extremely affected by natural disasters. Being frequently ravaged by natural disasters every year causing death, damage and injury in the process, India also sees millions of people being displaced. Figure I reflects the astronomical number of people displaced due to disaster in India from the year 2020 to 2024.

Floods and cyclones are the most frequently occurring natural disasters faced by the people. People affected by disaster often tend to return to the affected place after the disaster is over, knowing fully that life will never be the same mostly due to the emotional attachment they have or due to their inability to move which is mostly dictated by the person's economic condition. It should be noted that not every individual faced this situation. According to the 2025 GRID report, around 8.9 million displacements have taken place due to pre-emptive evacuation globally. The data on the growing number of people displaced internally worldwide has proved our first hypothesis. Further, the uninterrupted growth of IDPs in India due to natural calamities proves that as of now, there is no proper legislative framework to address and to mitigate the displacement issue; hence, second hypothesis is also proved.

Discussion

Disaster Induced Displacement: Due to the lack of appropriate terminology, migration, displacement and relocation are the terms used interchangeably to address the movement of population due to disaster. There has been a long-standing debate in finding a suitable terminology to address the people displaced due to disaster. Lately, to address them, there has been an increase in the use of terms like 'homeless', 'internally displaced person', 'disaster-induced displaced persons', 'climate induced displaced persons', 'climate migrants' and sometimes even 'refugees' or 'climate refugees'.

Table 1

Data from GRID reflecting the number of internal displacement incidents and people displaced due to natural disasters through the years 2020- 2024. Source: IDMC GRID 2021-2025⁶

Year	Internal Displacement (Global)	Internally Displaced People (Global)
2020	30.7 million	7 million
2021	23.7 million	5.9 million
2022	32.6 million	8.7 million
2023	26.4 million	7.7 million
2024	45.8 million	9.8 million

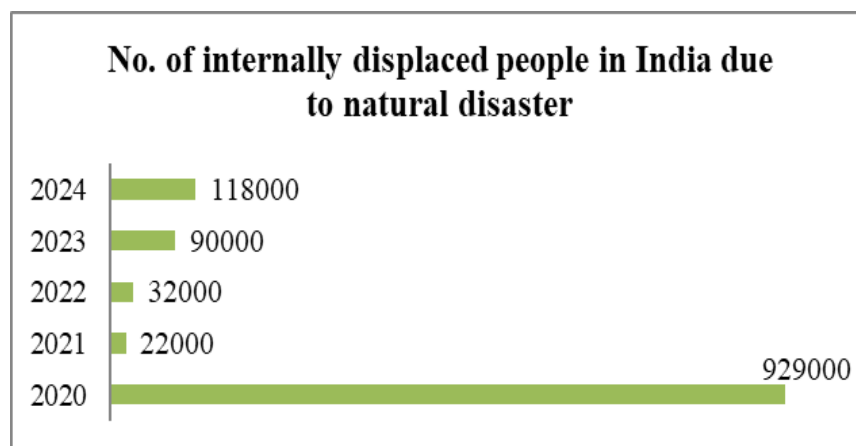


Figure I: Displacement data of India from the year 2020-2024 according to GRID; Source: IDMC GRID 2021-2025⁶

However, depending on their movement i.e. cross border or within the State borders, they are counted either under the term 'internally displaced people' or 'refugee'. There still exists a question on whether such a type of movement can be called displacement, migration or taking refuge. In the case of migration, there is an intention to move for a better opportunity. In the case of refugees, the people are forced to leave their habitual place of residence out of fear of persecution or conflict. In the case of displacement, the people do not have much choice but to move as events like disasters are sudden. The sudden emergence leaves people without much protection and at the mercy of nature. This results in a forced movement of an involuntary nature and can last for a questionable period.

Since this kind of movement mostly happens within the boundaries of the state, the term 'refugee' seems improper to address as it is a term recognizing cross-border movement. In small islands where disasters lead to cross-border movement, the term 'refugee' is being used even though it does not justify the situation fully. As of now, apart from the term 'disaster-induced displacement', no other term has been able to fit the description of people displaced by natural disasters better. The lack of a definitive title is the smallest of issues of these IDPs.

Effects of Natural Disasters: The impact of disaster is faced not just by the people and community of the affected area but also by the surrounding areas as people tend to move to seek refuge against disaster. The immediate effects of the disasters are possible death, injury, damage to property, scarcity of food and water, loss of livelihood or disruption in the livelihood generation. The loss of life or injury is not just limited to humans, but also to animals, mainly livestock. The slow effects of the disaster are health issues, psychological issues, degradation of the environment, breakdown in social cohesion, strain on resources, education of the students, increase in poverty and migration rate.

In several studies, it was found that the majority of the displaced people were from the poor to extremely poor class which clearly reflects on the fact that the poor are more susceptible to the effects of disaster.

The severe effects of disaster can be seen on the agriculture sector and the farmers. Due to disasters, farmers lose their land and face crop loss affecting their livelihood opportunities. Farmers who have taken up bank loans suffer terribly under such circumstances and face mental agony and other psychological issues. Due to disaster and displacement, there is a gross human rights violation. The loss of property and livelihood pushes the people towards the state of poverty and marginalization. The large-scale displacement or migration, however we put it, causes strain on the resources of the migrated area. Due to the loss of land and livelihood, people often tend to live in slums to continue their life with whatever resources are available to them, as there is already a shortage of affordable housing. If this

situation continues, it can also lead to the loss of cultural links and identity.

Women, children, the elderly and the disabled suffer more emotionally and mentally than physically and economically. Women have mostly relied on communal ties and local resources in their habitual place of residence. Displacement due to disaster often leads to a break in communal ties and social cohesion, disrupting the community and breaking their support system. This later becomes one of the potential causes of emotional and psychological breakdown in women. Post-disaster, moving to an unknown place with low to no economic assistance often makes them the target of violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Many children have to drop out of school and following this, the incidents of child labour, trafficking and exploitation also take a rise.

The dropout of students is either because of damage or destruction of the school building or the road leading to it or because their books and other stationeries are lost during the disaster or due to poor economic conditions which force them to work alongside the adults in their family. The elderly and the disabled along with other vulnerable communities are also at the risk of abuse and exploitation. The health of people is seriously hampered coupled with the mental agony of losing their friends, family, property, livestock and livelihood. The affected people face severe psychological issues that often go unnoticed.

India is still dominated by caste, gender, religion, economic status based differences along patriarchal and sexist perception. With such disparities already existing within the society on an everyday basis, the disaster exploits and exacerbates it, making it harder for the poor and the marginalized community to receive the benefits of the assistance provided for them. Discrimination and exclusion make the poor, marginalized and minorities more susceptible to the effects of disaster.

The gross violation of human rights during this time needs to be studied distinctively. Post disaster, while most people migrate to other areas, some people return to their native places because of poor financial capacity and lack of resources to relocate and find better livelihood opportunities and some due to communal ties and emotional attachment. This displacement reflects the systemic failure which will eventually lead to the increase in poverty, inequality and slums.

Analysis of Existing Legislative Frameworks: One key aspect of our research is to know about the legislative frameworks that exist to address the issue of disaster induced displacement. This present segment shall discuss on the legislative frameworks that cater to such displacement in the international scenario and further discussion shall be made on the same but limiting to the national legislative framework only.

International Frameworks: Disasters have been displacing people since ages. Though most of the time it is internal displacement, there are many instances where cross border movements have taken place. As of now, there still exists a debate over the fact that whether the Refugee Convention 1951 should govern such movements in the absence of any specific framework despite the fact that it is highly inadequate. As of now only the below stated frameworks have addressed the issue of displacement due to disaster in an appropriate manner.

The 2015 Nansen Initiative is a consultative process which intends to build a general agreement among nations for the protection of the displaced because of natural hazards and climate change while also addressing the needs of the displaced people and communities. According to the Platform on Disaster Displacement, a Nansen Initiative follow up, disaster displacement has been defined as situations where due to disaster or climate change people had to move from their habitual place of living. This led to the development of the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, whose main aim was to integrate with national and international frameworks and assist the people so displaced.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was formulated to provide an action-oriented disaster risk reduction framework. According to the UNDRR, the main aim of this framework is to reduce the risks of disaster and minimize the damage. The goals of this framework involved assessing the Hyogo Framework's implementation which mainly focused on reducing losses incurred due to disaster and investing in building resilience. The goals of this framework include understanding disaster risk, further enhancing the preparedness for the same and recommending the best regional strategies for disaster risk reduction. The preparedness further includes rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery. The UNDRR looks after the implementation of the works of this framework.

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement aim to identify the rights and assist in providing adequate protection to the internally displaced people within the borders of their States. It defines internally displaced people and works to prevent unwanted displacement, protect the people who are being displaced, assist during displacement and provide durable solutions to ensure minimal harm to the people and maximum benefit to the society.

Regional Frameworks: In the context of disaster induced displacement, there are very few countries that have designed some sort of framework in the form of policy or guideline.

Vanatu's Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-induced Displacement addresses displacement and other effects of

disaster. It provided a framework to minimize displacement and its negative impacts. It gives a layout of the assistance to be provided to restore the damage done to the social, economic and cultural life while also protecting their dignity and ensuring human rights. It talks about strategic priority areas that will provide appropriate interventions and actions to address specific issues. It has briefly discussed adding a vulnerability assessment, gender inclusivity during planning participation, ways to improve data collection on people so displaced and manage displacement.

Fiji is an island nation frequented by natural disasters causing large scale displacement. The Government of Fiji formulated the Displacement Guidelines in the context of Climate Change and Disasters to prevent and reduce the impact of displacement caused by disasters and climate change. It recognizes the different categories of people that can potentially be displaced and provides appropriate measures to assist and support during disaster. The guideline presents the need for an enhanced participation of the stakeholders and suggests appropriate and durable solutions and adaptation strategies to improve the resilience of the state and community against disasters and climate change.

The Kampala Convention also known as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa came into effect in the year 2012 to deal with the issue of internal displacement in the African Union. In their preamble, they have recognized that displacement can also happen because of natural disasters and shall adopt measure to prevent and put end to such form of internal displacement. The convention also mentions that it is the responsibility of the States to mitigate the effects of natural disaster, implement strategies for risk reduction and address the issue of displacement. The Convention further states that people should be protected from displacement without any discrimination. They have also mentioned to protect communities who have attachment to their lands due to culture or tradition except in exceptional cases of public interest. The convention has further mentioned that it is the duty of the State to protect and provide assistance to the people displaced within its territory.

National Frameworks: The Indian Constitution despite being the lengthiest and most detailed constitution has not mentioned disaster management explicitly in it. Since during the making of the constitution, disaster management was not given serious consideration, it was thus left for the State Government.

Later, the existing colonial rules were applied by the States to the disaster situations and since most of the activities were done locally, disaster management was then considered the State government's responsibility. For the last couple of decades, the increased devastation due to disasters has made it difficult for the State government to carry out disaster management alone thus, making it both the Central and State Governments' shared responsibility.

In India, the Disaster Management Act 2005 was the first legislative framework on natural disasters in the context of rescue, relief and compensation. "This act established the Disaster Management Authority at the Central, State and District levels along with the National Disaster Response Force, National Institute of Disaster Management and the National Disaster Response Fund which provides for emergency relief and rehabilitation. The Act has further defined disaster management as a continuous process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing necessary measures for the prevention of disaster, risk mitigation, preparedness, capacity building, severity and damage assessment, evacuation, rescue and relief, rehabilitation of the people and reconstruction of damaged properties". This act, however, failed to address displacement and the rehabilitation and resettlement aspect of the people displaced by disaster. Apart from the national legislative, there are similar state legislatures on the same.

Apart from providing the traditional form of compensation, the National Policy on Disaster Management 2009 talks about the inclusion of new financial incentives such as catastrophe risk financing, micro financing and insurance etc. to address the economic damage left by disasters. The policy has strengthened disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation by introducing mechanisms like vulnerability mapping, risk assessment, mass casualty management and upgrading their Communication and IT support. This policy also involves input from public-private partnerships and support from the corporate sector. The policy has included animal care in their response to the disaster rescue. The policy was the first to include rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery along with urging the State governments to provide options for livelihood restoration in their disaster management plan. The policy stated the need to expand the existing disaster framework of India.

National Disaster Management Plan was the first to address the two categories of disasters namely natural hazards and human-induced disasters. Taking inspiration from the Sendai Framework which was adopted by the Government of India in 2015, its sole purpose is to reduce the disaster risk and strengthen the governance. This plan includes a detailed analysis of risks along with preparedness, response and mitigation plans. The main aim of this plan is to strengthen the Government to build a better disaster resistant community along with other stakeholders. Covering all the phases of disaster management, the plan hopes to build back the community better by empowering the local authorities, giving importance to gender and minority inclusivity and increasing investment in risk reduction measures.

The Response plan has 18 detailed activities such as the early warning system, evacuation, search and rescue, medical assistance, sanitation, food, water, shelter etc. that would work as a reference on what to do before, during and after a disaster. Recovery from the disaster which includes rehabilitation and financial assistance is also a part of the

response plan. The plan has a disaster resilience responsibility framework for every potential disaster that can have a devastating aftermath.

In 2022, the Climate Migrants (Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The proposed bill provided a structural framework for the people displaced, relocated or migrated due to natural disasters and climate change. According to sec. 2 (c) of the Bill, a climate migrant is a person who has voluntarily or involuntarily moved away from their habitual place of residence, either permanently or temporarily due to climate based events. As stated under sec. 2 (d) of the said act, climate migration includes migration, displacement and planned relocation; hence both voluntary and involuntary movement is covered under the Bill. Sec. 2 (b) of the Bill states that the displacement, migration or relocation due to 'climate induced factors' includes movement due to natural disasters, extreme climate conditions and risks associated with such climate change.

Sec. 4 of this Bill talks about the establishment of an inter-ministerial agency and further, a Migration Facilitation Centre is also to be established. Sec. 5 and 6 speak about the duties of the authority, its monitoring mechanism, compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement plans and about its funding. Despite its holistic approach towards disaster and climate induced displacement, the bill was not passed by the Parliament and the topic of climate or disaster-induced displacement, migration or relocation stands pending.

The State's strong focus on preparedness, relief, rehabilitation, rescue and response has proved that it is important to protect human rights irrespective of any situation. But at the same time, the displacement aspect is very quietly sidelined. The people displaced by disaster need a proper identification, majorly in the legislative purview to avoid being mistaken as migrants. Due to the absence of any proper law and policy regarding displacement or mention thereof, identifying and addressing them become difficult leading to violation of rights of all those people, loss of appropriate data on people so displaced and a potential push towards poverty. There is a lack of absolute true data on the number of people so displaced as only those who register themselves for aid, seek help or are present on site, are the ones included.

Many people are not included in the data as they had left the place even before the disaster struck to save themselves. This leaves a huge data gap which is difficult to address. The marginalized and poor people, lack knowledge on such topics and with poor faith in the institution move away to secure themselves. Though the Government has provided sufficient funds for aid and assistance in rebuilding life; there is no monitoring of the same to ensure that the funds are being used properly to help the people restart their lives. As mentioned above, disaster exacerbating the existing

disparities can be seen in the way underprivileged people continue their life after they are hit by disasters and the increase in poverty and homelessness post disaster proves it as well.

The poor attention and acknowledgement of the displacement aspect lead to lack of recognition and discussion on that issue. Though the recent Climate Migrants (Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2022 made an effort to include displacement as an effect of natural disasters and climate change, the bill was neither passed nor was put up for further elaborate discussion.

The lack of acknowledgment of this issue is what has led to the constant increase in the number of internally displaced people in India. In M.K. Ranjitsinh and Ors. V. Union of India 2024, the Supreme Court for the first time established a constitutional right for the citizens namely “the right to be protected against adverse effects of climate change”. This right stems from the existing right to a clean and healthy environment which is a part of the right to life under article 21 of the Constitution. This right needs to be balanced with the right against displacement and other rights of the affected people while simultaneously protecting the well-being of the entire society. It can be said that India is still taking baby steps in acknowledging and addressing displacement which, is an extremely laid back attitude if we look at the number of people displaced due natural disasters.

Conclusion

Every year, the number of people displaced due to natural disaster continues to rise, leading to an increase in the number of internally displaced people. These disasters affect every aspect of life which is interrelated. The lack of consideration for the victims of disaster creates a situation of human rights violation. Upholding the dignity of human life during a time like a natural disaster becomes significant, as people often consider basic animal needs sufficient to survive as saving life becomes the utmost necessity. India's disaster management practice is robust, but disaster-induced displacement is hardly recognized.

The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Field Handbook addresses internal displacement and our Government should refer to it to understand the element of displacement and address it effectively. This will help formulate appropriate laws and policies specific to the State's need. The National Disaster Management Act should be modified to include the displacement aspect. The Government should take accountability and form a comprehensive legal framework to define displacement in the context of natural disaster, highlight the displaced people's rights, outline the aid and assistance needed, responsibilities of stakeholders involved and measures for displacement reduction to protect their human rights.

Inspiration should be taken from Vanuatu's National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-induced Displacement and

from Fiji's Displacement Guidelines in the context of climate change and disasters. The frameworks have incorporated different approaches to disaster-induced displacement and have promoted a holistic way of disaster risk reduction. Learning from these practices can help build better resilience programs and adequate laws and policies. Post-disaster funds are unevenly distributed, leaving marginalized people without basic services. This raises doubts about proper utilization of funds and resources. A monitoring mechanism is needed to ensure long-term recovery and help people return to their pre-disaster state.

Prioritizing climate protection is equally crucial to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, as it intensifies the effects of natural disasters and increases vulnerability. Despite increased awareness programs, lack of appropriate action has hindered the progress. Environmental law should also address displacement and take strong measures to reduce environmental damage. Due to climate change and its adverse effects on the environment, the frequency of natural disasters has increased in recent years. Natural disasters have played an active role in increasing the number of internally displaced people in India.

Additionally, due to the lack of acknowledgement and discussion of displacement as an effect of natural disasters, the issues of the people so displaced have not been addressed appropriately. Displacement, by not being legally recognized makes the victims face serious setbacks in life. Addressing these, needs a holistic approach along with a strategized plan and legal sanction, considering the fact that disaster-induced displacement is a complex and growing issue with many interrelated and multifaceted challenges. The continuous rise in the number of internally displaced persons due to natural disasters is alarming and the way our Government would respond to it, will decide the future of the citizens and our country's path towards development.

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