

Industrialization Problems Of The Indigenous People In Jharkhand

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Abstract: Indigenous peoples, also known as first peoples, aboriginal peoples or native peoples, are ethnic group who are the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently. Groups are usually described as indigenous when they maintain traditions or other aspects of an early culture that is associated with a given region. Not all indigenous peoples share this characteristic, sometimes having adopted substantial elements of a colonising culture, such as dress, religion or language. Indigenous peoples may be settled in a given region or exhibit a nomadic lifestyle across a large territory, but they are generally historically associated with a specific territory on which they depend. Indigenous societies are found in every inhabited climate zone and continent of the world.

Since indigenous peoples are often faced with threats to their sovereignty, economic well-being and their access to the resources on which their cultures depend, political rights have been set forth in international law by international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank. The United Nations has issued a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to guide member-state national policies to the collective rights of indigenous people, such as culture, identity, language and access to employment, health, education and natural resources. Estimates put the total population of indigenous peoples from 220 million to 350 million.

Keywords: *Indigenous, Johar, Sarana, Dalit, dikus, Moolvasi, Adivasi.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand (The land of forest) is a State in eastern India carved out of the southern part of Bihar on Nov 15, 2000. The State shares its border with the states of Bihar to north, Uttar Pradesh to the northwest, Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south and west Bengal to the east. Jharkhand is the 28th state of India. The state was formed with 18 districts I the 17 years ago. Presently the state has 24 districts and 5 divisions According to the 2011 census total population of the state is 3.3 crore of while sex ratio is 948 females per 1000 males. where the share of tribal population is 26% (as per census 2011) but I think the tribal population in the state is more than 32%. The major concentration of tribal population is in the 6 districts- Ranchi, Lohardaga, Gumla, West Singhbhum, Dumka, and Pakur. Where more than 45% of tribal population of Jharkhand resides. The tribal with their traditional wish "JOHAR" welcomed with open hands and hearts to everyone

who entered Jharkhand .But some of the upper caste non tribal engaged in depredation and plunder. Hence, the tribal coined the term dikus and began established dialogue with backward caste groups like the Dalit and the Momin, the downtrodden Muslims who had settled in Jharkhand for a long period of time. With the Jharkhand movement gaining ground, these non tribal groups too became part of struggle. Thus Jharkhandi came to be known as the land of the destitute comprising of all the deprived sections of Indian society. Industrialization Effect of the Indigenous People in Jharkhand.

Hence, development of Jharkhand meant the development of the destitute of this region.

But the state is in the grip of the problems like low per capita income, low literacy rate and female literacy rate poor health indicators like undernourishment and underweight children, and high incidence of poverty, low agricultureral and industrial growth. The poor economic growth may be

understood as the Bihar legacy of its non performance on the development front.

But the underdeveloped but mineral rich Jharkhand has fallen prey to fierce corporate plunder of natural resources at the expense of the local of the local population

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The paper Understanding Tribal Identities in Jharkhand by Nirmal Minz sheds light on the oppression that has been compounded by the exploitation of mineral, forest and human resources of the State. The imminence mineral wealth of the State has been used by outsiders without adequate compensation to the Moolvasis of the State. The areas selected by the author include Moolvasis struggles for their identities, contribution of Christian Missionaries and formation of Gram Sabha for Social Movements.

Status of Land among the Tribal Communities in Jharkhand by P. N. S. Surin talked about the resource curse based on recent development in Jharkhand.

Saving Behavior of Tribal by Jaiman Xalxo stresses that in the agriculture sector productivity of labour income is very low. Therefore, there is a need to take support from the banking institutions in the tribal areas so that tribal population may shift from agricultural labourers to small scale and cottage industry sector where they can earn better and accordingly their saving potentiality may be enhanced considerably.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To understand the problems of the indigenous people of Jharkhand, the way themarginalised sections are getting exploited by the rich industrialist, miners bureaucrats and politicians.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature. It is based on secondary sources of data/information. The data/ information has been collected from different books, journals, reports, new papers and relevant websites.

IV. SOCIO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN JHARKHAND

A. THREAT TO CULTURAL LIVELIHOOD AND LIFE

In the tribal state of Jharkhand, the roots of cultural diversity have been threatened by the development forces of the so called government policies. It has been difficult for the ethnic clans to safeguard their culture. Tribal communities in Jharkhand Odisha and Chhattisgarh as well have been exploited, displaced and dispossessed of their resources by the state. Displacements drop their standard of living and causes improvement. But the government has successfully created an illusory perception of development that has alienated the middle class from the plight of the tribals. As a result, the

government ruthlessly exploits tribal populations in the name of national interest, and does so almost unchallenged by other sections of society.

Gladson Dungdung is young human Rights activist and writer said His family had 20 acres of fertile land in Simdega district in Jharkhand. It was forcibly acquired by the government for the construction of a dam at a terribly low rate. The compensation for the 20 acres fertile land the family got only Rs 11000. Even by minimal standards, it should have been at least Rs 20 lakhs. This is just one example among many such deprivation. This is a deliberate impoverishment of a people.

Dayamani Barla dared to rise against the world steel giant Arcelor Mittal who had proposed a 12 MT steel plant by taking away about 12000 acres of land spread across nearly 40 villages in Khunti and Gumla districts in Jharkhand. In 2006 she began mobilizing the public against such attempts at forcible land acquisition under the banner of the Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch. We want grains not iron was the rallying cry of indigenous communities protesting against the project.

In 2013, the Jharkhand government was locked in a major anti- displacement struggle against Adivasi farmers. The battle was over 227 acres of fertile land that has sustained the tribal in the region for generations. However, the government had allotted it to the Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Information Technology, National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL). Caught in this crossfire were about 128 affected families, who claim to be the lawful owners of the land. They contend that neither they nor.

HEC (Heavy Electrical Company) in Dhurwa, Ranchi displaced 12990 families and alienated 9,200 acres of land from Adivasi, Moolvasi communities of this, about 2000 acres of acquired land has been lying idle during half of a century. This surplus land should as per law be returned to the original land owners but the government is giving it for real estate housing for the well to do. This is a deliberate violation of the legal rights of the tribal people.

The Koelkaro hydel project in the 1990s, near Torpa block in Khunti district, in them undivided Bihar threatened to submerge nearly 55000acrs of agricultural land and displaced about 2.50.000 indigenous people. Further, 27000 acres of forests would have met a watery grave along with the religious sites (Sarana) of the tribal communities. The agitation gave birth to a new slogan We will not part with an inch of our land which continues to reverberate in the tribal areas of Jharkhand even today. The proposal od the dam had to be finally shelved by the state government, after nearly eight tribal lost their lives in police firing on Februray, 2 2001. At the same time the laws which are in favour of the Adivasi/Moolvasi such as The Panchayats 1996, The Forest Right of Scheduled Caste and other traditional forest dwellers Act, 2006 are not implemented.

Bokaro steel Plant (BSL) in Bokaro district in jharkhand displaced 56 villages 37 of which includes both lands and homes and 19 were such only lands were acquired, all families were under Adivasi and Moolvasi.

B. POVERTY

The State is facing two major problems- poverty and low rate of economic growth.

There is marginal shift of working force from agriculture to non agriculture sector due to marginalization of land holding in the state. This has important implication. Those cultivators who had small piece of land had lost their land and converted into agricultural labourers. Most of them belong to Adivasi and Moolvasi. Since the agriculture sector productivity of labour income is very low, therefore there is a need to take support from the banking institutions in the tribal areas so that tribal population may shift from agricultural labourers to small scale and cottage industry sector where they can earn better, and accordingly, their saving potentiality may be enhanced considerably.

Most of tribal fall in the category of extremely poor. They don't have access to basic amenities like. Clothing, food, shelter etc. they must rely on the forest produce for the subsistence. Further, most of them are unable to benefit the facilities meant for their uplift. They are not able to avail the ration food grain because of the loopholes prevalent in the public Distribution System. Even the media and journalists hardly highlight their issues.

The government has framed the schemes for the poor but the dealers are eating the share of the poor. There is no trickle down economics happening. It is not that our country is policy deprived of measures to uplift the marginalized sections but there is a lack of effective implementation of the policies.

Women have to go to other villages to fetch water in the summer because most of the pumps go dry. In Murgabani village of Dumka district the water is not clean and it takes a really long time to come out of the bore well. They even fall sick drinking the dirty water. There is severe water crisis. Even the rivers are drying up further aggravating their miseries.

In the Naxal Hit Pachleva village of Palamu district, there is no electricity and the roads are unpaved. There is only one well for the entire community. Moreover, the nearest hospital is 30 KM away from in Daltonganj.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana fails to be universal as it covers only the loanee farmers. Dalit and tribal will be excluded from availing the scheme.

Rather than hunting the innocent and peace loving tribal in the name of security Government should focus on improving the social and economic conditions of the indigenous people of Jharkhand.

The innocent tribal don't just for the luxuries. They want to live peacefully. The government can make sure to provide them with basic amenities and at the same time not to indulge in too many unnecessary administrative involvements that can hamper their traditional culture and livelihood.

C. GENDER RELATED ISSUES

The gender related development index of Jharkhand is 0.558 which is again lower than the country's average of 0.590. The gender empowerment measure is just 0.435. Women are subjected to sexual exploitation both by the naxalites as

well as the paramilitary forces. Recently there were incidents of forces in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

The female literacy rate is lower than the male literacy rate in Jharkhand. The maternal mortality ratio and other health indicators of tribal women are worse. Many married women are subjected to domestic violence but unlike the middle class women from the so called civilized society, they don't hide this torture from the others. They openly shout when their husbands raise hands on them. They are in fact more independent than the middle class women.

It is the need of the hour to make every woman educated and empowered. Self consciousness can be brought in with the help of media that can provide them exposure to the outer world and about women empowerment. They should know that getting raped, beaten and tortured are not their fate and must be made capable to voice against such atrocities.

D. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Jharkhand has one of the largest human trafficking cases. Tribal girls are often lured with false promises of better education and jobs and are trafficked to metropolitan cities for domestic help where they are subjected to abuses, torture and even sexual exploitation. Most of them remain unreached. Khunti district has the highest number of cases of human trafficking. Even if they are rescued, often their families refuse to accept them and sometimes they are sexually abused even in the rehabilitation centers. Some of them are forced into flesh trade out of poverty.

E. HEALTH ISSUES

The health indicators are another cause of concern for Jharkhand. The infant and maternal mortality ratios are quite high. Tribal women are unhealthily thin. Women gain too little weight to nurture babies. Maternal nutrition in Jharkhand is so poor that the tribal women actually weigh less at the end of pregnancy than sub-Saharan African women do at the beginning. As a result, the neonatal mortality rate is high and far too many children suffer the consequences of being undernourished in the womb.

The poor cannot afford the private hospitals but when they visit the Government hospitals, they are mostly left unattended by the callous medical staff and are thrown into one corner like garbage. This leads to the death of the child and even the mother in labour. These kinds of hospitals don't have proper bedsheets, toilets, clean wards, test centers and medicines etc.

F. EDUCATION

Although the Jharkhand Government has started a program named School Chalo Chale Abhiyan under which every bureaucrat has to adopt one government school in his area of administration, the loopholes and corruption are still prevalent which are hampering the future of the young children.

Further poverty compels the parents not to send their children to schools and rather help them in the farms. In this case, the integrated Child development services and improving

the mid day meal schemes can act as incentives to them to go to schools.

Many school children are denied of stipends. Even after sinning, most of them don't get the money.

Also some tribal are against education as they fear it will detribalize them. So the schools should have textbooks in their native language and not in any alien language.

Education generates self conscious and helps the tribal know their rights and voice against atrocities. More tribal as skilled human capital will definitely act as an asset for the state. Literate families and particularly mothers can take better care of their children and the probability of the innocent tribal being duped gets reduced.

Education is the bedrock of any country's growth. It is the right of every child to have access to free and quality education.

G. RELIGION AND IDENTITY POLITICS

Although the Christians are the minority in term of numerical representation, many consider them as a strong social. Cultural, political and religious pressure group. Saranas and many others also believe that tribal converted to Christianity are no more marginalized and are part of the main stream. Although it is debatable, we need to understand that conversion to another religion does not automatically delink one from age old cultural practices, beliefs, traditions, value system etc. In such a situation saying that converted tribal Christians are no more tribal is questionable. It will further widen the gap among tribal and develop mistrust for each other. We need to understand that tribal as an identity is major unifying factor which binds tribal together irrespective of their religious practices and identities. In such a situation, it is important that Sarna tribal and Christian tribal should come together and amicably resolve this divide between them and defeat the dividing politics of the few for their political aspirations.

H. NAXALISM

Naxalism is the another problem. It is not just the conflict of ideologies but also the war for resources.

People are told that the Naxalities wish to overthrow the government by violent revolution and undermocratic means, and that they need to be stopped to sustain India's bright

future. But some facts go unhead. According to a report by JHRM, since the creation of Jharkhand a total of 4,372 people have been arrested on the charge of being Naxalites. Of these 315 are hardcore Naxals for whom the government had announced prize money. The remaining 4,057 have no record of any criminal offence, even the police have been unable to establish their Naxalinvolment. In other instances countless innocent people have been killed during anti Naxal operations.

The recent exposure of anti Naxal operations in the Saranda Jungle (Chaibasa), home to over 125.000 tribal, is even more disturbing. Central and state forses deployed here under operation monsoon and operation Anaconda destroyed homes and killed innocent people, not sparing even the food the tribal had.

V. CONCLUSION

Tribal can't be called anti industry or anti development. They also want development but not at the cost of their rights over natural resources. To avoived unrest, the new government should make a clear stand on displacement and land acquisition.

There is loot of natural resources in Jharkhand. It is the repository of 40 percent of nation's minerals but has no clear policies that are acceptable to indigenous tribal as well. From Arcelor Mittal, Tata steel to the Jindal steel & Power, all have faced massive protests by the locals.

Racial discrimination of tribal by outsiders, referred to as dikus in the tribal tongue is a major issue.

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