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Contextualizing IDP

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Introduction

The chronic internal displacement played a virtual role in the policy making of decisions of the countries. The African displacement position, the displaced persons of East Timor, the Kashmir Pundits of India played a vital role in the foreign policy decisions of the concerned countries and neighborhoods. Apart from the countries the international agencies like United Nations (UN), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) etc. played a very crucial role in determining the future of the displaced persons. It is seen from many studies that in last three decades the numbers of refugees are somewhat slowed down which is a good sign but the number of displaced persons in last many decades are always in rise*. The growing number of IDPs in some of the countries with lowest development indicator and highest level of violence led to a new kind of tension for international authorities and environmental regimes like- UN Human Rights Commission, Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement, Norwegian Refugee Council, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre(IDMC), Brookings and Bern Project on Internal Displacement.† The countries which are mostly affected by the crisis are often become politically fragile, with very limited support from the citizens, corrupted and many times directly or indirectly run by the armed force, secessionists or rebel groups i.e. East Timor, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, etc. the issues like rule of law, transitional justice, social and political security, gender equality are always faced by the internally displaced persons. In this particular situation this study tried to find out how structuration theory can help to overcome the plight of displaces.

* Cohen, R. and Francis M Deng in their many studies found the rising number of IDPs in underdeveloped and developing countries but less number of refugees.

† Laker, Rethinking Displacement, pp.9-12



A New Approach

To link up structuration theory with political situation is not very easy. The structuration theory propagated mainly by Anthony Giddens and Bourdieu, is very much social science thinking. However as a society cannot develop without the state so the theory plays a substantial role in understanding the IDP from theoretical perspective. Anthony Giddens in his theory assumes that human agency and social structure are in a relationship with each other and it is the repetition of the acts of the individual agents which reproduce the structure.[‡] The structure is not the system but is the binding of time and space in the social system. Structure exists through the human agents. It gives form and shape to social life. The people in the form of agents usually acted to mould the structure. Structures are actions of social being. The deep structures of the state system exists due to the agents of the society. It constitutes the conditions of existence of state and the state action. The relationship between the human agency and social structure is very cordial. The structures are based on the agents who are the creator of the society. The noted socialist O' Donnell in his book 'Structural Account of the Origins of Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism (1973) stated that actors interest are mainly defined in terms of class position and class based groups are understood to ally or oppose one another depending on the material incentives.[§] Structuration approach treats the identities and interests of the actors as defined by the positions within social structures. Political process which is determined by the structures and actors has the influence of 'Power' in shaping, distribution and exercise of the power. S.L. Wasby, in one of his study points out that, as the study of politics is no longer remained the study of the state or government rather it crossed all aspects of the study be it family, trade unions, political parties etc. Hence, in the process, the power is also becoming an area of study. However to link it up with the Structuration approach we have to believe in Giddens's notion that power is associated with the agency. Giddens, believed that power is associated with the agency i.e. the capacity of an individual to achieve outcomes. Power have two distinguished resources- allocative (control over the material facilities) and authoritative resources (control over the activities of human beings).^{**} Power is a process which operates throughout the society.^{††} It is exercised through the time and space by all. The internally displaced persons, as they started a fresh life in a new settlement, are influenced by the power politics. The internally displaced persons who have to leave their place of original habitat for manmade or nature related causes faced the state intervention in all aspect. Rueschemeyer et al. introduced 'three power' structure model in which the interaction between state, class and transitional power structure shape the societal and political outcomes.^{‡‡} In case of situation of internally displaced persons this power structure plays pivotal role. Moreover, the state structure can promote or prevent change towards democracy.^{§§} Agency represents the transformative capacity of actors. In other words, it relates to

[‡] Giddens, A. The Theory Of Structuration,

Retrieved from www.theory.org.uk/giddens2.htm. Dated 10-03-14

[§] Mahony, J. and Snyder, R. (1999) Rethinking Agency And Structure In The Study Of Regime Change, *Journal of studies in the comparative international development/ summer 1999*, p.5

^{**} Demmers J. (2012) *Theories Of Violent Conflict*, Routledge, New York, p.121

^{††} Lasswell and Kaplan. (1950), *Power and Society*, Yale University Press, New Heaven, p.XVII

^{‡‡} Rueschemeyer, D., Stephens, E.H. and Stephens, J.D. (1992), *Capitalist Development and Democracy*, Chicago University Press, Chicago, pp.60-70

^{§§} Mahdavi, M. (2006), Rethinking agency and structure in the study of democratic transition: Iranian Lessons, at annual meeting CPSA2006, Department of Political Science, University Of Western Ontario. Retrieved from www.cpsa-acsp.ca on 27-03-14



their capacity as individual actors.^{***} However, in the case of conflict induced displacement the host state needs to provide similar pattern of base for the agency to develop itself. Ian Craib (1992) stated that social practice is the production, reproduction and transformation of the structures. A new socio-economic and political situation is not a positive sign for the displaced population as the structural changes often led to the adjustment problem for the migrated population. In that sense the internally displaced persons seldom faced such crisis as they more or less live in the same country. However, as Giddens point out agency concerns events, of which an individual is perpetrator, in the sense that the individual could at any phase of time in a given sequence of conduct, have acted differently.^{†††}

The structuration theory in conflict related cases seems to understand how the conflict can change the space and base of internally displaced population. In order to settle in a new situation many times space in the family, society, culture was changed. The whole socio-political set up may face challenged due to IDP situation. In case of development induced displacement the state played the role of anti agent. For the sake of national interest the state policy many times carried out projects even at the cost of displacing thousands of people. As the state as is not a binding agent to help the IDPs, in many cases it only provides resettlement but not rehabilitate them at all^{†††}. Even in many cases in the long run they may faced severe economic crisis. It is seen that resettlement and displacement, which carry great impoverishment risks, go hand in hand with development induced displacement. The state played an important role in the development displacement situations. As in development related displacement the displaced people become marginalized class therefore the human agents or IDPs challenges the authority or the state.^{§§§} They interpret and transform or challenge the prevailing social relation or structures.^{****} The mutual interaction between structures and agencies can bring understanding between authorities and citizens thus led to resolve any kind of crisis.^{††††} Through the Structuration theory the state can resolve any problem cropped up due to the differentiation between the government and the people. The Internally displaced people as agents are very much need to assimilate the mainstream society otherwise the various problem both socio economic and political may arouse which need to consider immediately. The social scientist believed that the displaced persons use the 'responsive strategies' to assimilate with the main stream society. 'Bourdieu' in that order provided four different form of capital which together can empower agents in their struggle for position within 'social space'.^{††††} These four types of Capital are – economic, cultural, social and symbolic.^{§§§§} He believed that capital is not only economic and that social exchanges are not purely self interested

^{***} O'Neill, K et al (2004), 'Actors, Norms and Impacts: Recent International Cooperation Theory and the Influence of the Agent-Structure Debate', *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 7, pp.149-175.

^{†††} Giddens(1984) op cit p.9

^{†††} Cernea,M.,Cohen R. and Headley, M., Development – induced displacement and resettlement- impoverishment or sustainable development, School of Mining Engineering, University of Witwatersrand.

^{§§§} Asmamaw,L.B. (2010), Human induced disaster and the socio-economic capital of squatter settlers: the case of the Kore community in Adis ababa, Ethiopia, in *Journal of Sustainable development in Africa*,Volume 12, No.6, 2010, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

^{****} Chouinard,V. (1996), structures and Agency: Contested Concepts in Human Geography, in Carville,E., Matheson,K. and Kenzer,M.S. (ed.) *Concepts in Human Geography*, Savage.pp.383-410)

^{††††} Asmamaw op cit.

^{††††} Bourdieu,P. (1996), *Symbolic Power*, Pax forlag,Oslo

^{§§§§} Claridge Tristan, (April22,2015), Bourdieu on Social Capital – Theory of Capital, www.socialcapitalresearch.com/bourdieu-on-social-capital-theory-of-capital



and need to encompass ‘ Capital and profit in all their forms’. His work highlighted structural constraints and unequal access to institutional resources based on class, gender and race.*****

The structuration theory, thus, if we inculcate in case of internally displaced situation can be said that in the political situations which arise due to the displacement situation, the structure like state and its institutions needs to execute policy which can affect the displaced persons in positive way without changing much of the structure. The Displaced persons can feel themselves part of the host country when they are treated as part of the society. The structuration theory can help in building up the society in a novel way with the help of old and new inhabitants.