

## **Globalisation, Dispossessed and Displaced: A Theoretical Perspective on Tribal Issues in Odisha**

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### **Abstract**

In a global context, globalization and its forces are no longer an option but a fact. Whether one likes it or not, it is bound to influence all spheres of life and activities. Developing countries like India may have to learn to manage the process far more skillfully and effectively for the development of the country. This paper tries to explain the diverse forms and implications of land grabbing in Odisha, known for its abject poverty, starvation, deaths, and violent conflict over the issue of displacement. Taking into account the historical processes of dispossession and marginalization in rural Odisha, the paper attempts to argue that the current phase of displacement, involuntary dispensation and dispossession needs to be analyzed.. In the era of globalization, privatization, and liberalization a large number of industries are coming to invest the mineral rich state of Odisha. As a result there is large involuntary population displacement of the marginalized sections including tribal. Thus the people have been pushed towards more and more vulnerable situation. Still in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, tribals continue as one of the most marginalized communities within the state.

**KEYWORDS:** Globalization, Industrialization, Tribals, Land grabbing, Displacement, Dispossession.

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

The contemporary process of internationalization dates back to the emergence of capitalism in Europe in the late middle ages, the new scientific and cultural ideas embodied by the renaissance and reformation and the establishment of the great European nations. (Amin Samir, 1997) The expansion of capitalism and the advanced technological invention were the major factors for the genesis of the term Globalization. With the advent of atomic age in 1950s, advanced industrial society in 1960s, and late capitalism in 1970s there was an emergence of the development of the Global economy to bring a new international economic order. As a result of which the developing countries tried to integrate their national economy with the international economy through trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows, migration, and the spread of technology for their growth and development this integration is known as 'globalization'. It includes a number of trends, especially the increase in international moment of commodities, money, information and people with the development of technology such as computer, telecommunication and transport, and other infrastructure. . (Bhagawati,2004)

### **GLOBALIZATION AND ITS MEANING**

`Globalization is an ongoing process by which regional economies, societies and cultures have become integrated through a globe spanning network of communication

and execution. It generates flows and connections, not simply across nation states and national territorial boundaries, but between global regions, continents and civilizations. It is a historical process which engenders a significant shift in the spatial reach of networks and systems of social relations to transcontinental patterns of human organizations, activity and exercise of power. (Al-Rodhan and Dr.Nayef,2006). Generally it is a continuous process through which different societies, economies, traditions and culture integrate with each other on a global scale through the means of communication and interchange of ideas. It is a common phenomenon for the process of international integration arising from increasing human connectivity, interchange of world views, products, ideas, and various aspects of culture. (Appadurai,Arjun, 1996) .

Globalization is not a single concept to be defined within a period of time. It is not a process to be defined from its beginning to the end. It implies the opening of local and nationalistic perspectives to a broader outlook of an interconnected and interdependent world with free transfer of capital, goods, and services across national frontiers. The international Forum on Globalization (IFG) defines it as “the present worldwide drive towards a globalised economic system dominated by supranational corporate trade and banking institutions that are not accountable to democratic process or national governments.”(IFG, 2006)

Globalization involves economic integration, the transfer of policies across the border, cultural stability transmission of knowledge, industrialization, and urbanization in a global order. It is a process of world shrinkage of distances getting shorter, things moving closer. It pertains to the increasing ease with which somebody on one side of the world can interact, to mutual benefit, with somebody on the other side of the world. (Thomas Larson,2001) . It is the widening, deepening, and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness in all aspects of contemporary social life, from the cultural to the criminal and the financial to the spiritual. (David, 1999) .So globalization holds the dynamic of the development and intensification of network of global consciousness, system interdependent, human interaction and societal changes and their far-reaching consequences (Guazzonne, 1997).

## **DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION**

There are four dimensions of globalization, i.e. economic, political, cultural and ecological. In Economic sense, globalization is the intensification and stretching of economic interrelations around the globe. (Anthon Giddens,1990). . The Political globalization deals with the intensification and expansion of political interrelations around the globe. The aspects of political globalization include the modern nation state system and its changing place in contemporary world. The Cultural globalization is the intensification and expansion of cultural flows across the concept of ecological globalization includes population growth and their right to use of food, worldwide reduction in biodiversity, the gap between rich and poor as well as between the global North and global South, human-induced climate change, and global environmental degradation. However the dimensions have a deep impact on the tribal culture and heritage in India. (Amin and Galal ,1991) .

## INDIA AND GLOBALIZATION

In India the wake of globalization set back in the 1990s when the then finance minister, Dr Manmohan Singh initiated the economic liberalization plan. Since then, India has gradually become one of the economic giants in the world. Today, it has become one of the fastest growing economies in the world with an average growth rate of around 6-7 %. After the fifty years of independence the larger poor and the marginal sections of the society are still neglected. The political system fails to fulfill the demand of the people. The political corruption, anti-social activities, cultural interference, economical disparity in India has contemplated the seed of exploitation, malnutrition and poverty. The spirit of communalism in the new form has undermined national unity along with regionalism and linguistic problems.

## GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON TRIBALS-

The antiquity of Odisha is endorsed by her ancient people who continue to inhabit their traditional dwelling places in remote areas in deep forests and hilly areas. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India with an estimated 47% of its population living without food on a day. India has the second largest concentration of the tribal population, after that of the African continents. Tribal's constitutes about 82% of the total population of the country. According to the recent census of India there are 414 principal tribes and 698 scheduled tribes. Out of this 68 are Scheduled Tribes. So far as the definitions of Tribe are concerned, it lacks a universally acceptable definition. Purely for the sake of classification the British Government used the word tribe, along with prefixes jungle, hill, aboriginal, indigenous to describe the people who seem to have little contact with the main culture. The tribes of India are broadly classified into four categories, namely Indo-Aryan speakers, Dravidian speakers, Tibet Burmese speakers, Austric speakers. They are the "Original Inhabitants of the land". There 62 ethnic tribes in Orissa and they are the 22.85 percent of the total population of the state according to 2011 census. Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes together constitute nearly 40% of the State's Total Population (S.Ts 22.85% and S.Cs 17.13%).(De Haan and Dubey, 2003).

The forces of Globalization have a virtual affect in Odisha. It has a deep impact on the social, political, cultural and economic sphere of life both positively and negatively. Positively it promotes the new avenues and opportunities for the overall qualitative improvement of life. Negatively it is displacing and dispossessing the tribal people creating a new kind of chaos and confusion. Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) are the major factors which have brought great changes in the lives of the tribal people. Their sustainability strongly depends on a system of property right over land and forest. In many parts of the developing world, Globalization and new economic policies have aggravated conflicts over land, water, forest, and other natural resources. There is the conceptualization of 'Foreignisation of space' (Zoomers , 2010) because of the radical changes in the use and ownership of land, cross border transfer of land rights, and the displacement of the people.

There are a large number of processes through which tribals have lost access to land and forests essential for their survival and livelihoods. Land is the major economic aspect of tribal agriculture in Odisha. (Economic and Political Weekly, 2010). Due to

industrialization the tribal communities are being displaced from their homelands. It also impacts on deforestation, soil erosion, environmental pollution etc. it is causing alienation and disposition from their natural rights and habitats (**Viegas, 1991**). In the name of development we are using the nature and its natural resources which are available to us, and displacing the indigenous tribal people from their natural homeland. Odisha is such a state where the developmental projects exploiting the innocent tribal people. Mining and displacement caused by mega projects and senseless industrialization is one of the most formidable factors of displacement and dispossession particularly in the state of Odisha. (**Mainstream weekly,2010** ).

### **DISPLACEMENT AND DISPOSSESSION BY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:**

Odisha is extremely rich in minerals, most of which are found in the tribal districts. In Odisha during the last 50 years more than 50 million people have been uprooted from their homes and huts and sacrificed at the altar of National Interest. It becomes clear that mostly powerless and voiceless people are displaced and to pay the price of national progress. Globalization has brought many developmental projects in tribal regions. The establishment of mega-projects has encroached on tribal people's traditional lands and displaces them. In the Hirakud dam project nearly 41,706 families were displaced and most of them were tribals, (Govt. of Odisha,1968). In Rengali dam project 11,289 families were displaced. In upper Kolab project 32,163 acres of land were submerged under water affecting 50771 people in Koraput district. (Govt. of Odisha,1981). In Indrāvati Project submerged 17,137.97 acres of land in Kalahandi, 15,338.90 acres of land in Koraput district of Odisha. (**Dalua, 1993**). After displacement, landlessness increased to 85.25%, the average legal land holding declined to 0.62 acers and the govt. land cultivated came down to only 0.2 acres. (**Ota, 2001**). The BALCO project affected the flora and fauna of Gandhamardhana hills. So the slogan "Narsingh Thakur Zindabad, BALCO Asur Murdabad" was raised by the Gandhamardan suraksha Yuva Parishad. In the Vedanta alumina project 5148 tribals are displaced. An Indian company known as PPOSCO India established a Steel Plant in Kujang of Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha. It would displace nearly 22,000people from their original homeland. (**Behera and Parida.2014**)

### **CONCLUSION:**

In the end development in the name of globalization is a question which needs to be answered .for the tribal people. If the real beneficiaries i.e. the tribals are not benefited from the development, which rather cost them their life and livelihood is not the true sense of development. Development should always inclusive and sustainable. It should not be at the cost of life and nature. The life and livelihood are the supreme over anything, should be given due importance. However in the end it may be said globalization is inevitable not only for progress but also for prosperity. But its implication can be monitored and regulated to check the displacement and disposition of the tribes who are the bedrock of the society. The government should not only form the rules and regulations but also implement them properly in the remote areas. If globalization is an alternative of development than displacement and dispossession does not bring development. It is not in a sense to concentrate the market friendly approaches to development. But there should not be the desire to bring national prosperity even at the

cost of the worst condition of the tribal population. Globalization may lead to industrialization and urbanization but it has no right to cause damage to the natural environment, traditional culture, land, unemployment, etc. Development in terms of globalization should refer to that all the section of the society should be treated equal irrespective of their existence. It will only fruitful when the winners share with the losers.

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