

TRIBAL LAND ALIENATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT, IN SUNDARGARH DISTRICT

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Introduction:

Sundargarh district forms the North western part of Odisha state and is the second largest district in the state accounting for 6.23% of the total area. Sundargarh is a district in the State of Orissa in India. The district is located between Latitude - 21° 36' N to 22° 32' N and Longitude- 83° 32'E to 85° 22'E. It is bounded by Old Ranchi District of Jharkhand on the North (which has now been divided and the border district is Simdega), Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh on the west and North-West, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Angul District of Orissa on the South and South-East and Singhbhum District of Jharkhand (which is now divided in West and East Singhbhum) and Keonjhar District of Orissa on the east. Area of the district is 9712 Sq Km. The population of the district as per census 2001 was 1830673. And in 2011 census, Sundargarh have population of 2,080,664 of which male and female were 1,055,723 and 1,024,941 respectively.

The district, at present comprised of 3 sub-divisions, 9 tehsils(now it is increased) and 17 Community Development Blocks. It has 9 towns and 1744 village (1688 inhabited villages and 56 uninhabited villages).

The objectives of study are to know the factors responsible for land alienation, to know the trends of land alienation in the Sundargarh district from period of times for different purposes and its impact on tribal life, also to understand the effectiveness of protective legislations towards preservation of tribal land rights.

The exploitation of Sundargarh district by private sector enterprises and government of India as well as Orissa is similar to the exploitation of India by British colonial period. Sundargarh district is tribal predominant district with rich in mineral and natural resources. The exploitation

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of mineral and natural resources started faster in Sundargarh district has been increasing in post independence in terms of development projects. The district is a part and partial of Special Economic Zone consequence of which there is flourishing of industries and mines. The impact of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) of market economy made good inning for the industries. The political response of Orissa against the exploitation on mineral and natural resources is ignored and given less importance. The advent of industrialization with the establishment of Rourkela Steel Plant (1956) took over 32 villages displacing 2465 families followed by OCL India Rajgangpur. The second five year plan advocated rapid industrialization. Jawaharlal Nehru (first Prime Minister of India) accepted the western model of development of the nation. The factories/industries were recognized as the temple of modern India. At least 185 lakhs persons have been displaced between 1951-1990, constituting about 2 percent of total Indian populations in 1991 census, most of them are tribal, who constitute 8 percent of national population, but more than 40 percent of the displaced person. The majority of development projects in the tribal areas. Ironically the National development and tribal deprivation has become synonymous (Fernades, 1992). The work of development acts as a mask and contradicts their experience. Most of the written discourse adds insult to injury by reducing people to oust and their pain to a depersonalized analysis.

There are massive industries, have been established in the tribal states during the period uprooted 345 villages and 2, 44,472 families. More than 70% of displaced populations belong to tribal. (*Annexure-I*)

Annexure – I (major projects and displacement in the tribal dominated states)

Sl. No.	Name of projects	Nos. of village displaced	Nos. families displaced.
1.	Rourkela Steel Plant	32	2645
2.	Heavy Engineering Corporation	25	12,990
3.	Bokaro Steel Plant	46	12,487
4.	Koel Karo water project		16,350
5.	Netrahat field firing	245	200,000

As per the official record there are 106 nos. of Limestone and iron ore mines in Sundargarh district, functioning over 50,322.129 hectares of land (including forest, private and

revenue land). In the tribal blocks of Kutra and Rajgangpur, there are 26 nos. of mines functioning in 1, 6,867 acres of tribal land.

An impact of land alienation:

The land alienation is an on going global issue starting from the industrial revolution. The land alienation of tribal started in Bihar (present Jharkhand) in 1907 with the establishment of modern projects the Tata Iron and Steel Company at Jamshedpur in Singhbhum district. The initial form of land alienation was different from the post independence period of land alienation. Therefore, land alienation could be classified in to four different phases (Pre-Mughal, Mughal, British colonial and post-independence) introducing the system form of Kharposh, Jagirdari, Zamindari zulm and national development projects. There was several legislatives and administrative reform have been changed to provide safe-guard to tribal, and became handicaps and inefficient, on the other hand government services could no be able to reach to the people in due time.

In case of Orissa there is massive industrialization, followed by Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West-Bengal. The population living in these states are found tribal depending on cultivation, forest produces economy.

The industrial development projects and its expansion, mining, dams, highway construction and expansion of railway track have alienated major sources of tribal livelihood economy, made tribal partial or total landless, uprooted from natives etc. The industrialization has displaced an estimated of 60 million Indian villager within the 60 year, more than 2 million in Orissa alone. Every year about a million more are displaced (15 million villagers worldwide) most also lose their livelihood as cultivators of the soil. Around 75 per cent of displaced are Adivasi and dalits.

Land acquisition for different purpose:

The Sundargarh district of Orissa is rich by its natural resources, laying mineral resources like limestone, dolomite, Bauxite, coal, iron ore etc. There are 26 (twenty six) mines available under non- working leases in revenue and private and forest land and 36 mines under working leases of Rourkela mining circle in Sundargarh district. Near about 30,584 acres of revenue land 15,267 acres of Private and 40,852 acres land has been alienated only for the mining purposes. The Sundargarh district is having seventeen Block Development Offices, 15 blocks are known as tribal block development office.

The common factors of land acquisition in Sundargarh district is for the purpose of different projects like expansion of mines, factories, high way expansion, dam, market complex, expansion of urban, railway lines, private residential houses, benami transfer to non-tribal, fraud marriage etc. According to the new rules and Regulation-II, in Orissa the government amended relevant rules to make the law more stringent in protecting the land of tribal and ensuring that land could not be transferred to non-tribal in the schedule areas of the state. With this new rule, no tribal can transfer to non-tribal or even to another tribal; if he possesses less than two acres of irrigated land or less than five acres of non-irrigated land

Tribal economy:

Land cultivation, collection of fuel wood & forest produces are the primary livelihood sources of tribal depending on different seasons. The forest produces supplements secondary livelihood. Few tribes have the extreme dependency on forest. Among the land produces the major crops are paddy (rice) Black gram, red gram(rahara) horse gram, maize, oat (mandia) sesame, pulse, cereal, etc. mahua, kendu, char, aula, jangle root, and bamboo sots etc are all forest produces (NTFP). There are also few tribes who profess different rural based occupation like carpenter, mason work, iron work etc. which supplement economy for livelihood. The tribal economy of male and female is quite different from another. The tribal male generally engaged themselves in agriculture and in collection of forest produces and hunting. The husband seldom shoulder to women's domestic chores. Women's work starts in early morning to till late night. In between the tribal women doing both domestic and cultivation work with the husband. The female children help mother in domestic chores and take care of the young child in the family.

Key factors of land alienation in the district:

There are many factors of land alienation frequently seen in the district, some of the basic factors are here under are commonly seen in the environment.

- Sundargarh district is rich in its natural and mineral resources, soon after the second five year plan Sundargarh district is chosen best site for industrialization and mines, due to its rich mineral resources. Several MNC get chance to enter in to the district with multiple projects like sponge iron factories, limestone mines, bauxite and coal mines etc.
- Industrialization and mining led to have rapid urbanization that required high amount of land to expand urbanization. There is no other alternative except the alienating of tribal land in the

district. Migration (coming towards tribal universe) of outsider towards the urbanization has become common phenomenon.

- Illiteracy among the tribal in the district is next an important factor, who sell out their land at low rate, due to ignorance of market value of the land. The non-tribal purchases land in the name of tribal, which leads to Benami transferring of land.
- The rural indebtedness and incapable to return the principal loan.
- The next important factor of tribal land alienation is, inefficacy implementation of safe-guard Legislation, viz; the Orissa transfer of immovable properties (by scheduled tribe) rules 1959, the Orissa transfer of immovable properties (by scheduled tribe) Regulation-II 1956, the Orissa Land Reform Act: 1960 and the Land Acquisition Act: 1894. Majority of tribal living in rural area are ignored about the laws and regulation,
- Forceful alienation: Often large amount of land alienated by the government projects like Rourkela Steel Plant and Mandira Dam, OCL limestone mines etc. where they (tribal) are forced to leave their mother land.

Impact t and consequences:

There are various impacts emerging due to land alienation in the district. As per the present study conducted by the research scholar there are 46 sponge iron power plant have been established in different corner of the district. In case of mines it is an estimated of total 62 mines are actively functioning out of which few are dysfunctional. The land alienation, and displacement has brought adverse impact on socio-cultural, population and economic life. In Sundargarh district the percentage of tribal population was 50.19% in 2001 census. It is just 50% of total population. Incessant land alienation and industrialization in the district has suffocated the tribal life to survive. The out come of flourishing industrialization and adverse environment pollution, tribal are in search of proper ventilation to survive. The next important impact over the population is more migration from the neighbor districts or states and settling in the tribal area compositing with different culture. The rural poor tribal of the district are technically unskilled which deprived them from availing job in local industries and mines. Henceforth, migration towards Delhi, Punjab, and Bangalore etc. among tribal unemployed youth is increasing which cause of decreasing their percentage in the district figure.

Cultural impact:

The land, forest and tribal culture are having symbiotic relationship. Ritual and festivals have the reciprocal connection among itself. Absence of any one these make incomplete practice. As per the recent study there is ten thousand acres of forest land has been exploited by the sponge factories including Rourkela steel Plant and OCL India. Half of the forest base economy and cultures have been alienated by the burgeoning industries and mining. Besides, the tribal in the district are highly influenced by the material culture to which they are incapable to fulfill their social needs. The socio-cultural practice like seasonal festivals Sarna (worshiping plant before rainy), Sahrul, Kartik, Baisaki, fagun etc are gradually vanished and amalgamated in modern culture.

Socio-economic impact:

There is great difference in socio-economic status of the tribal. The socio-economic status of tribal is gradually changing with the changing environment. The diminishing of early socio-economic condition is due to multiple factors. With the recent study conducted by the research scholar it is found that, land produces like Paddy, Dal, Wheat, Vegetable, Gram and peas, Kesari (cereal), Gulji, Biri (black gram), Kurthi (horse gram), rahar (red gram) etc. are gradually decreasing. 90.5% of respondents said earlier harvest was sufficient for eating and selling. 74% respondents says present harvest is neither sufficient for consumption nor sell, it is because of decreasing of soil fertility due to gradual environmental pollution by chemical dust and fume, and liquid discharged by the sponge iron factories. Couple of decade before the tribal in the district cultivated following crops/vegetables Paddy, Wheat, Mandia (oat), Rahar(red gram), Biri (black gram), Kurthi(horse gram), Gulgi, Bajra, Kesari (cereal), Boot Channa(gram), Moter channa (Peas), Brinjal, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Onion, Cabbage, Ladies finger, Beans etc. in the same way availability of forest produces like Sarla [forest vegetable leaf], Matha [forest vegetable leaf], Lerta [forest vegetable leaf], Mahua, Kendu, Char, Jangle root, myrebelam, Sially leaves etc. are not available in due to rapid deforestation of rural forest environment. The sponge iron factories are supplied water from the surface water sources and big bore well, which show water scarcity during summer, which may decrease the ground water level and water crises in near future.

In the district of Sundargarh, there numbers of minor and major projects have been set up in the tribal land, like Mandira Dam, Rourkela Steel Plant, OCL(limestone mines), Tata steel Dolomite mines Gomardih and also several other sponge iron factories. Land alienation and

displacement are the two side of the same coin. The first and foremost question arises; the land alienation means displacement. There are certain consequence occurs due to land alienation in the district. (i) Displacement from native place (ii) Land and water pollution, (iii) Unemployment (iv) Poverty (v) Migration (vi) Internal immigration/ migration (vii) low production (viii) Increasing labor migration (ix) losing of culture and belongingness etc. Development projects plan reflects poverty plan concentrating on one coin side of the same coin. The District Gazetteer indicates limited figures of displacement and rehabilitation of tribal, non-officially there are several displaced persons still not compensated in terms proper rehabilitation and resettlement. The uprooted tribal are still fighting in forest environment with wild animal, in Lachada Gurundia Block of Bonai sub-division. The land compensation given is not yet demarcated and recorded by the government revenue department. The innocent tribes sacrificed their land for the sake of nation development, in spite irrigating their land dedicated to other for irrigation, in spite doing job gave chance other to work, instead of economic development became poorest of the poor.

Suggestion:

As per finding of the study, it is to be noted and suggested there is need to have proper and well planning of government with the local representatives, is required before introducing of any kind of national development projects in the tribal areas e.g. Sundargarh district

- a. The commission expert must carefully study two side of the same coin.
- b. Livelihood economy must be provided on alternative basis that can supplement tribal livelihood.
- c. Frequency of evaluation on rehabilitation re-settlement would be done and every sufferer should be given an importance of humanitarian living.
- d. Both the forest and land base economy must be minimized in a balance that can preserve the tribal identity and culture.
- e. Irrespective of nature of the projects, first preference will be given to the local population, on whose land and environment project stand up.
- f. Finally Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy must be effectively implemented for the betterment of land loser and those are supposed to be affected by the projects.

- g. Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) needed to be seen and implemented necessarily as two sides of the same coin. R&R must always follow upon acquisition of land.
- h. The Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR)-2011 would balance the need for facilitating land acquisition for various public purposes including infrastructure development, industrialization, and urbanization and could meaningfully address the concern of farmer and those whose livelihoods are dependent on the land being acquired.
- i. PESA-1996, Forest Right Act, 2006 and Land Transfer Regulation in Schedule V (i.e. tribal) area would be stringently implemented to preserve tribal life.
- j. The Gram Sabha or Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be consulted before acquiring land in the scheduled Areas for development projects and before resettling or rehabilitation person affected by such projects in scheduled areas.
- k. According to Odisha Act the district Panchayat shall be consulted before acquiring land.

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