



## Industrial Expansion in the Era of Post-Economic Reform: A Study on Scheduled Tribes of Jharsuguda, Odisha

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### Abstract

Industrialisation after new economic reform conceded impulsive changes among people's lives and livelihood. The rapid scale of land acquisition and displacement creating social crisis, economic crisis and environmental pollution; which is the cause of a multiplicity of diseases which people has not faced before. The rapid scale of industrial growth affecting each sectors of society and mostly tribal who are aboriginal/marginal community whose primary source of occupation is based on natural resource. The massive scale of industrial growth on tribal region smashed tribal natural resources. As a result tribal are constrained to maintaining their sustainable life. This article critically addresses the growth of industrialization and responses of people in the context of industrial impact on livelihood of scheduled tribes and various problems in Jharsuguda District of Western Odisha.

**Keywords:** industrialisation, livelihood, new economic policy, marginal community, sustainable life

In the beginning of 19th century industrial development started in India, when India's 1st Iron and Steel Industry was established in 1911 by Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. But the developmental activities gained momentum after independence (Nayak, 2007) and the adoption of New Economic Policy in 1991 which persuade a way for the rapid growth of industrialisation in India. All these industries are found in mineral and tribal districts of the country like: Odisha, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Karnataka etc. The Report of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE, 2007) stated "Odisha ranks first in respect of total envisaged investments in India, because the state is having abundant natural resources in India.

Odisha being an enviable resource of rich minerals state is an eye attraction of Multi National Company (MNC) for industrial set up. In 1953, Odisha first integrated steel plant was established at Rourkela and there after Odisha appeared on the industrial map of the country. In 1957 multipurpose river valley project was set up in Western Odisha, known as "Hirakud Dam" for flood control in coastal areas, irrigation and power generation. The construction of dam attract many

medium and large scale industries for industrial growth, which provided water and power at cheaper rate (Nayak and Mahakud, 2010; Mathur, 2008). The state itself filled with abundance of natural resources and the liberalisation policy of India initiated in 1990-91 exposed these Natural Resources to the MNCs. The Industrial Policy of Odisha clearly envisages its aim of transforming Odisha into a "dynamic industrial state in the new millennium" and there after Odisha becomes a privilege destination for global industrial investment (Orissa Industrial Policy, 2007). The per capita water availability is 9,203 liters a day is impressive for large corporation for industrial growth (Mahaptra and Panda, 2007). Being a resource rich state, Odisha offers adequate water resources, major sea ports, wide road, rail and air network, conducive agro-climatic regions, skilled manpower, competitive labour costs for industrial set up and access to one of the largest market in the world, i.e. India for selling finish products.

Odisha being the tribal dominated area constitute 3.47% of the total population of the country (Odisha Review, Jan 2012), including 34.70% Scheduled Tribes, 18.97% Scheduled Caste and others 46.34% population (State Statistics, 2011-2012). The state comprises of 62

tribes including 13 primitive tribal groups. The forest based products provide livelihood to about 11 million people, who are dependent either directly or indirectly on the forests for employment (IBEF Orissa January, 2008).

Now agriculture and forest land are being occupied for the establishment of industry and mines, their dependency on nature is breaking down by the massive scale of mining and industrial growth. As a result tribals are constrained in maintaining the traditional sustainable livelihood practices.

## Database and Methodology

The present paper intends to highlight what are the various relevant provisions in pertaining to analyse the growth of industrialisation and its impact on scheduled tribes livelihoods and various problems in Jharsuguda District of Western Odisha. The present study is analytical in nature and based on the review of research articles published in various journals, books, Government reports and field observation.

## Results and Discussion

The Jharsuguda District was beautifully carved out of the erstwhile Sambalpur District with effect from 01.01.1994. It is surrounded by Chhattisgarh State in the west, Sundargarh District in the north and Sambalpur District in the south and east. The District is situated in western part of Odisha. The total population of the district as per 2011 census record is 509056, which comprises of the SC and ST Predominant region of the state with SC 22.67% and ST 47.67 % and now it is become 10th densely populated area of state (District Statistics, 2011-12).

Jharsuguda is rich in mineral wealth, especially coal and it is one of the most industrialised and urbanised districts in the state, because It is well connected with all parts of the country by rail, road and airport. After setting up of Orient Paper Mills by Birla's at Brajragnar in 1936, Jharsuguda comes under industrial map of the country.

The huge deposit of coal and construction of Hirakud Dam is one of the longest water reservoirs give

**Table 1: List of Large Scale Industries in Jharsuguda District, Odisha**

Name of the Unit	Location	Products	Date of commercial production	Installed Capacity
UltraTech Cemet Ltd.	Dhuutura.	Portland and Pozzalana Cement	14/09/1993	8.00 Lakh MT.
Tata Refractories Ltd.	Belpahar	1.Fire Clay 2.Silica,3.Monolithics,4.Dolomite	9/1954	1.49 Lakh MT.
IB Thermal Power Station	Banaharpali, Jharsuguda	Electricity	21/12/1994	2X MT.
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	OMP. Road, Jharsuguda	Re-filling of LPG	05/06/2002	22000 MT
Singhal Enterprises	Hirma, Jharsuguda	Sponge Iron	August 2005	1 TPD
L.N Metalics(P) Ltd.	Sripura, Jharsuguda.	Sponge Iron	08/12/2003	3000 MT.
Pawansut Sponge Iron(P) Ltd.	Jhanda Chowk, Jsg	Sponge Iron	01/02/2014	3000 MT.
Sri. Madhab Ispat(p) Ltd.	Siriapali	Sponge Iron	26/07/2004	30000 MT.
Bhagawati Steels.	Badmal.	Sponge Iron	01/11/2014	15000 MT.
SMC Power Generation	Hirma, JSG.	Sponge Iron	01/12/2014	10000 MT.
SPS Sponge Iron Ltd.	Industrial Growth Centre Badmal	Sponge Iron	01/12/2014	18000 MT
Action Ispat	Pandripathar, JSG	Sponge Iron and Power Steel	17/08/16	350 TDP
Eastern Steel & Power Ltd.	Lahandabud, Jsg	Sponge Iron, Power Steel	01/09/2006	350 TDP
Jai Hanuman Udyog	Raghunathpali, Jharsuguda	Sponge Iron	28/6/2005	100 TDP
Seven Star Steel Ltd.	Kelendamal, Jharsuguda	Sponge Iron	01/06/2007	100TDP
MSP Metallic (P)Ltd.	Budhipadar, Jharsuguda,	Sponge Iron	13/03/2008	400TDP
Vedanta Aluminium Ltd.	Bhurkhamunda, Jharsuguda	Aluminium & Electricity	17/05/2008	0.5 MTPA and 1215 MW
Jain Steel & Power Ltd.	Durloga, Jharsuguda	Sponge Iron	10/03/2009	350 TDP

Source: DIC Jharsuguda, 2013

lifeline to the entire process of industrialisation in Ib valley in Jharsuguda region and the New Economic Policy (NEP) exposed to Multi-National Company (MNC) to exploit natural resource and Odisha becomes prosperous. Now the District becomes industrial hub of the state where 11 nos. coal mining, 18 nos. of large scale industries including 11 nos. of iron and steel power plants, 6 nos. of Thermal Power plant and 1 nos. of Aluminium smelter, 5 nos. of Power Sub-stations, 3 nos. of water resource including IB, Bheden and Hirakud reservoir, (DIC Jharsuguda, 2013).

The rapid scale of industrial growth in Jharsuguda has become an industrial, communication and pollution hub house of the state. The massive scale of industrialisation in this region swift away many tribal's land which was the only source of livelihood. As a result Jharsuguda becomes the second urbanised district in the state having 36.47 percent of its population living in urban areas, whereas the state has 14.99 percent urban population (Orissa Review, 2010). Rapid scale of industrialization uprooted about 2889.38 Acers of industry (Land Acquisition office Jharsuguda 2013) besides that in Ib Valley area 14 coal mines occupied nearly 45,000 Acers of Land (Mohanty, 2011). All this industry and mines are set up on tribal dominated region because these people have lower socio-economic status and it is much easier to cheat them. The acquisition of land and displacement is going on an alarming rate. As a result natural resource dependants, especially tribal are strained to maintain their sustainable livelihood practices.

Nayak (2007) found that the rural and tribal communities are not only being alienated from their home land but also from their natural habitat, which was their source of livelihood. In his support Aertayil (2008) stated that while losing land and displaced by industry there is less job accessibility for tribal, because of there is

less qualification and no reservation found in industry. Now Odisha Government is vigorously pushing the "education industry" and has set up a higher education task force especially technical education for the establishment of more and more industry (Mishra, 2012). In western Odisha there is mushroom growth of industry as well as technical education and people are more interested in technical education as compared to traditional education. But in case tribal people, they are unable to educate their children technical education, because of their socio-economic backwardness. As a result they are unable to cope with mainstream society. This clearly depicts from employment statistic of MCL, Jharsuguda Ib valley region. From 27 villages of Ib valley 881 number of ST employed, 274 SC and 1521 General. The present data explore that ST and SC people is actually neglected in comparison to General people (Tahasil office, Lakhanpur Jharsuguda, 2013).

Dash and Samal (2008) found that majority of developmental projects are found in tribal regions which displace tribal by acquiring their land. Majority of tribal have land without records though they have been cultivating most of the Government land since a long period but failed to get any kind of compensation. In case of compensation these people are easily cheated by middle man and they failed to get actual price of land. The company has some criteria for employment but these poor people are unable to fulfil that qualification, which fails majority of local people not getting permanent job and work as daily wage labourers. The Vedanta Alumina in Jharsuguda acquired 1729.98 acres of land (Land Acquisition office Jharsuguda 2011). The position of land acquisition and displaced people are benefitted who are having land record and educational qualification of ITI and graduates are lucky to avail this opportunity and enjoy full benefit felicitated by the company. In Ib valley coal mining Lakhanpur area out of 27 villages

**Table 2: List of Coal Mines in Jharsuguda District**

Name of Mines/Address of Coal Mines	Operational Status
Belpahar OCP. Belpahar, Jharsuguda	Operating
Lajkuraocp. Jharsuguda	Operating
Lilari OCP. IB Vally, Jharsuguda	Operating
Lakhanpur OCP. OB Vally, Jharsuguda	Operating
Samaleswari OCP, IB Vally, Jharsuguda	Operating
Hirakhanda Bundia, Inclines (U.G) Jharsuguda	Operating
Hingiri Rampur Colliery (U.G) IB Vally, Jharsuguda	Operating
Orientcolliery I & II (U.G), Brajarajnaragar, Jharsuguda	Operating
Orient Colliery III (U.G), Jharsuguda	Operating
Orient Colliery IV (U.G.) IV Vally, Jharsuguda	Operating
Talabira Coal Project, INDAL, Jharsuguda	Operating

Source: DIC Jharsuguda, 2013

displaced 6155 person, among them 3143 ST, 1055 SC and 1957 General. On the basis of compensation 881 ST employed, 274 SC employed and 1521 General employed (Tahasil office Lakhanpur Jharsuguda, 2013). The data reveals that number of displaced person who are employed by mines is low in case of ST and SC, whereas employment opportunity sounds to be high in General category. This vindictive attitude of industry towards tribals is responsible for loss of sustainable livelihood and uncertain future.

The deforestation and industrial waste solely responsible for soil erosion, loss of land productivity (Behera and Reddy, 2002; Chitade and Katyar, 2010). Besides that industry converts agricultural land to unproductive barren land (Pattanaik, 2010). Mahapatra & Panda (2007) found that Government of Odisha providing huge quantity of water for industrial purpose as a result there is acute shortage of water for irrigation due to rapid depletion of ground water. This vindictive attitude of diverting water to plants at the cost of agriculture has enraged the farmers and the civil society activists (Mohanty, 2010).

Jamdalia and Kumari (2013) reveal that the diversion of Hirakud water for industrial purpose creates water crisis for agriculture and conflict arises between farmers and Government authority. The groundwater levels around the mining areas are gradually depleting due to heavy pumping of ground water and destruction of forest by industries and mining. This causes shortage of water in the surrounding villages. In Jharsuguda district 18 nos. of large scale industry has acquired 4687.86 acres of land from 16 villages (Land Acquisition office Jharsuguda, 2011). In mining areas, 12793.111 acres of land acquired from 35 villages for mining purpose, among them 8617.894 acres of land comprises Government land, 4175.217 acres of private land, 4106.89 cultivated lands, 1616.075 forest lands, 113.74 pasture lands and 1016.529 waste land (Tahasil office Lakhanpur Jharsuguda, 2013). The establishment of Industry and mines in this locality has minimised their primary source of livelihood. Besides that solid waste release by the industries converts agricultural land to unproductive barren land.

Now Government is more conscious on protecting the tribal areas. It has provision in law "entering to tribal ancestral home in the Schedule V area which is restricted for safeguarding tribal land and livelihood. The Samanta Judgment by the Supreme Court, stating that the transfer of adivasi land to non-adivasi is null and void (Roy: 2008) but Government functionary is not taking care of that law, instead of protection they becomes

law breaker (Meher, 2010). In Lakhanpur area mining acquired 12793.111 acres of land (Land Acquisition office Jharsuguda 2011), which comprises 845 house hold displaced tribal family, 275 Scheduled Caste and 605 General (Tahasil office Lakhanpur Jharsuguda, 2013). The data itself clarify that Government of Odisha is vigorously going on capitalist path of development without considering poor marginalized section livelihood and exploiting our natural resources to make industrial advance state.

Many people said industrialisation enlarges communication but the communication gap reduced for whom? Whereas rich and industrialist easily avail all this facility but the poor and local people unable to grab that opportunity. Because of rapid industrialisation, Jharsuguda has become one of the polluted areas where poor and local people facing difficulty to communicate. Before industrialization people used to communicate by using "shortcut way" but now short cut ways are going to vanish by massive scale of industry and mines.

Nayak (2007) found that "apart from economic loss, social and cultural loss cannot be measured. The tribal have emotional attachment towards nature like land, forest; river, trees etc. and they lose their belongingness with nature. Their unity is expelled by industry and mines. These people lose their land and forest and wander in search of livelihoods and lose their social bond with the community. Fernandes (2008) and Bharathi (2012) stated that displacement in tribal's areas affecting their ancestral/original habitat and there after depending on the mercy of the state. This dependency leads them towards further state of marginalisation. Roy (2008); Mishra (2012) stated, it is creating a dangerous situation into the survival of the tribal culture. The rapid scale of industry and mining in Jharsuguda deserted people's lives and livelihood. This brings consequential down fall of inhabitants and effect to their socio-cultural life. In case of Vedanta Alumina of Jharsuguda 147 house hold displaced (Land Acquisition office Jharsuguda, 2011) and number of people losses their cultivatable land, orchard, graveyard, sacred places, stream, number of source of livelihood related trees. On the other hand mining uprooted entire villages of Ib valley areas. It seems very pathetic when people loses their mother land and observer that devastation and feel helpless. The socio-cultural milieu is lost, now people are self centric, where money is the outmost thing. Because of money there some anti-social activities comes into notice, where alcohol, family fight and murder are common in this region.

The rapid growth of industrialisation is the major cause of depletion of natural resources and

environmental degradation. Behera and Reddy (2002); Raghunathan (2005) has admitted that industrial waste contains hazardous chemical like arsenic, lead, mercury, cadmium and zinc, which are harmful to human health and ecosystem and adversely affect human society. Apart from environmental pollution noise pollution is more common in industry, both industry and transport vehicle produce more noise (Raghunathan, 2005). The rapid growth of industry and mines in this region peoples are facing various types of health problems which they have never come across. The problem of air pollution particularly black dust is common in this area. The heavy scale of pollutants released by industry is severely affecting people's day-to-day life as well as animal and plants.

Now the situation is so pathetic that peoples are not keen interest to keep their domestic animal and started selling their domestic animals. In case of human being the industrial waste and vehicle produces more dust in this region, which enforce people to engulf their covering face otherwise they will fully drench with dust. Apart from this human being facing various health related diseases like malaria, jaundice, Tuberculosis, baldness, dermatitis, eczema, casinama, scabies, epithelium, and the dust affect upper respiratory tract and lower respiratory tract infection and cause of allergy related diseases like asthma, aspergillum, etc. are more common in this locality. Besides this the sound pollution is more common in this region where hearing loss, deafness, irritation, dizziness and headache found among many people. The heavy blasting in mining sites creates "human made earth quake" which seriously injure local peoples and damage their house.

## Conclusion

Industries generate more wealth at the cost of environment and people's livelihood. But we are forgetting the real meaning of human development is "enlargement of people choice". Within a small period, we are inviting more and more MNCs to exploit our nature in order to gain more wealth on the cost of poor marginalized people's livelihood. Now people are facing problems like land acquisition, displacement, loss of livelihood, loss of employment, loss of compensation, loss of agricultural land, loss of communication for poor people, loss of socio-cultural milieu and loss of sustainable environmental. The massive scale of industrialisation brings high rate of pollution and health problem, which the nation has been facing from few decades, apart from environmental sustainability peoples nature become self centric in nature. The bond

of family and society is declining day by day and some anti social activities comes take place. If we follow this trend the very existence of tribal's is at serious stage and it brings various challenges before the civil society, intellectuals and the Government. However it needs deliberate efforts with policy and its rigorous execution.

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