



Impact Of Globalisation on Tribals in India

KEYWORDS

Tribals, Globalisation, Land Alienation, Tribal displacement

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ABSTRACT *The forest occupies a central position in tribal culture and economy. The tribal way of life is very much dictated by the forest right from birth to death. In spite of the protection given to the tribal population by the constitution of India, tribals still remain the most backward ethnic group in India. The policy of liberalization and the new state perceptions of utilization of resources are diametrically opposed to the adivasi worldview of resource exploitation and this divide has only widened further with the intrusion of globalization's market oriented philosophy of development. The gains of globalization have so far accrued to those who already have education and skill advantage. For the Tribals, globalization is associated with rising prices, loss of job security and lack of health care. Hence the Government should frame Special policy and programmes that are required to address the redress these differences especially on the context of globalization. When we plan for tribal development, we have to regard these differences, take a special note of their situations and capabilities and provide them facilities to develop on the line they want to take.*

Introduction

The tribal population of India is around 8.6 percent of the total population of the country which is larger than any other country in the world. The total tribal population in India is 104,281,034. In this rural population is 93,819,162 while the urban population is 10,461,872. The tribal population is increasing along with the Indian population but at a rate lower than that of general population. The general population from 1951 to 2011 has increased by 849.46 millions. The tribal population from 1951 to 2011 increased by 85.1 millions. The percentage of tribal population to total population has increased only 3.31 percent from 1951 to 2011. The forest occupies an important place in tribal life and economy. The tribal way of life is very much dictated by the forest right from birth to death. It is ironical that the poorest people of India are living in the areas of the richest natural resources. Past history shows that, tribals have been pushed to corners owing to economic interests of various dominant groups.

Meaning of Tribe

The term 'tribe' denotes a group of people living in primitive or barbarous conditions. Article 366(25) of Indian constitution refers scheduled tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance Article 342 of the Constitution. This Article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes. The essential characteristics, first laid down by the Lokur Committee, for a community to be identified as Scheduled Tribes are –

- a) indications of primitive traits;
- b) distinctive culture;
- c) shyness of contact with the community at large;
- d) geographical isolation; and
- e) backwardness

What is Globalisation?

Globalisation is the free movement of goods, services, capital, people and information technology across national boundaries. It is driven by integrated global economy, which influences both, economic as well as social relations within and across countries. Opening of an economy increases competition internally as well as externally, leads to structural changes in the economy, alters consumer preferences, lifestyles and demands of citizens. While mainstream economists suggest that globalization process is a strong force for equalizing per capita income between nations, others say that the developing countries are exposed to threats of further aggravation and marginalization in the process.

Globalisation, these days, is not being warmly welcomed particularly in the developing countries. Fears about globalization have been long prevalent. As Robert J. Samuelson puts it " Globalisation is a double –edged sword. It is a controversial process that assaults national sovereignty, erodes local culture and tradition and threatens economic and social stability." It brings instability and unwelcome change exposes workers to competition from imports and undermines government.(Nishi K.Dixit 2006)

Effect of Globalisation on Tribals

The impact of globalisation is strongest on these populations perhaps more than any other because these communities have no voice and are therefore easily swept aside by the invisible hand of the market and its proponents. Globalisation is not merely a question of marginalization for indigenous peoples it is a multi-pronged attack on the very foundation of their existence and livelihoods, for example:

- Indigenous people throughout the world sit on the "frontlines" of globalization's expansion; they occupy the last pristine places on earth, where resources are still abundant: forests, minerals, water, and genetic diversity. All are ferociously sought by global corporations, trying to push traditional societies off their lands.

- New advances in technology, the reorientation toward export-led development, and the imperatives of pleasing global financial markets are all driving forces in the extermination of countless native communities which stand in their way.
- Traditional sovereignty over hunting and gathering rights has been thrown into question as national governments bind themselves to new global economic treaties.
- New trade and investment agreements, which are opening up previously inaccessible territory to industrial extraction of natural resources, has forced indigenous peoples to defend their homelands under an invasion of unprecedented rate and scale: Big dams, mines, pipelines, roads, energy developments, military intrusions all threaten native lands.
- Global rules on the patenting of genetic resources via the WTO has made possible the privatization of indigenous peoples' genomes, the biological diversity upon which they depend, and the very knowledge of how that biodiversity might be used commercially.
- National governments making decisions on export development strategies or international trade and investment rules do not consult native communities.

Globalisation a Threats to Constitutional safeguards of Tribals

The Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution were specifically devoted to the protection of the hundred million tribes spread across the country. The Indian Constitution provides legal safeguards to adivasi communities and all its policies regarding utilization of resources, whether land, water or forests based on social equity rather than on market economy.

But the process of globalization has invaded India too since the introduction of the New Economic policy of the nineties, which is a complete reversal of the welfare and socialistic essence of the Indian Constitution. The protective and welfare role so far played by the state suddenly shrink once the state decided to make accessible these natural resources to global and private powers. In a globalised situation, it is the market and not community which is the focal player. The influence of Powerful transnational lobbies made pressure on the governments. These leads to transfer control over resources from Adivasis to private and global industry stakeholders, legitimate governments like India allowing themselves to undergo Constitutional changes to the detriment of their constituent communities.

All laws and polices relating to Scheduled Areas – the land transfer regulations, the Forest Act, the Environment protection Act, the Land Acquisition Act are all under immediate threat of repeal, dilution or amendment,. While these laws clearly portray the need for protection of people and resources the new polices call for exploitation of resources at the cost of tribal people. These contradictions between law and polices are leading to industrial lobbying for amendment of the laws and the very tampering of the Constitution.

Threats of New Economic policies on Tribals:

The new economic policies have serious impact on the

adivasi lives whose right over access to natural resources, livelihood opportunities, right to primary education and health, protection from atrocities and human rights abuses and the right to uphold their traditional and customary practices, are under series threat due to the changes in laws and policies.

The most serious threat to the adivasi people on the country today is the pressure on the Fifth Schedule. Both Central and Several state governments are seriously making efforts to amend the laws prescribed under Fifth Schedule and their corresponding state laws in order to allow private and corporate players to take over tribal and forest lands.

Violation of the Fifth Schedule has occurred in many states like in Andhra Pradesh where the Land Transfer Regulation Act was ignored while giving mining leases in scheduled areas to private companies. Private mining has been taking place in Rajasthan, M.P, Odhisa, Maharashtra and other Fifth Schedule states.

One of the ways of globalization in India is disinvestment or privatization. Many Public sector Enterprises are being sold off to private sectors with the objective of raising revenues to meet the fiscal deficits and to improve efficiency. Profit making enterprises like BALCO, which are in the tribal belt, have been privatized. Public Sector Enterprises in the tribal belt were beneficial to tribal people giving them employment and livelihood. Privatization of these enterprises will adversely affect the tribal people and disturb the regional balance in terms of industrialization.

The new Industrial policy paved the way for Tribal Land alienation. This results in the alienation of tribal lands for various purpose like construction dams, mining projects, setting up of wildlife sanctuaries, construction of government infrastructure and encroachments by non tribals. While the adivasis have been displaced and pushed into the fringes of globalization, the natural resources were victim to large scale destruction directly for industry purposes and indirectly by the non tribals. As a result the tribals ended up as debris in the globalised policies unable to access the resources which were their life sustaining forces or to compete with the mainstream society to be absorbed into alternate economies. Those absorbed in the new industries and projects were minimal compared to the extent of displacement and the destruction of traditional livelihood.

Conclusion

Tribals are part of the Indian society, at the same time they are different. Age old exploitation and repression of the tribals, have cut them off from the main stream of socio-economic development of the country as a whole. The tribal population is identified as the aboriginal inhabitants of our country. They are most vulnerable section of our society living in natural and unpoluted surrounding far away from civilization with their traditional values, customs and beliefs. The gains of globalization have so far accrued to those who already have education and skill advantage, easier market access and possession of assets for use as collateral to access credit. For the tribals, globalization is associated with rising prices, loss of job security, lack of health care and tribal development programmes. Globalisation may also weaken the constitutional protections, in terms of education and job reservations given to tribals. Hence the Government should frame Special policy and programmes that are required to address the

redress these differences especially on the context of globalization. When we plan for tribal development ,we have to regard these differences, take a special note of their situations and capabilities and provide them facilities to develop on the line they want to take.

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