

A STUDY ON PATHETIC DIMENSIONS OF DISPLACEMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES AGAINST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

Tribal studies have been customarily executed by anthropologists not just implied the rich cultural heritage that these tribes carries, but also to have an insight as how far and to what extent the tribes are eligible to be in mainstream. The outcomes of previous historical studies on tribal communities provides a wide scope of framing concrete policies and a time sufficient master plan that enables them to share the same facilities and resources as others in the country like India where diversity has to be smartly dealt.

The study aims at the displacement of tribal communities in want of their lands and resources for various developmental projects. The issue need to be addressed sensitively as improper and partial way of enquiry could bring intolerance and distrust at large.

The study comprehensively navigates through various alternatives and several rehabilitation opportunities available for these tribal communities.

Keywords: Tribal Displacement, Developmental projects, Mass Rehabilitation, Mainstream inclusion

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INTRODUCTION

Statistical data indicates that major part of the land that belongs to tribal inhabitant is invariably rich in mineral deposits, they are largely occupied by the ongoing power, mining and industrial projects. An estimate reveals the percentage of tribal among displaced families in the ongoing and projects still in pipeline developmental projects will be nearly 70-80%. Adding woes to the ground reality is a study that exclaims the number of already displaced at more than 10 lakh.

The plight of Tribal community increases manifold as stakeholders takes no account of their endless and inhuman sufferings as it occur. In lack of strong back rehabilitation master plan, atrocities on such poor with limited resources are neglected resulting in strong violent agitation, in turn, provoking them for armed revolt, the menace of Naxalism, Pro-Mao attacks and other agitating groups are the result of utter negligence of these communities.

Factual findings have also been concluding that, if at all, the situation still prevails and the stakeholders doesn't due this issue it might turn into serious internal conflict.

Tribal Population at a Glance

India constitutes the second largest tribal population in the world, next to Africa. We as a country have as many as 635 tribal groups (including sub-groups) with a population of 84.3 million (8.2%) population in almost all states except in Haryana and Punjab. Tribal presence being more prominent in Andhra Pradesh identifies 35 tribes alone with a population of 50, 24,009 (6.59%) living in different parts of the state. The district of Vizianagaram represents the tribal population of 2, 14,839, which constitute 9.55% to total population of the district as per 2001 census. Tribal belts heaven for natural resources, rich minerals, flora and fauna and varieties of natural vegetation which are constructively find their significance in the world of Ayurveda.

Legal statement on Land Acquisition and Displacement:

S.no	State	No of Projects Cleared	Total No. affected Persons	Total No. affected ST population
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	316242	123946
2	Arunachal	1	Nil	Nil
3	Jharkhand	1	70820	21000

4	Chhattisgarh	2	455	155
5	Himachal Pradesh	1	836	9
6	Kerala	1	20	20
7	Maharashtra	11	151408	20534
8	Madhya Pradesh	4	195081	12261
9	Orissa	11	64674	42036
10	Rajasthan	11	34452	4258
11	Uttrakhand	2	6716	1489
	Total	60	665131	225708

***Compiled by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**

The compiled result clearly remarks a great percentage of tribal population getting displaced. In May 2011, the National Advisory Council suggested integrating the provisions of Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) under a single Bill. In addition to this, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2012 (formerly known as the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2011) was introduced in Lok Sabha on 7 September 2011. The Bill given consent and passed on 29 August, 2013 in Lok Sabha and on 5 September, 2013 in Rajya Sabha. The bill ensures Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement and brings to an end of forced and illegal land acquisition. The decision of integrating land acquisition with rehabilitation and resettlement not only promises transparency in the process of acquisition, compensation, and rehabilitation as a subject of right of human right to live with dignity in itself a historic step. It was rather a much awaited Bill as it associate with the sentiments of people and a landmark in displaced and especially in the lives of tribal generation to follow. The Bill not only check upon various undue land mafia malpractices but also pave a way for the displaced, migrated and tribal people to join in mainstream.

What a Frequent Displacement of Tribal Population brings for them

Development as a result of displacement brings an vague and dismantled future ahead as in lack of no roof and no food to eat leave them perturbed. The susceptible tribal communities living with aboriginal knowledge with a marginal or no external interconnection, a great part of the

population say around 70% people only survive on shifting cultivation and consider Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) for their existence. Forests and minerals, primarily minor forest products (MFP) or NWFPs(non-wood forest products),play a decisive role in their life and survival. Even after they are provided with all necessary life support for time being as a part of rehabilitation, but it hardly makes any difference as the forest and forest resources are destroyed as a part of developmental projects.

According to **Michael Cernea's (1991)** "Impoverishment risk and Reconstruction model", displacement leads to wide range of impoverishment risks that includes landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, increased morbidity, loss of common resources and social disarticulation.

The tribal people displaced because of developmental projects are shifted to R&R colonies,where the displaced have hostile environment where they have to compromise with several other undue and rational accessories which may be termed as catastrophic situation sometimes. Displacement results in uprooting them from their villages, houses, cattle and sacred places, which are closely connecting to heart of the aboriginal people. A matter of circumstance these displaced tribal people have to face hardships in meeting their daily expenses due to inability to do works other than cultivation and skilled labor works in their surroundings.

Displacement of tribal population from their habitat is only one part of the story. As a result of large-scale movement of non- tribal communities into the development project areas, as work contractors, shopkeepers, transporters, laborers etc. displaces tribal people out of the focus and settles their permanently which the communities have to bear a brunt of insult and homelessness. Thus, various kinds of socio-economic exploitation get underway by these settlers in their own land. The human rights commission has a vital role to play as the people in these belt are still a remote player for their rights.

Research Findings and Conclusion

In the brief study conducted as a part of consequence of developmental projects on tribal population, the outcome are still in fray as development is the fundamental of human existence

but for the people with limited accessibility of resources and marginalized scope of cognitive capacity, the definition of development and progress need to be revisited and accordingly redefine where the tribal community could live with dignity and prosperity. There is a need to discourage such large scale displacement, particularly of tribal and in case of unavoidable displacement and their immediate resettlement and rehabilitation must be a matter of prestige for undertaking agencies.

Over a period of some half a century, the consumption of tribal resources and deforestation has increased in tremendous amount which left the original inhabitant in a chaotic situation and thus debarring them from getting into mainstream.

What on part of administrative commitment, government may ensure a great relief to these underprivileged people by providing them with proper basic amenities, rehabilitation and resettlement as soon the development projects gets kick off. The government agencies and ministries must frame policies so as not to allow any body to take hold of the resources, wealth which are solely the subject of tribal community only. There should be a strict check on manipulation of resources and overconsumption of mineral resources. The Human Rights Commission and judicial complex could play a vital role in making the process more transparent and the state concerned must also extend their helping hand in a process of rehabilitation of these people.

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