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Looking Back To Dam, Crisis And Movement←small Letter With Special Reference to Selected Dams in Context of Human Rights

*Abu Taher Mollah**

Abstract

Big dam is a debatable issue. If we look back to the history of constructing big dams we come across that many agitation and protest were led by different NGOs, social thinkers, activists and environmentalist in protest of constructing big dam. If we peep into the past then we can come across why constructing big dam projects have been questioned time and again. It is true that big dams are the symbol of national development and have tremendous potential for economic growth and prosperity of a country. Dams are not only used for irrigation and for producing hydro-electric power but also have developed a certain zone around the dam which could be a place for tourist attraction. But the big dams have bleak side also which must be addressed. Any development at the cause of gross violating of human rights should not be upheld in any circumstances. Let's take an example of Narmada Valley Project which caused a huge displacement. It is said that one million tribal and non-tribal people were affected. Thousands of people had to leave their home lands where their forefathers' bones were buried and cremated. They do not have land to belong, paddy fields to grow their dreams, river for fishing and community to celebrate. Big dams derailed the people from their place and put them into the sense of 'the other' which is very fatal. In recent past, people across North East India joined Akhil Gogoi who led the agitation in protest of Subansiri Dam. Recently, Farrakka Barrage discharged 16 lakhs cum/sec water. It crushed down the life of common settlers who live in river basin areas of West Bengal and blocks fresh water to flow. It affects adversely the ecology and economy of Bangladesh as a large population of Bangladesh depends on Ganges

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