



GLOBALIZATION AND PLIGHT OF TRIBALS OF ODISHA: DISPLACEMENT AND DISPOSSESSION

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ABSTRACT

The paper tries to discuss about the plight of tribals with the advent of globalization. Nature is the gift for the tribals. Forest is the resource of their livelihood. Hills are the play grounds for them. The environment is the roof for their sustenance. With the inception of globalization, they have been worst affected on the ground of displacement and disposition. Under this scenario, their life became a curse for themselves. Economic liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG) model of development in India is virtually depriving the tribal people of their traditional means of sustainable livelihood by promoting the unregulated growth of mineral-based industries in the tribal regions of Odisha. In the name of modernization and the country's economic development, the elites in India are taking over the life sustaining resources of the poor and pushing them into a further marginalized state of living as a result of displacing them from their land and homes. Such development serves the interests of these elites while it impoverishes the tribal people and poor peasants in these regions who are dependent on the life sustaining resources of the ecosystems in which they live. The globalization and its forces induced displacement and dispossession in the tribal areas of Odisha. In 21st century, the deprivation of land and forests are the worst forms of oppression that the tribal people face in Odisha.

KEYWORDS : Globalization, Displacement, Dispossession, Tribal People, Deprivation.

INTRODUCTION

The academic literature describes globalization as a process, a condition, a system, a force and an age. It is a social condition characterized by tight global, economic, political, cultural and environmental interconnectedness and flow that make most of the currently existing borders and boundaries irrelevant. The term globalization applies to a set of social processes that appear to transform our present social condition of conventional nationality into one of globalism. (Manfred, 2013) Globalization involves economic integration, the transfer of policies across the border, cultural stability transmission of knowledge, industrialization, and urbanization in a global order. It is a process of world shrinkage of distances getting shorter, things moving closer. It pertains to the increasing ease with which somebody on one side of the world can interact, to mutual benefit, with somebody on the other side of the world. (Thomas Larson, 2001) It implies the assertions like slow leaving behind the conditions of modern nationality that gradually unfolded from the 18th century onwards, a movement towards the new condition of post modern globalism and the future concept of modernity. It implies the weakening of states sovereignty and state structures. It is the widening, deepening, and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness in all aspects of contemporary social life, from the cultural to the criminal and the financial to the spiritual. So globalization holds the dynamic of the development and intensification of network of global consciousness, system interdependent, human interaction and societal changes and their far-reaching consequences. Interregional flows and networks of interaction within all realms of social activity from cultural to the criminal on different regional levels from global to local. (Guazzonne, 1997).

Globalization involves economic integration; the transfer of policies across borders; the transmission of knowledge; cultural stability; the reproduction, relations, and discourses of power; it is a global process, a concept, a revolution, and "an establishment of the global market free from socio-political control." It is a concept that has been defined variously over the years, with some connotations referring to progress, development and stability, integration and cooperation, and others referring to regression, colonialism, and destabilization. According to Immanuel Wallenstein 'globalization represents the triumph of a capitalist world economy tied together by a global division of labour'. Martin Khor defines globalization is what we in the Third World have for several centuries called colonization." Nayef R.F. Al-Rodhan and Gérard Stoudmann defines globalization is "a process that encompasses the causes, course, and consequences of transnational and trans-cultural integration of human and non-human activities."

GLOBALIZATION IN INDIA:

In the broad setting of reforms in many parts of the country of the world in 1980s, India was an apparent anomaly. India was at the

crossroads. She was facing a macroeconomic crisis that required immediate attention. This crisis provided the opportunity and the necessity to address meaningfully the insufficiencies in our policy framework that had altered our economic performance and to begin constructively the task of undertaking the necessary reforms that had long been overdue. The reform process began in India in 1991. So the reform initiated by the then Prime Minister P.V. Narashima Rao and his Finance Minister, Manmohan Singh called the second Wave of reform in India. India, characterized by pervasive poverty and nearly 300 million people are below poverty line. India has been implementing several poverty alleviation programmes over the past decades. (Government of India, 2001)

Globalization takes society from a national to an international perspective, which is typified as been consumer driven. 21st century consumers have informed value politics and a global culture, where self-esteem is centered on one's consumption. "You are what you wear and eat". Globalization is not really global, on the other hand it creates gap between different strata of people and countries. It is good for rich people with assets and skills. But it is bad for the poor people like Tribals and Dalits. (Petras and Polychronius, 1997).

Globalization has raised fears all over the world. Anti globalization proclaims "The world is not for sale." Globalization these days is not being warmly welcomed particularly in the developing countries. As Robert J. Samuelson puts it "Globalization is a double-edged sword. It's a controversial process that assaults national sovereignty, erodes local culture and tradition and threatens economic and social stability." (Samuelson, 2000)

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON TRIBALS:

The antiquity of Odisha is endorsed by her ancient people who continue to inhabit their traditional dwelling places in remote areas in deep forests and hilly areas. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India with an estimated 47% of its population living without food on a day. India has the second largest concentration of the tribal population, after that of the African continents. Tribal's constitutes about 82% of the total population of the country. According to the recent census of India there are 414 principal tribes and 698 scheduled tribes. Out of this 68 are Scheduled Tribes. So far as the definitions of Tribe are concerned, it lacks a universally acceptable definition. Purely for the sake of classification the British Government used the word tribe, along with prefixes jungle, hill, aboriginal, indigenous to describe the people who seem to have little contact with the main culture. The tribes of India are broadly classified into four categories, namely Indo-Aryan speakers, Dravidian speakers, Tibet Burmese speakers, Austric speakers. They are the "Original Inhabitants of the land". There 62 ethnic tribes in Orissa and they are the 22.85 percent of the total population of the state according to 2011 census. Sched-

uled Tribes and Scheduled Castes together constitute nearly 40% of the State's Total Population (S.Ts 22.85% and S.Cs 17.13%). (De Haan and Dubey, 2003).

The forces of Globalization have a virtual affect in Odisha. It has a deep impact on the social, political, cultural and economic sphere of life both positively and negatively. Positively it promotes the new avenues and opportunities for the overall qualitative improvement of life. Negatively it is displacing and dispossessing the tribal people creating a new kind of chaos and confusion. Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) are the major factors which have brought great changes in the lives of the tribal people. Their sustainability strongly depends on a system of property right over land and forest. In many parts of the developing world, Globalization and new economic policies have aggravated conflicts over land, water, forest, and other natural resources. There is the conceptualization of 'Foreignisation of space' (Zoomers, 2010) because of the radical changes in the use and ownership of land, cross border transfer of land rights, and the displacement of the people.

There are a large number of processes through which tribals have lost access to land and forests essential for their survival and livelihoods. Land is the major economic aspect of tribal agriculture in Odisha. (EPW, 2010). Due to industrialization the tribal communities are being displaced from their homelands. It also impacts on deforestation, soil erosion, environmental pollution etc. it is causing alienation and disposition from their natural rights and habitats (Viegas, 1991). In the name of development we are using the nature and its natural resources which are available to us, and displacing the indigenous tribal people from their natural homeland. Odisha is such a state where the developmental projects exploiting the innocent tribal people. Mining and displacement caused by mega projects and senseless industrialization is one of the most formidable factors of displacement and dispossession particularly in the state of Odisha. (Mainstream weekly, 2010). So in the 21st century the displacement and dispossession of the tribals from their natural habitat are the greatest plight for them.

DISPLACEMENT AND DISPOSSESSION OF TRIBALS IN ODISHA:

It is estimated that owing to construction of over 1500 major irrigation development projects since independence, over 16 million people were displaced and dispossessed from their villages, of which about 40 percent belong to tribal population. Odisha is extremely rich in minerals, most of which are found in the tribal districts. In Odisha during the last 50 years more than 50 million people have been

uprooted from their homes and huts and sacrificed at the altar of National Interest. It becomes clear that mostly powerless and voiceless people are displaced and to pay the price of national progress. Globalization has brought many developmental projects in tribal regions. The establishment of mega-projects has encroached on tribal people's traditional lands and displaces them. In the Hirakud dam project nearly 41,706 families were displaced and most of them were tribals. (Govt. of Odisha, 1968). In Rengali dam project 11,289 families were displaced. In upper Kolab project 32,163 acres of land were submerged under water affecting 50771 people in Koraput district. (Govt. of Odisha, 1981). In Indravati Project submerged 17,137.97 acres of land in Kalahandi, 15,338.90 acres of land in Koraput district of Odisha. (Dalua, 1993). After displacement, landlessness increased to 85.25%, the average legal land holding declined to 0.62 acres and the govt. land cultivated came down to only 0.2 acres. (Ota, 2001). The BALCO project affected the flora and fauna of Gandhamardhana hills. So the slogan "Narsingh Thakur Zindabad, BALCO Asur Murdabad" was raised by the Gandhamardan suraksha Yuva Parishad. In the Vedanta alumina project 5148 tribals are displaced. An Indian company known as PPOSCO India established a Steel Plant in Kujang of Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha. It would displace nearly 22,000 people from their original homeland. (Behera and Parida, 2014)

CONCLUSION:

However from the above study it is very clear that globalization is adversely affecting the Dalits and Tribals in many parts of Odisha creating discrimination, displacement, migration, and drastic changes in livelihood patterns. There should be special policy and program, necessary to address and redress these differences especially in the context of globalization. It is the responsibility of the government to take proactive measures for holistic development collaborating with the host government and in consultation with the tribal population. Globalization may no longer be an option but a fact which must be implemented with a human endeavor eradicating the plights of tribals. As a fact globalization is necessary for the prosperity of the tribals but simultaneously their Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) should be the prime objective of the government, to make the globalization process a successful one.

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