Rampur Hydropower Project: Land Acquisition, Resettlement & Community Development Practices

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Key areas of discussion

- Land Acquisition Practices
- Resettlement & Rehabilitation
- Capacity Building of Local youth
- Educational development
- Employment Generation
- Women Empowerment
- Augmentation of Water supply
- Health care facilities
- Infrastructure creation
- Preserving cultural heritage
- Communication with the people
Rampur Hydro Power Station :- A Profile

- A tail race development of 1500MW Nathpa Jhakri Power Station
- Run-of –River Project on River Satluj in Himachal Pradesh (HP)
- Utilizes a drop of about 138.70m of the river Satluj between TRT Outfall of Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project at Jhakri and Bayal Village in Kullu district.
- Installed capacity of the project is 412 MW (6 x 68.67MW).
- The total Capital cost of the Project is Rs. 3772.53 crores.
- Rate per Unit is Rs. 3.10
The implementation agreement for the Rampur Hydropower Project (RHP) was signed between the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and SJVNL in Oct 2004.

SJVNL required 80 hectares of land for building project infrastructure.

Of this, 50 hectares of state forest land was acquired from the Govt. and 30 hectares of private land from 167 landowners in four villages of three panchayats in Kullu and Shimla districts.

The private land acquisition was initiated in September 2005 by the state revenue department under the Indian Land Acquisition Act, 1984 and completed in October 2006.
Land Rates and Compensation:

- The project being a hilly and remote region and far away from the state capital, there were limited market registered transactions which provided limited basis for determination of realistic land values.

- A District Level Market Rates Fixing Committee was constituted in Dec 2005 with Deputy Commissioners chairman and senior representatives of key govt departments including PWD, forests, agriculture, and horticulture. SJVNL and the PAFs both choose not to be represented, thereby enabling the committee to carry out an independent and objective assessment.

- Land valuation was based on comparison with prevalent market land rates in the vicinity computed as an average of land rates prevalent in three areas, namely Jagathkhana, Poshna and the village where land had to be acquired.
Parameters considered in valuation

- Recent land transactions
- Compensation paid in other hydropower projects in the vicinity
- Revised compensation rates in land acquisition enhanced by court rulings
- Type of land (agricultural or non-agricultural)
- Average productivity per bigha
- Proximity to road and market
- Distance from village habitation
- Transportation and irrigation facilities
- Nature and type of standing crops
Outcome of the Land Acquisition

The compensation rates finally ranged between Rs 4.00 to 4.5 lacs per bigha and were 10 times higher than previous determined rate. The compensation was declared within one and half year of the notification, and included an additional amount which is as under;

- 30% solatium on the market value of land
- 12% interest for the period following the notification

The compensation also varied according to the type of land, such as irrigated land where it was 4 times higher, and non-irrigated lands where it was 10-20 times higher than previously determined. The committee applied these enhanced rates only to land acquired for the project to speed up the land acquisition and thus avoid delays associated with land acquisition.
Our experience of our earlier project in Nathpa-Jhakri taught us to be on fast track with REHAB SYSTEM.
Key features of the approach adopted by SJVN

- A more equitable approach to land acquisition
- Self-relocation option
- Support for income generation schemes
- Focused community welfare measures
- Continuous health services
- Skill upgrading measures
- Gender sensitivity
- Direct communication with communities
Allotment of house plots to displaced families

For resettlement of 15 nos. of houseless families private land was purchased on willing seller and willing buyer basis & thus the entire process could be completed in a short duration of 109 days.

Resettlement process followed immediately and the highlight was that the people from the same village were resettled en masse in/around the same village and hence socio-cultural harmony amongst shifted families was not disturbed as well with the other inhabitants of the area.

Each family provided with developed plots of 280 sq.m allotted + Rs. 1.80 Lakh as construction grant.
Benefits extended in Resettlement colony

- Main road connecting the Resettlement colony
- Internal paths linking all dwelling units.
- Sewerage & drainage facilities.
- Drinking water facility.
- Street lights.
- Transition allowance @2000/- Rs. per month per family for 18 months was given to people during the resettlement process.

- In addition to the above facilities, shifting allowance (Rs. 10,000/-) was also provided twice for physical mobilization of houseless families.
The SJVN R&R Policy advocates sustainable, progressive, fair and equitable economic development and therefore, special attention was given to marginal people and vulnerable groups to secure their public participation.

- **Assistance to vulnerable Group**
  - In view of poor social & economic conditions of vulnerable group (SC/ST/Female headed Household), economic rehabilitation grant (Rs 18000/- per family) given to 51 Vulnerable families of RHEP affected area.

- **Rehabilitation grant to Non- title holders.**
  - Financial assistance of Rs. 34,000 for displaced Encroachers
  - Financial assistance of Rs. 11,000 for displaced Tenants.
For a long run and sustainable mode it was essential for us to train the local youth with the technical, vocational, and life skills needed to develop sustainable livelihoods and supporting them to serve as positive agents of change in their communities.
In order to empower the local youth with technical skills necessary for success in the world of employment, the ITI scheme was introduced wherein:

- Students from the Project Affected area apply against 35 sponsored seats by SJVN every year in various ITI’s of H.P.
- Students are then selected based on their merit in board exams.
- Normal cut-off for selection is 65% but students of PAA securing marks ranging 40–60% also get admission due to these sponsored seats.
- The full course fee of these selected students is paid by SJVN and also these students are given a scholarship of Rs. 700/- month for the entire duration of their course.
- Courses include: Electrician, Motor mechanic, Fitter, Welder, Refrigeration/ Air conditioning, computer, sewing etc.

174 nos. candidates have completed course, out of which 48% candidates (83 nos.) are working with major contractors of SJVN/other organization.
Skill Development – Apprenticeship scheme

A new scheme of Apprenticeship training/ On job training (2 yr duration) started for the Local youth:
- for enhanced skill development
- & also to make them competent for better future job prospects.

Total 57 nos. students imparted training till date

Financial support being provided along-with skill development
Stipend for ITI candidates – Rs. 5000/month
Stipend for diploma holders- Rs. 8000/month
Training in CIDC, Faridabad in Electrician Trade/Assistant Accounts for 3 months duration for Project Affected Local Youths of SJVN Ltd.

Stipend amounting to Rs. 1500 / PM per student provided by CIDC
Our most of the Project affected area lies in remote area of Kullu Distt, therefore emphasis on quality education and exposure by providing infrastructural facilities to school and holding various competitions provided opportunity to the potential students for their growth.
For inculcating a spirit of competition among students & acknowledging them on achieving good results, A scheme was started in which:

- Toppers (Meritorious students) of all Govt. Schools situated in Project Affected Area of RHEP are awarded with cash cheques to encourage them for their academic performance.

Total 54 schools in the Project area are getting benefitted from this scheme.

Financial support being provided to each student is:

- 5th class - Rs 1000/-
- 8th class - Rs 1500-2000/-
- 10th Class – Rs 2000-3000/-
- 12 Class - Rs 3000-4000/-
Merit Scholarship scheme: Students from the PAA who get selected into professional courses like Engineering, Diploma, ITI etc. are given scholarship 800 Rs/month for ITI, 1000 Rs/month for Diploma & 1500 Rs/month for degree courses for the entire duration of their courses.

Fee concession is being given to the wards of Project affected families in Project school (DPS) so as to allow them equal educational opportunities.

Events/Competitions: Various events like Debate / declamation /essay/ drawing/Quiz competition based on the theme of hydro-power are regularly organized in the Project area schools to create awareness about hydro-power & also to know the views of these young ones about hydro-power.

Infrastructural aid (grants) to schools: black boards, white boards, over head projectors, computer, extension of a room, laboratory equipments, plantation etc.

(Till date, Rs.4.82 Million distributed among 49 schools falling in project area).
Economy is the centre drive of growth and development. In a hill state and remote area of Project industrial/entrepreneur ship is not so viable. Therefore, direct or indirect employment is the only option to bring the economical change. We endeavoured in this field also directly or indirectly.
The society prospers as a whole when the living standard of people is raised which in turn can be achieved by providing employment opportunities to these people.

- **Through major Contractors**: About 4.6 Million man-days of unskilled labor created under contractors (22% of total employment created under contractors) till Sept–2014; 478 (42% of employees) are local people among the employees of the major contractors.

- **Awarding petty contracts directly to locals thereby increasing local employment**: All Petty/ small contracts worth Rs. 50 million are earmarked for Local people since 2006; So far Rs 397.59 million worth contracts have been awarded to local people by RHEP. Small petty contracts worth Rs. 1069.1 million awarded to local people by Major Contracting Agency.

- **Hiring of vehicles from locals**: 63 vehicles have been hired from local people for project requirements thus providing them direct employment opportunity.
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- **Service Outsourcing**: Services like sweeping, gardening, maintenance etc. in project are outsourced to local contractors for hiring of local people thereby maintaining the continuity even if the contractor is changed. With this mechanism ladies from the same village are employed in the proximity of their home empowering them with economic independence simultaneously enabling them to attend household chores.

- **Solving dust complaints through participative involvement of sufferers**: To check dust pollution more effectively, the contract for Sprinkling of water has been strategically awarded by RHEP to Gram Pradhans of affected panchayats to sprinkle water in their respective area to arrest dust due to construction activities of RHEP.
In hilly areas Women are the key force and crusader for most of the household chores including cattle breeding and other miscellaneous jobs. Therefore women empowerment was one key area which needed focus.
Various measures have been taken to ensure active participation and involvement of women in socio-economic development of the community like:

- Creating awareness in terms of health & hygiene by disbursing *free toilet seats* (2191 families)
- Disbursement of household items *like pressure cookers* to help them perform their household tasks more easily (139 PAFs)
- Organizing *Income Generation camps* motivating them to create supplementary livelihood.
- Organizing various *awareness programmes* focusing on AIDS awareness, agriculture, horticulture and veterinary needs and disbursement of useful farming equipments to them (11 nos.)
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- Awareness programmes focusing on environmental aspects are organized in various panchayats wherein the majority participants are women.

- **Improving water supply** schemes because easy availability of potable water in hilly areas reduces the household tasks of a female quite considerably.

- **Reserving** fixed no. of seats only for female candidates in the ITI training scheme.

- Supporting local *Mahila Mandals* through financial, infrastructural & functional assistance.

- Launching *pre-natal & post-natal care schemes* for BPL mothers.
Drinking water is one of the primary need but a scarce thing in hilly area due to strategic location of villages on height than that of the source. We focused our attention in that and attempted to work out a plan on long term, short term and for urgent/immediate needs.
Water being the primary need, special steps were taken to improve existing & create new water supply facilities like:

- Providing financial assistance of Rs. 55.3 million to Distt. administration for integrated water supply scheme in the Project area.

- In addition bore wells and hand pumps installed at various locations of project panchayats.

- Deployment of water tanker in Project affected Panchayats to ensure uninterrupted water supply even during summers when many water sources may go dry.
Health is the biggest wealth. Following this gospel, we tried to help the local people on sustainable basis by providing facilities in various ways.
The Project endeavors to extend its medical services to the local populace through:
• Project Dispensary/Hospital at Bayal
• Mobile Health Van
• Regular Health camps

› The project has constructed a 20 bedded Hospital at Bayal wherein the local people are given free treatment & medicines.

› In Rampur project, Mobile Health Van introduced in January 2005 and it visits affected villages thrice a week to promote health and hygiene awareness & treatment.

Av. Populace getting benefitted from Mobile Health Van/month is approx. 750.
Medical Facilities

- Regular health camps being held for local people (Iodine deficiency, sugar check-up, Hb test/anaemia etc.).
  
  (So far, 6240 nos. People have benefitted from these Health camps.)

- Regular AIDS awareness camps held for migrant workers;

**Total 101380 Patients treated through Mobile Health Van/ Dispensary at Bayal.**
In remote hilly area of Project there are hardly any schemes for infrastructural development. Project shared its own infrastructure and created base line infrastructure in and around the Project.
Abiding by these words of Mahatma Gandhi, the project has always strived for catering to the infrastructural and other developmental needs of people in its area through:

- Construction of various approach roads, village paths in Project affected area.
- Construction of canals, play grounds, retaining walls, fencing etc.
- Construction of community centres, community parks etc.
- Creation of infrastructure in the form of Bus-stands/ bridges/ rain shelters/ post offices.
- Providing public facilities like benches, water coolers etc. at public places like Bus-stands, Hospitals.
- Repairs/renovations in existing public buildings and providing financial assistance in creating additional spaces.

Construction of Steel Bridge at Duttnagar connecting villages on right Bank of river Satluj with NH-22

Rain shelter at Bayal Village
"It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future. Following the local realms, the Project extended its assistance to the protection, preservation and encouragement of local culture & customs."
Culture and customs being the soul of a community, various efforts were done to keep the locals close to their roots:

- Participating & Providing financial assistance for various local, national & international level fairs & fests in the region.

- Renovation of various temples & heritage sites in and around the Project area.

- Sponsoring cultural nights in various local fests & fairs.
Communication is said to be blood stream of Management. For transparent and effective Information Management with our stakeholders especially local people, we developed a strong Communication System and communication channel.
Improvement in the Living Standards as per Mid Term Impact Evaluation Study-2010

- The average income of PAFs has increased by 26% in real terms over baseline incomes and is 41% more than the average income of control set of population;
- 63% of the affected people have added additional household assets or immovable assets such as land or house from the compensation amounts received by them;
- The proportion of the people working in fixed earning income jobs has increased by 5% from the baseline and is 6% above that of control set of population;
- The housing conditions of the affected people have substantially improved;
- The project affected people identified support for the technical education, merit scholarships, dispensary at Bayal and mobile health van, etc.
Final Impact Evaluation Study on Resettlement Action Plan is being carried out by an independent agency.

Report will be available by March 2015.
FUTURE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Loan could have been arranged from the banks / financial institutions to the PAFs for purchasing the vehicle which should be taken on hire basis for sustainability of the PAFs.

- We have been conducting awareness campaign on various aspects like Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal husbandry etc. In continuation to that the Organic farming could have been initiated so as to improve the cultivation process/technique by bringing awareness on health hazards.

- The Govt. have been providing subsidy to the farmers to encourage the development of Poly house/Green House technology. The balance amount may be provided to the PAFs to take up this opportunity.

- Under the scheme for technical education for the wards of PAFs are provided technical education (ITI). The full course fee are borne by SJVN. In order to provide on job training like one year apprenticeship training be given to all candidates completed the courses to enable them employable.