

Socioeconomic Challenges faced by Basin's People in India

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Abstract

India is a subcontinent, there huge no of people lived in river basin area. In India there more or less 80% of people directly or indirectly depend on River. Ganga, Brahmaputra in North and North East and Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Narmada, Tapi, Mahi in South are the major river basin in India. There each year due to flood and high tide lots of people are suffered in river basin region in India. These problems destroy the socio economic peace and hope of the people in river basin. There peoples are continuously suffered by lots of difficulties in sort or in long term basis. Few basin regions are always in high alert at the time of monsoon seasons. Sometime due to over migration from basin area, it becomes empty and creates an ultimate loss of resources in India and causes a dis-balance situation in this area.

Key words:- River basin, Flood, high and low tide, Socio-economic peace, Long term and short term problem, High alert, loss of resource.

Introduction

India is called the “motherland of the rivers”. The name of the country India was come from the name of Indus River Basin. Historically 2500 BCE Harappa and Mohenjo-daro civilization was first organized civilization in India which was developed beside the basin area of Indus and that is why this civilization is also called “Indus Valley Civilization”, but the Civilization was also destroyed by the river Indus. According to some great historical persons, the civilization was destroyed by the flood of Indus River. So, river basin is such an area that may be some time the cause of development or some time the cause of destruction of Civilization.

There are 10 largest rivers flow in different part of India (Ganga, Godavari, Brahmaputra , Krishna river , Indus river, Mahanadi river , Narmada river , Kaveri river , Tapi river , Penna river). All rivers are in generally two categories, these are 1) Peninsular 2)

Non-peninsular. In peninsular rivers are terrible flow in rainy season but non-peninsular rivers are flow all season in the year because this river are originated glacier of the Himalayas. So there is always risk to flood due to riverbank erosion.

In India there are three types of 1) Major river basin where area more than 20,000 sq. km. 2) Medium river basin where area between 2,000-20,000 sq km. and 3) Minor river basin where area less than 2,000 sq. km. (ncert.nic.in, Chapter-3 Drainage System). In India the Ganga is the main river and its flow with maximum river basin approximately 2,525 sq km. In the Lower Ganga basin area is frequently affected by flood and riverbank erosion in every year. Malda, Murshidabad districts of West Bengal are mostly affected area of the river Ganga. Following table shows the distribution of major river basins in India.

Name of the River	Area
Ganga River	861,452 sq. km
Indus River	321, 289 sq. km
Brahmaputra River	194,413 sq. km
Godavari River	312,812 sq. km
Krishna River	258,948 sq. km
Mahanadi River	141,589 sq. km
Narmada River	98,796 sq. km

In river basin area, people are comparatively faced multi-economical facilities because basin area is a great source of income that is why population of basin area is comparatively high in no. Basin area helps the economic condition of the country. Nowadays global warming has let to arise of the natural hazard in river basin area. People face various problems in the river basin by the natural hazards like flood, Riverbank erosion etc. and their social status and economic condition decrease. Also Indian economy affect due to flood and riverbank erosion. When again and again flood damaged the property in river basin they have to change their life style and they face to various challenge. Assam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh are such a state in Ganga- Brahmaputra river basin, that effected by flood, landslides, water block, soil erosion, etc. basin's problems in every years.

Socioeconomic challenge faced by people

From the historical period, all civilization had taken place beside the river basin. Because river basin lifeline for the society and people. Every civilization like Roman, Greek had taken place beside river basin because they were depended on the river to devolve their society and economic condition and also present day the big city are originated beside the river. Nowadays the basin people faced various problem floods, river bank erosion etc. The problems of basin peoples we can divided two type 1) Social and 2) Economic. It's not only people's problem but also problem of the country.

1) Social Problem

People faced various social problems by the floods and riverbank erosion. Floods destroy people lifestyle and their social identity. Flood force to change people mothers land and leave their property.

a) Displacement of people

Present day people displaced by the floods and riverbank erosion because the natural hazard become arise river basin area. When the floods attack every year on the river basin people they decided to migrate another place and also the people displacement by the riverbank erosion because every year floods and river bank erosion eroded and floated of the human settlement and they became homeless.

According to media reports 3 august 2017 by Richard Davies in Asia-News, 47000 displaced and rescued by the flood of the district Siliguri, Rajarhat, Howrah, Ghattal, Jalpaiguri, Hoogly, West and East Medinipur, North and South 24 Parganas and Burdwan in West Bengal.

b) Migration

When river erosion and flood took place of the basin area the people forcedly leave their resident. They are migrated effect place to safety place. Floods turn the people peaceful life to disturbance life. When people migrated to new place they faced various problems. They suffer identity crisis, job crisis etc. In lower Ganga basin of Sundarban Delta region, huge no of people migrated from bank area due to side erosion of river.

c) Health

When flood happen people take shelter in slum area or on road there is no medical facilities for illness. In the flood affect area people do not take proper healthy food and they do not drink proper pure drinking water. So they do not take care of their health. After flood they have not taken proper treatment and affect people suffer various diseases. During flood pregnant women do not takes care her health and don't take proper medical facilities. Some medical center also affect by erosion.

d) Education

Due to river bank erosion hampered in education system because affect people take shelter in school and college building. The students are faced problem when the exam comes. After flood school take time to start class. Children are faced problem to take proper education because when their parents moved to new place for safety they detached the education. In new place they do not take admission in school quickly because they have no proper identity. In India there are lots of examples to postpone of examination due to devastating flood in rainy seasons.

A report of The Hindu, 12 August 2019, that "Calicut University postpones exams due to flood and also The University of Kerala has postponed all Examinations due to flood in year 2019".

e) Poverty

Due to the loss of property and shelter in every years, lots of river basins people are faced of a common problem which is called poverty, there people become poor because floods destroy the people property, dwelling and infrastructure. When the floods and river bank erosion consume the agricultural land and corps people lost their hope production and they become economically poor. In flood prone area poverty is a common socio-economic disease.

f) Change of livelihood pattern

In river basin there peoples lifestyle depend on the agricultural but when they displaced by the flood forcefully their life style turn into other work. Some time they work in various work like construction industry, plywood etc.

A report by New Delhi Journalist Tarun Kanti Bose, 5th January, 2018 shows that "The migrant workers from Bengal work in jewelry, plywood and construction industries in Kerala".

g) Unsocial activity

When people become hope less by lose of their resources and relatives by floods and other basins challenges, it creates a problems of antisocial activities in river basin area and its surroundings. Practically it's a side effect of the problems of poverty.

h) Food crisis

Due to flood by the riverbank erosion arise food crisis in the affect area because the agricultural land and the crop washed out by flood. And they have no sufficient food to fulfill their need. They also suffered for food in the relief camp.

Economic problem

Due to riverbank erosion economic problem arise in the affect area but also in the country. People face various problems by the riverbank erosion. When flood and riverbank erosion occurred people lost their economic condition. Migrated people face economic problem. There is so many economic problem faced by people.

a) Agricultural land

Agricultural is back bone of the Indian economy. According to 2011 census report 54.6 percent of total workers in India are now part of the agricultural sector (*Farmers have decreased, farm labourers increased: census report by Jyotika Sood, Thursday 17 Sep. 2015*). The river basin is a very important fertile area of a country or nation. But nowadays agricultural land eroded by the riverbank erosion and increase salinity in the agricultural land due to flood. Flood destroys the crop and reduced total productivity of the country. And also people lost their land due to flood. Productivity of the land becomes low.

Soil productivity in the basin area becomes decreased in day by day due to increase of salinity in soil by continuous flood. Fertile land changed into wastelands and forcefully farmers changed their crop combination.

Due to riverbank erosion landless labour arises in the society and also percentage of unemployment increase in the country. It's a very big problem in Indian economy.

Journal articles written by Makbul Hussain Khan presented the scenario of Assam, that "More than 4200 square kilometres of Agricultural land in Assam were eroded in the last 40 years".

“Dayarampur, a village in Murshidabad district, and situated on the western bank of river Padma near the India- Bangladesh border, has lost 1000 hectares of agricultural land and homesteads to river bank erosion” by Tarun Kanti Bose (New Delhi journalist) Village Square, January 5th, 2018.

b) Occupation

Main occupation of the basin people is agricultural. When flood and riverbank erosion take place in the basin area the people lost their agricultural field and their economic backbone destroy. In the new place they cannot find new job if they find job their wages vary low. So their family income become effect and their lifestyle become poor.

The population is migrated for job in Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Rajasthan and Delhi from West Bengal due to flood.

c) Unemployment

When the riverbank erosion or flood deprives people's agricultural land they suffer unemployment problem. During flood for safety they change place for some days or whole life but they cannot recover their farming land and who are migrated for whole life they also cannot find new job easily. So unemployment problem arise in the country.

“Due to river erosion of Mandia Block there is increased land less labour about 90% which is much higher and also in Barpeta district in Assam 16.08% land less labour in 2001” According to Makbul Hussain Khan.

d) Loss crops

Due to flood people loss their crop during flood the saline water enters into the agricultural land and all the crops become destroy. Also productivity of the lands falls down. This problem affected their economic condition. If the land is most fertile and productivity is high the farmer are face more problem.

e) Communication system

In the riverbank erosion area, the basic problem is transportation. It is frequently found that after a flood the road way communication become so much hampered that the area become paused due to lack of proper communication system. That time, the prices of different products start to increase continuously and it creates an economic problem. Due to riverbank erosion

roads construction are not possible in the affect area and people become faced a problem of communication. The Government also faced the problem to develop the communications in effect area. Economic growth become slows due to lack of communication system.

“Road communication system of Patashpur-1 block is well distributed in all direction. A road coming from Egra its divide into two parts and goes through opposite direction. The road communication is seriously affected by flood in monsoon time.” By Nirupam Acharyya, 2010

f) Low investment

In basin area risk to flood government and other industry not to interest to investment so the basin area lag of other state. Economic growth is very slow in the basin area. In flood prone area the farmer are not to interest more investment for farming.

g) Industry and shop

Sometime in flood effect area lost industry and glossary. Many people lost his income source. And they faced economy problem in their livelihood and they became poor to poorer. In the basin area small industry are always originated take some risk so when flood repeat in the same place they cannot investment for the production. So people suffer for their economic condition.

h) Loss of home garden

Sometimes home garden become the alternative source of income to the people. Mango, papaya, banana trees are available in many rural house. They eat its fruit and sometime selling in the market for money and this tree are providing wood. People also sell the wood in the market to earn money but flood destroy source of income of the people.

Conclusion

Riverbank erosion and flood change the people's life. The impact of the riverbank erosion may be positive or negative in people life, but we see most of time negative impact in the people life. Due to river bank erosion victims loss their home, land, crops, livestock, trees etc. and they also loss their source of income. Flood also destroys national resource of the Country.

India is agro based country. There are maximum people dependent on agricultural activities for their livelihood. Maximum in river basin area are highly fertile and highly productive due

to its nature and that's why , highest crops producing center in India is located on Ganga-Brahmaputra river basin in North Plainfield. So river basin problem is also the problem of economy for the country of India.

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