

Impact of Globalisation on Tribal Communities in India



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Abstract

The policy of Globalisation that has altered the structure of the world after the Second World War era effected economic sphere of India as well. The wave of Globalisation has been experienced by various sections of multi-dimensional Indian society, their livelihood, employment, socio-cultural life including their religious practices, health, education disadvantaged and socially backward sections differently. According to the Anthropological survey there are 4635 communities found in India out of which total tribal communities are 732 in number. The impact of Globalisation on tribal communities is multifaceted as they are the ones that evidently negatively affected not only in India but all over the world. In the name of developments, the life, the livelihood, culture and habitat of indigenous people has brought under the hot-iron of Globalisation. The tribal way of life is dictated by the law of nature. Despite of the fact that the constitution of India has granted various safeguards to the tribal communities, they continue to remain the most backward and discriminated groups in India. Cases of displacement of tribal communities have been reported in numerous numbers. Commercial activities under the garb of economic growth and economic development brought alien forces, cultures and influences into the traditional life and cultures of the tribal communities. The question of development cannot remain confined to the quest of economic growth however it also required to addressed the fundamental question of 'Living with Dignity and Liberty' the benefits of development touted under the Globalisation has not percolated down to the poorest, socially backward and disadvantaged sections of the society but reached to those who are already educated well-settled, well-fed, and well nourished. The words of the US President Mr. Jimmy Carter, "If you are totally illiterate and living on one dollar a day, the benefits of Globalisation never comes to you", describes the plight of socially disadvantaged and economically backward people in India who knows nothing but discrimination, exploitation, poverty, inflation, hunger, sorrows and death. The paper is an attempt to examine the fundamental philosophy, evolutionary history of Globalisation and its effects on indigenous communities. The paper further attempts to emphasis on a need to develop the special policies and models to cater the difference between the Haves and Have-nots in the shadow of Globalisation to establish the principles of rule of law and natural justice to show the light to those who are eternally thrown into the darkness.

Keywords: Globalisation, Impact, Tribal Communities, Development.

Introduction

For nearly two decades a wave of change from an economic system of central planning to a market based economy have been witnessed by almost all countries of the world. All the fields of a country – political, economic, social and cultural have got impacted both in positive as well as in negative way. Some people argued that globalisation has enhanced the universal peace and prosperity while some people argued that globalisation is a new kind of chaos and injustice. Therefore, the main task now is to analyze, understand and manage globalisation doing our best to harness its benefits and keep those negative results at bay.¹

India entered in the field of globalisation in 1991, when its economy was at a very worst stage, which compelled India to follow the path of globalisation. Since then India's share to the global economy is getting impressively large. Today, looking at overall condition and growth performance, India seems to have struck the right note of the globalisation string and at the right time. Natural and human resources or ability have made India's economy as one of the most vibrant economy in the world.

Now the question to what extent the policy of globalisation has benefitted the downtrodden sectors of India.

India right from the independence failed to achieve the goal of economic equality and elimination. Even after the adoption of globalisation the problem is still alive in Indian social system. The question is to what extent the Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalisation process has benefitted the tribal population of India? Even though India has achieved the economic growth rate in the post globalisation period but it failed to bring improvement in the quality of life of the tribal community people. The process of globalisation has widely increased the inter-state disparities and lack of development in India; in the back drop of this it is highly essential to assess the impacts of globalisation on tribal communities a relatively uncharted subject of scholarship. In order to understand the concept and philosophy of globalisation and expansion of trade and commerce in international perspective it is pertinent to take a look into the dimly lit Chambers of history.

Objective of the Study

To explore the impacts of globalisation on the development of tribal community in India.

Methodology

Since the nature of the research paper is theoretical; hence the data has been collected through secondary sources, for the purpose, Reference books, Internet, Research Journals, etc. have been widely consulted to develop the plan of the Research paper.

The Description

Globalization is a process of transnationalization of capital and production, standardization of consumer tastes and their legitimization with the help of international economic institutions like WTO, World Bank, and IMF and therefore obviously the process is a step towards borderless regime of free trade and transitions based

on competition.² It aims to mix the economy of India with global economy which was on the verge of stagnation since 1980s that need immediate attention. Major economic reform measures initiated by the then Prime Minister P.V. Narsima Rao in 1991 proved very beneficial for India not only in economic front but also in other sides too. The proposed policy structure was fundamentally different in approach and content from India had pursued since independence. The reforms which were initiated by Rao Government with the help of Manmohan Singh the then External Affairs Minister of India are termed as the second wave reforms. The major fields of reform incorporate;

1. Foreign investment policy reform
2. Foreign sector policy reform
3. Trade policy reform
4. Monetary policy reform
5. Public sector policy reform
6. External policy reform and etc.

India has been disgraced by the pervasive poverty thus improving poverty elimination policies and programmes over the past decades were the need of the time. The policy and programmes that were launched by the government of India to eradicate poverty includes:

1. Garibi Hatao (Remove Poverty)
2. Self-Employment Creation
3. Food for work
4. Asset Building Programmes and
5. Wage Employment Creation (WEC).

On the basis of income the basic nature of the aforementioned programmes was to eradicate the poverty and uplift the poor families most of which are from tribal communities. However, unfortunately the schemes was formed by state and inadequate funds either led their abandonment or reduced effectiveness of the schemes. However, with the beginning of globalization the resource allocation to these schemes in real sense has badly hit.³

Details of Plan-wise Fund Allocation for Development in India

Plan Period	Total Fund Allocation	Allocation For Development Programmes	Percentage
1st Plan (1951-1956)	2069.00	13.93	0.06
2nd Plan (1956-1957)	4800.00	49.92	1.08
3rd Plan (1961-1966)	7500.00	50.53	0.60
Annual Plan (1966-1967)	2081.54	32.32	0.48
Annual Plan (1967-1968)	2246.00	32.32	0.48
Annual Plan (1968-1969)	2359.00	32.32	0.48
4th Plan (1969-1974)	15901.47	79.5	0.5
5th Plan (1974-1979)	38853.24	1157.67	3.0
6th Plan (1980-1985)	97500.00	3640.25	3.7
7th Plan (1985-1990)	180000.00	6744.85	3.8
Annual Plan (1990-1991)	65714.00	N/A	N/A
Annual Plan (1991-1992)	73482.00	N/A	N/A
8th Plan (1992-1997)	434100.00	22409.65	5.2
9th Plan (1997-2002)	859200.00	32087.26	3.7
10th Plan (2002-2007)	1618460.00	1481.00	0.09
11th Plan (2007-2012)	3644718.00	3633.00	0.09
12th Plan (2012-2017)	3568626.00		

The afore mentioned data table shows the allocation of funds from the Government so far for the

Social Development programs, however, it can be observed that since 1997 the total percentage of

funds allocated for social development sector drastically decreased. Considering some of the features of Annual Budget 2015-16 it is seen that the government almost lost approximately Rs 8,325 crores on direct tax account by abolishing wealth tax and reducing the corporate tax for the corporate world, while imposing a burden of almost three times on the common people by hiking indirect tax to gain Rs 23,383 crore. This reflection of statistics shows us the shift of priorities of Government. The transition from Welfare state to corporate state undoubtedly accelerated economic growth that translated into the rise in GDP, however, the social development programs that has evidently stalled due to insufficiency in funding as well as misutilization of available funds. This strange shift occurred when India embraced Globalization. Is Industry concern for Social growth of masses? Will Industry voluntarily come forward and allocate the funds to the treasury of Government to enable it to perform its function as Welfare state for the common man? Will Corporate Companies be made accountable for India's 130th rank in 2015 Human Development Index? Will HDI ever surpass GDP?

Globalization has shifted society from national to a global context which is indeed being consumer driven. In the real sense globalization is not global; it widens the gap between the different strata of people and states. Globalization is beneficial for well off nations like USA, Japan and Europe at macro level. It is disadvantageous to developing countries like India at micro level. Globalization is better for rich people with assets, skills and opportunities especially technological perspective. But unfortunately it is bad for socially deprived sections of society like Tribals and Dalits who have been victim of social inequality and that evidently resulted into traditional poverty and economic disparity.

As the major concern of all study is highlight the impacts of globalization on tribal population; so it will be first imperative to know who tribals are and why their development is essential.

The word tribal is commonly utilized as a socially backward unit, associated with a territory, the members of which treated as politically autonomous. Different writers have given different definitions regarding the word tribe. However, from Indian perspective 'scheduled is an underspecified constitutional category of India'. As per the Article 336 (25) of the constitution of India, certain communities are deemed under Article 342 to be 'scheduled tribes'. Article 342 stipulates that such communities are identified through a presidential order. Despite of the socio-legal protection provided to the traditionally backward (in comparison with mainland people) tribal population by the Indian constitution, tribals still remain the most ethnic group in India. Indian society is supposed to be a secular, democratic, socialist and casteless society. We have formulated our programmes and policies to realize this type of change.⁴ It was hoped that the tribal population of through the established policies and programmes with balance itself with the so-called mainstream. As a result of planned tribal development, stratification on

secular lines has taken place among tribals and only a small section has been got benefitted of the development schemes. The reason behind it is that the developmental schemes are not being implemented properly due to the inefficient and corrupt bureaucracy and shift of government policies to the development of corporate sector. The development programmes which were launched as a part of LPG programme, drastically altered both the relationship of tribes with natural environment and resources and the pattern and methods of ownership of land and usage. In the name of development land and forests are being got exploited that fundamentally changed the life style of tribal population because of rapid growth prospects in terms of monetary advantages land had turned into a sizeable private property. It has been also found that the regions which were traditionally dominated by tribal population now are inhabited by non-tribals which automatically converted the majority tribal population into minority of their own region. The benefits of large scale expansion of Industries and infrastructure, never reaches these tribals and what they got in return is nothing but peanuts in the name of benefit. In case of employment, they are employed on considerably lower wages by violating settled labour norms, hence overall supposed development of tribal region had harmful impact on the tribal population however tribals themselves seen as obstacle to the development. Their traditional socio-economic and cultural system blamed. All the time tribals represented by India as superstitions, backward and ignorant. Hence, the focus has been on introducing alien cultural values, attitudes and alien institutions with an intention that it would them to take benefit of fruits of development however, this approach resulted into gross failure and soon it was understood that development world be more effective if it is in conformity with traditional values and cultural norms of tribals. Development without the cost to ecology and environment is possible; development without the cost to natural habitants of tribal population is possible. In order to initiate the eco-socio friendly projects it is necessary to include tribals in them because without their inclusion conservationary approach of industrial projects would not succeed. Taking above the approach of government since independence it can be said that in the name of development government arbitrarily have been acquired lands without considering the fate of people displaced due to various developmental projects. It has been estimated that due to the constitution of over 1500 irrigation development projects since 1947, over 16 million people got displaced from their villages among which 40% belong to tribal population. The government and planners are aware of the eroding resources base and socio-economic heritage of tribal population through combination of development intentions, commercial interests and absence of effective legal protection to tribal and the description of environment and life of tribal population owing to unimaginative, insensitive pack of relief (Planning Commission, 1990). Still the development process continued unmindful of displacement.⁵

How many tribals got displaced since there is no complete data regarding this? It is been estimated that due to the construction of dams 5 to 7 million tribals got displaced. Followed by mines and industries – or approximately one in every 10 tribals has been displaced by different development projects. However, as per the study conducted by the Nalin Negi and Sojata Ganguly from the university of Bielefeld Germany (2011) in the cast of 50 years around 50 million people have been got displaced in India due to development projects. It is not only the magnitude of involuntary tribal displacement that ought to attract the special concern, but also the sacrifice of collective identity, his to meal and cultural heritage, and of course the survival support. Poverty, malnutrition, mortality, illiteracy, unemployment, debt bondage and serfdom among the tribals are markedly higher.⁶

The process of globalization has badly affected the tribal population more than any other community because these are voiceless and are therefore easily swept aside by the invisible hands of the market and its operations. Through the degree of exploitation and marginalization, the process of globalization has made disastrous changes in the lives of indigenous people across the world; vary from state to state and tribal group to group. The large scale import production has literally crushed local agriculture market thus additionally impacted the rural population including tribal population whose livelihood depend upon agriculture and allied activities. A hostile market environment for the small scale formers have been created by the WTO related reforms and the trade liberalisation and consequential imports.

The government has no proposal to solve the helplessness of the farmers, however there is a proposal in pipeline to create a national agriculture market; in that whole proposal there is no provision for public investment which simply set the future for the domestic as well as foreign corporate giants to dominate the traditional agriculture industry of India. One can imagine that the Indian Supreme Court has allowed the POSCO a Korea based company to build its RS 51,000 core steel plant in the Orissa. Similarly, the SC allowed the Sterile India limited, a subsidiary of Britain's Vedanta Recourse Pvt. Ltd company to mine bauxite in Orissa. It is quite visible that the Indian Supreme Court order has undermined the tribal welfare and encouraged further acquisition of lands of the tribals leading to their displacement without proper rehabilitation, destruction of their culture and posing threats to their survival in the name of development. The development is not limited to the economic growth but it also needed to solve fundamental issue of 'living with dignity and liberty'.

Conclusion

From the above it is quite clear that despite of the constitutional provision granted to SC, the community is still the victim of exploitation and the constitutional norms and provisions for SC are being frequently violated by the states. The exploited community also witnessed the large scale displacement caused due to establishments of large

scale development projects. What the need of the time is that

The members of tribal communities should be made capable by the collective and constructive efforts of Government and industry to help them to enjoy the fruits of growth and development. Corporate companies should support creation of infrastructure for school development such as toilet, drinking water facilities, computer and language labs, student's development, capacity building of teacher, school management, skills development and vocational training, improvement of Ashram schools and human resources. Inclination must be shown by the corporate companies to partner with local tribal population in their business projects. In other words, the profits and revenues generated out of corporate projects run on tribal lands shall be distributed among all the stakeholders one of them shall be the local tribals. Corporate companies should initiate 'Scholarship Programs' exclusively for project affected tribal school and college going children to encourage them for excellence. Huge funds allocated to NGOs (many of them are the creations of corporate companies) by the ministry of tribal affairs for the empowerment of tribal communities, whose present impact is invisible, should be discontinued. Corporate companies should be made accountable to their contribution for social development. The CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programs should be monitored on continuous basis. Since most of the tribal population depends on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood; corporate companies should take active efforts in training the displaced tribal population in alternate trade/business/vocation so that they can adjust with the new life. Corporate companies must provide every possible infrastructural facility to the displaced members of tribal communities.⁷

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