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THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT ON TRIBAL: NGOS AND ITS POSSIBILITIES

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A B S T R A C T
The identity of tribals or the indigenous people anywhere in the world are closely linked with the natural resources and the environment in which they live. The tribals live in a specific territory which is surrounded by the hills and forest. Their distinctive culture, resident's style of life and economy system is also differing from other. Their economy, livelihood, cultural traditions, Social Control System, religious myths and techniques of production are closely linked with the nature. Their cultural systems ensured that their resources provide them a sustainable development mechanism. But due industrialization or large scale developmental project like dams, reservoirs, power plants, road, and mining the tribal people around the world are forcibly displaced from their original mother land and relocated and resettled away from their home, land and livelihood. It found more often in the third world country and fourth world country especially in the developing countries like India. Orissa witness the problem of large scale displacement after the independence and particularly after fifties due to the construction of dams, reservoir projects, large scale industry, open mining and communication system. The more industrial establishment means the more development and displacement. The development and displacement are like two side of a same coin on one side, it created winners and on the other side it also created the losers. The development or success it is always in the cost of someone or something. But unfortunately most of the time the shadow side of the coins are the tribal people they are the looser they always pays the price for industrial development project because they are simple, uneducated, unaware, marginalised or deprived. The State, which is bound by the Constitution to provide these communities with better alternatives, social, educational and economic, has not been able to do so. This is not getting surprising, that after 75 years of independence, these communities have had hardly any meaningful representation in the policy-making processes. There have been a number of laws, statutes, committees and corporations created for the sole purpose of helping these communities. Sadly, few of them have been effective and any positive impact has been confined only to small pockets. In the context of the deprived tribal communities, the State and its expressions are the most important agency. The Indian constitution provides for reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in almost all fields. but a large numbers of tribals are still in deprived or bitter condition, because the role played by government at various levels - national, state, district and local - have in some or many ways failed to addressing the key issues of the tribals. These issues have been and still remain unchanged. Therefore, the NGOs emerge as the third sector next to the Government and the Corporate Sector which are supposed to be non-profit making agencies that are constituted with a vision by a group of compatible people, committed for the uplift of the poor, deprived, marginalised, unprivileged, and the needy people. The NGO's have become the hope of Development Corporation. It plays vital role in the process of tribal development. The volunteer organization plays an important role in shaping and implication of participatory democracy, the have been contributing very much towards various development programmes. They work grassroots label even in remote areas, and they reach is much wider then government. They are closer to ground realities. Their approach with target group is directed emphatic and they are able to draw more contextual plan of action. This paper tries to in explaining how the NGOs are playing their role to meet tribal issue.

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Introduction

In India, a numbers of developmental projects have been established by the Central as well as by the State Government, and the big Private companies in order to accelerate the process of economic development and to eradicate the problems like unemployment and poverty just after independence. Establishment of large

scale development projects in infrastructure sectors, viz., Irrigation, Power-Hyde, Thermal and Industries, Mining and Port etc. has been one of the thrust areas in the planning process. Construction of such large projects entails large scale land acquisition and result in forced displacement of tribals. Hence, development related displacement is a common in developing county like India. Interestingly, most of such projects come up in common resources regions which are the traditional home of large number of isolated group mostly consisting of tribes. (Jena, 1998).

Objectives, Scope and Research Methodology

This research aims to analyse how the development project affecting the health, culture, and the rights of the tribal people and how the NGOs can play a vital role to address tribal issues. The research study includes following objectives:

1 To examine how the development projects displacing tribal people from their own land.
2 To identify how development projects leads to various problems like health, livelihood and cultural identity problems of the tribal people.
3 To understand how NGOs plays their role to address tribal issues.

The scope of the research is limited to tribal communities of Odisha.

This study follows a qualitative research methodology based on secondary data analysis. It examines the government reports, documents, and academic literature on tribal rights, development projects, displacement and NGOs.

Understanding Tribe

The word 'tribe' was picked up by the anthropologists from ordinary usage. In medieval English the word tribe conveyed a natural sense -'a primary aggregate of people claiming descent from a common ancestor'. With the advent of colonization, European Anthropologists applied this word to the people who lived in a primitive or barbarous condition in backward areas and did not know the use of writing. Tribal society is often referred a 'primitive society' or 'pre-state society 'or 'folk society 'or even as 'simple society. Sometimes the word tribe is taken as a synonym of the term race but scientifically 'race' carries an entirely different meaning. However, all these terms indicated that the tribal's are the backward group in comparison to other advanced social groups. But unfortunately there was no commonly accepted definition of the word. Nobody bothered to offer a precise meaning, as the term for a long time generated no confusion at all. (Thomas John. K.: 2005)

Definition of Tribe

- According to imperial Gazetteer of India , " A Tribe is a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is not usually endogamous, through originality might have been so."
- According to Oxford Dictionary, A tribal group of people in a primitive of barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor."
- D.N Majumdar defines," A tribe is a collection of families bearing a common name members of which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos regarding marriage, profession or occupation and have developed a well assessed system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligation."

Characteristics of Tribal community:

- Member of a tribe speak common language and dialect
- Member of tribe recedes in a common territory
- Tribe is a group of families
- Each tribe has a name
- A tribe has a common ancestors
- A tribe has a common religion
- A tribe has a common culture

- Member of tribe observe taboos related marriage
- Member of tribe have well develop system of reciprocal exchange

Tribes of Odisha

As per 2011 Census, the population of Scheduled Tribe is 104,281,034 accounting for 20.23 percent of the total population of India. Odisha occupies a special position in the tribal map of India. The total population of the state is 41,947,358 out of which the Scheduled Tribe population is **95, 90,756** which is 22.85 per cent. Again the tribal population of Odisha is 10.87 per cent of the total tribal population of the country. In this state Scheduled Tribes are distributed in almost all the districts including even the coastal belt. There are 62 tribal communities in the state of Odisha.

Problems of Tribal People

The tribal areas by and large are remote, inaccessible and continue to remain isolated due to poor connectivity and other basic infrastructure. Literacy rate, educational status, health indicator, employment opportunities, access to basic amenities like drinking water, housing, drainage facilities, electricity, etc. have shown a little improvement, but still there is a wide gaps between the STs and the general population. Because the tardy implementation of the development programmes by the state and various department, lacunae in policy implementation, allocation and utilization of funds, structural inadequacies at the state, district, block and village levels. In India there are 463 types of tribes and 62 of them are found in Odisha. All tribes are facing various types of problems in different fields, these are in the field of political, education, health, employment, poverty, etc but displacement or land alienation is one of the major problems of tribal people in India. The problem of displacement or land alienation of tribal people is the result of large scale developmental project, because of it the problem of displacement is increasing day by day.

Developmental project

construction of dams for hydroelectric power and irrigation purposes and also appears due to many other activities, such as mining and the creation of military installations, airport, industrial plants, weapon testing grounds, railways, road development, urbanization, conservation projects, etc are leads to tribal displacement. Development projects are emerging as new sources of land alienation. Land alienation due to displacement of tribals for various development projects, and encroachment/possession of tribals`lands by the non-tribals has rendered a considerable numberof tribal family landless and this has further added to their poverty. In Odisha, the tribal areas are used to attract private capital for exploiting mineral resources; the tribals are forced to pay a far higher price in the case of irrigation projects as the lion`s share of expected benefits would accure to non-tribals. The track record of government with respect to the resettlement and rehabilitations programmes is a classic case of too late and too little.

Impact of big developmental project on tribal people

Land alienation

Land is an important economic asset of a tribal family so also the forest. The possession of land by a tribal family gives him a special socio-economic status in his village. However, a number of studies made in Odisha reveal that there has been a large scale land alienation from tribals to non-tribals. A large number of tribals have been displaced from their natural habitats or from their mother land due to the construction of public projects as most of these projects are established in tribal areas. Millions of people have been displaced in Odisha, for instance in Koraput for construction of three projects i.e. HAL, Machkund Dam and Balimela, project have displaced 4781 families from 35919.19 acres of land and affected 99 villages in this Region. Out of it only 2859 families were rehabilitated in 4388.80 acres of land (Mohapatro, P.C., 1987). Their lands have been acquired at a small amount of cash compensation. The acquisition of lands without effective resettlement and economic rehabilitation programme has uprooted them from their natural habitat and natural means of livelihood. A.B. Ota in his book "An Overview of Development Projects, Displacement and Rehabilitation in Odisha", Mentioned that due to development projects in the state. That has displaced 133500 families up to year 2000. The major reasons behind those displacements are dam projects, mines and industries. Due to industrial project 18000 families were displaced from their mother land in Odisha up to 2000 which is 13.48 percent of total displacement of Odisha.

Impact on livelihood

For majority of the tribals, forest resources are the main source of livelihood. However that forest laws restrict

their dependence on the forest .added to this, many forest were declared as protected forests or sanctuaries and threatened their eviction from their natural habitat. Even where the evicted tribals are rehabilitee, they are not provided additional means of livelihood, except small piece of land for cultivation.

Effect on Religious Practice

In the pre-displacing period sample population preferred a great extent of religious practices, such as visit regularly to temple/church/graveyard. They have their different ritual practices like in ChaitaParba the people decorate their window and door with mango leaves and raw mangos. But after displacement things get replaced with some extent. Sample populations after displacement moved to different areas, and got busy in searching for livelihood. In the pre-displacement period there are some means of entertainment and that only afforded by rich. The sample populations are usually being the tribal peoples and they were not able afford those, thus television and other things. So normally they gathered together in common place and organized prying, and other entertainment programs such as dancing, singing etc. to entertain each other. Sample populations have great extent of special time for night prayers in family. But after displacement families got separated, family disturbance did not let them to organize such prayers and such dancing and singing programs with other family members and village members. Those practices gradually disappeared from the villages after displacement.

Effect on Common Festivals/Fares and the Feeling Festivals as among tribals

Majority of respondents have agreed that in the pre-displacement period they celebrated festivals/fairs in an energetic manner and also feel it as part of tradition. That constitutes 100%. They celebrated Bali Jatra, Nuakhai, ChoitParba in great extent but after displacement things replaced by some extent. The displacement force people to leave village setup, Grama Devi and ritual place. Family separations, long distance among the families, modernization and industrialization are some reason behind it. The process of developmental establishment led to modernity. Sample populations have come to contact with the other people's traditions and they gradually imitate their values and traditions. Traditional common events are replaced by New Year, Valentine's Day. The majority of respondents have a great extent of ritual places in the pre-displacement period. But after displacement that thing replaced by some extent.

Impact on tribal health

The large-scale deforestation, climate change, inconsistent weather and pollution (air, water, soil, and noise) are the ultimate consequences of mining and industrial establishment of many projects and factories. Pollution by the industries and urban areas puts the human life and animal life in danger. Natural environment free from pollution did not let them get sick and the durability of life was long in the pre-displacement period. But after displacement the environment got polluted and the tribal population got sicker and the durability of life also decreased and replaced to some extent. Due to deforestation, the nature hubs disappeared.

Impact on Environment

Pollution at Mining site, pollution at Refinery Site, noise pollution due to conveyor belt, ground water pollution due to the leakage from fly ash pond and red mud pond, water pollution due to mining activity in Panchapatmali Hill are some of the environmental issues raised by the Project affected persons. No doubt in the pre-displacement period respondents enjoyed a good pollution free environment, steady weather. Rain also came on time which helps farmers to cultivate crops. But after displacement the more industrial embellishment and mining activity led to many environmental issues for the Project affected persons.

Understanding displacement

Meaning and Definition of Displacement

In ordinary sense displacement refers to the enforced departure of people from their homes, typically because of war, and natural disaster. But when we talked about developmental displacement means displacement due to different developmental project. Displacement is the forced of community and individuals out of their homes, often also their homelands, for the purposes of the economic development. It is a subset of forced migration. It has been historically associated with the construction of dams for hydroelectric power and irrigation purposes and also appears due to many other activities, such as mining and industrial plants, railways, road development, urbanization, conservation projects, etc. It is a social problem most of the time affecting tribal and village communities because they are often helpless, suppressed by the power and low of

the nation.

Definition

Oxford dictionary of sociology define displacement as; a process whereby strong negative or positive emotions directed towards an object or person are, because they are for some reason blocked, redirected on to another object or person.

Displacement defined by Jennife Hydmannis a, forced and involuntary and involves some form of de-territorialisation. It is commonly described as taking place within the confines of a state (e.g. internally displaced person) or across an internationally recognized border. (e.g. refugee)

According to Cernea&Kanbur displacement can be experienced in many forms including the people who realise less benefit as a result of development process and those who face severe consequences and for those individuals and communities who involuntarily move leaving behind homes, networks, jobs, social capital and emotional ties to place.

According to Kothari, displacement most critically threatens the poor and the weak with even greater impoverishment. Displacement caused widespread traumatic psychological and socio cultural consequences. These include the dismantling of production system, desecration of ancestral sacred zones or graves and temples, scattering of kinship groups and family systems, disorganization of informal social networks that provide mutual support, weakening of self management and social control, disruption of trade and market links etc. The neglected dimension of displacement is its adverse impact on women. Their trauma is compounded by the loss of access to fuel, fodder and food collection of which inevitably requires greater time and effort. Similarly children are adversely affected since not only is schooling less accessible, in most cases there is also disruption in the traditional socialization process.

NGOs and its Possibilities

Most of the tribals were not able to draw benefits from the facilities provided by government because of improper implementation of tribal development schemes. Particularly majority of the hill tribes in Odisha suffer from the absence of proper infrastructure and communication facilities. Improper management of schemes and inefficient implementation of suitable programmes in the tribal region create a major problem. Majority of the tribal people are not even aware of the development schemes for displaced people implemented by government agencies. Without creating awareness among the tribal people, it is difficult to achieve better result. NGOs plays very important role in order to minimize large scale displacement and ensure adequate rehabilitation package. For the protection of the rights of weaker section including SC & ST, to mobilize project affected families to participate actively in implementation of rehabilitation process and to provide better standard of living, and to develop harmonious relationship between project authority and affected families. Rehabilitation and resettlement is still an ongoing issue. NGOs in India are very powerful and oppose many development projects, which often raise issues of resettlement of IDPs in the country. They observe that there is not much need of going on with this massive destructive process under the banner of development. In the NGOs view, governments and funding agencies which help them in their development programs are also responsible for massive dislocation of the indigene affected by the projects. On the other hand, not all NGOs respond to the resettlement issues due to development projects in a similar manner. There is another side of the coin too, some NGOs are in favour of improving the livelihoods of the displaced persons and altogether in favour of the development projects. They believe that without development, the government cannot provide better standards of living. What they certainly want, however, is that the earlier approach to abandonment of IDPs should be replaced with policies and programmes that guarantee them a future better than their past, not just promise them a return merely to their „good old days" (Mathur, 2000, p. 2).

Specialities of NGOs intervention in rural development is reaching the unreached, building hopes, facilitating the element of protest, building awareness, gender awareness, political awareness, facilitating Panchayati Raj Institutions, liberation education, capacity building, training and exposure, participatory training, and involving people through participatory rural appraisal (PRA) or unlearn what you have learnt and learn things from the people through a tri-learning process- from people to people, people to NGO and NGO to people-and ensure people's preparedness by Community Organization or Community Based Organization and Self Help Groups. The stages of Group Formation is by forming, storming, norming and performing as to why they should save and lend in all pro-people or people centred, process oriented and product and target oriented with decisive involvement, gaining a sense of ownership

and belongingness, government building by being Government dependent promoting a system of self-management and impose a sense of moral responsibilities to take care of assets and protect the infrastructures that are created and used by them to have a spread effect and corrective measures, as well as empowerment, awakening and networking and influencing policy.

Participation may be Community Participation facilitating external project designs achieving goals, and communities by participation setting their own goals and achieving them by collaboration specific targetting of project beneficiaries by organization, empowerment and cash kind and labour contribution giving moral power. This increases efficiency, effectiveness, self-reliance, coverage, sustainability and a form of non-participatory participation including hypocritic ones. The principles of participation are the centrality of the people, local knowledge and resources, involvement of women and other marginalised categories. The core elements of participation are that in people's business they are the primary actors.

These NGOs have effectively led the protest movement against juggernaut development projects, with the help of media, human rights activists, and other individual groups. Secondly, their role has been remarkable in uplifting the IDPs‟ livelihoods and in dealing with those who happen to lose from the development practice. Also, NGOs work with the government in the planning, monitoring and implementing of resettlement processes. Their main aim is to ensure that the livelihoods of IDPs are improved as much as possible (Mathur, 2000, p. 1).

The government, the Industrialists and the Media are putting hard efforts to convince the people by propagating the messages that the industrialization is only way to develop the tribal condition therefore the tribal of the proposed project site must surrender their land for the development projects, which would provide them jobs, infrastructure and boost the economy of the area. But the tribes are not convinced with the ideas given by the government because NGOs have effectively led the protest movement against juggernaut development projects and mobilising the tribal against the project that most of them still rely on agriculture, forest produces and livestock for their survival. As result they are resisting against displacement, attacking the company’s officials and not allowing them to enter into the villages. Consequently, the government is unable to execute the MoUs at the grassroots.

Rehabilitation and resettlement is still an ongoing issue. NGOs in India are very powerful and oppose many development projects, which often raise issues of resettlement of displaced peoples in the country. They observe that there is not much need of going on with this massive destructive process under the banner of development. In the NGOs view, governments and funding agencies which help them in their development programs are also responsible for massive dislocation of the indigene affected by the projects. NGOs are actively participating in the day-to-day implementation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement schemes at various relocation sites in India. NGOs and Voluntary Agencies have been working in this area for several decades. NGOs have fought for proper rehabilitation of displaced people and have come to a stage where they find a comprehensive R & R policy in place. NGOs are being supported to take up initiatives for improving the quality and standards of life of displaced people. Apart from adopting a „cluster‟ of relocation sites, they undertake a number of activities such as: (a) training for non-farm income generating activities; (b) training for self-employment and self-dependence activities; (c) provision of nutritional supplements; (d) organization of health camps to benefit people from villages and residential camps; (e) training for women for self-reliance; and (f) Counseling children and youth to refrain from the use of drugs and bad habits. Most of the NGOs play a crucial role of providing development inputs.

CONCLUSION

NGOs make a significant contribution to the human security of those displaced and are generally interested in engaging with questions of human security for all displaced peoples in the nation. It was found that though NGOs are doing excellent work in the displacement resettlement sites, their role as „watchdogs‟ to governments activities.

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