



RESEARCH ARTICLE

IMPACT OF GLOBILISATION ON TRIBAL SOCIETY: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF ODISHA

\*Dr. Santosh Kumar Panigrahi

Asst. Regional Director, IGNOU, BBSR, Odisha

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\*Corresponding author

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ABSTRACT

The onset of Globalization, while effecting life, society, economy and culture of mainstream society has scathingly effected life, livelihood, culture and society of tribal people in much more way. Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) model of development has redefined the sustainable tribal development initiative undertaken by welfare state. The indigenous population of Asia and India particularly is much more effected by this macro-economic adjustment global model. Odisha, whose tribal populations constitute more than 22% is not immune from it instead find hard reality to coup up with the effect of globalization in the changing global scenario. The present paper scrupulously examines the impact globalization on live, livelihood, Culture and society of tribal people in India and Odisha in particular".

INTRODUCTION

Globalization is a common term for the process of international integration arising from increasing human connectivity and interchange of world views, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture. It is a concept for which no standard definition can be given. This is because it stands for a tremendous diversity of issues and problems and has been interpreted from a variety of theoretical and political positions. It can be described as the widening, deepening and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness in all aspects of contemporary social and political life ([www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin](http://www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin)). Globalization in a literal sense is international integration. It can be described as a process by which the people of the world are unified into a single society. This process is a combination of economic, technological, socio cultural and political forces. It refers to the increasingly global relationships of culture, people and economic activity. Most often it refers to economics; the global distributions of production of goods and services, through reduction of barriers to international trade such as tariffs, export fees and import quotas, (caribbean studies, [ikispaces.com/file/globalization.docx](http://ikispaces.com/file/globalization.docx)).

The term can also refer to the transactional circulation of ideas, languages and popular culture. It is the process of continuing integration of the countries in the world and is strongly underway in all parts of the globe-supported by accelerating pace of technological change, price and trade liberalization and by growing importance of supranational rules, globalization has exposed national economies to much more intense competition than even before (JP Morgan, 1998). Globalization is a new buzzword that has come to dominate the world since the nineties of the last century with the end of the cold war and the breakup of the former Soviet Union and the global trend towards the rolling ball. The frontiers of the state with increased reliance on the market economy and renewed faith in the private capital and resources a process of structural adjustment spurred by the studies and influences of the world bank and other International organizations have started in many of the developing countries. Greater access to developed country markets and technology transfer holdout promise improved productivity and higher living standard. (economics. [about.com/od/globalization\\_trade/i/aaglobalisation.htm](http://about.com/od/globalization_trade/i/aaglobalisation.htm)). Evolution of the concept; Some scholars, such as Gamble (1994) suggest we have been engaged in a process of

globalization since the dawn of human civilization. Others, such as Modelski (1988), claim globalization began sometime at the outset of modernity. Sweezy (1992) traces globalization's genesis to about four or five centuries ago, during the heyday of exploration, imperialism, and colonialism. Most scholars, however, locate globalization's genesis sometimes between the middle of the nineteenth century. (Robertson, 1992). The word 'global' has a long history, in fact it is a much older word than international. It first emerged in public discourse in 1676; some twenty years after the Peace of Westphalia gave rise to the modern state-system. 'Global' was used primarily to designate the entire world as a "globe" or "sohere". Later it was used to characterize phenomena that were worldwide in scope, application, and significance. Recently, a number of definitions of globalization have emerged in the academic literature and in everyday conversations, but it is possible to distinguish two broad groupings. The most frequent use of globalization is in relation to transformation in the international political economy and particularly, within the organization of capitalism. The most popular terms for characterizing these changes are "economic globalization" or "globalised capitalism." "What these terms try to do is make sense of transformations in the creation of wealth since Adam Smith's *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* and Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* (Janine, Bradie, ed 1999).

It is a concept that has been defined variously over the years, with some connotations referring to process, development, stability, integration, cooperation and others referring to regression, colonialism and destabilization. Globalization is evolutionary. It is a fluid process that is constantly changing with the development of human society. By analyzing what has been offered in attempts to express the meaning of such complex idea. There is various definitions given by various thinkers. The definition is a clear indication of what the authors perspective is on where globalization comes from and more importantly, what it will mean in geopolitical terms in the future. In a why, this the case this overview of definitions has made it clear globalization is many things to many different people. As Arjun Appadurai noted in 1996," globalization is a 'world of things' that have different speeds, axes, points of origin and termination, and varied relationship to institutional structure in different regions, nations or society" (Appadurai, 1996).

The globalization of the world economy has been an uneven process; the integration of markets has outpaced the integration of governance, and governance for the protection of human wellbeing. In his essay 'Economic Globalization and Institutions of Global Governance' Keith Griffin address both these asymmetries and concludes that "we need to invent mechanisms that will enable global institutions to be held accountable to people worldwide for their performance," (Griffin, 2003). Paul Cook and Colin Patrick (Paul Cook and Colin Patrick 1997) pay attention to the considerable enhancement of interference of the countries. They define globalization as such expansion of various relations ties among the governments and societies that form the global system. Globalization is a process through which events, decisions and activities of one part of the world can have some implications for the societies of a completely distinct part of the world. In fact globalization is defined from various angles, but most of the definitions pay attention to the communication aspect.

From this angle they consider globalization as a concept that refers to the shrinking of the world in time and space. The future of globalization one that no academic would venture to try to predict. By looking at the ways in which the definition has changed over the past 45 years, one can ascertain that the future will not give way to a simpler or a more refined means of arriving at a clear conceptualization of the process. Anthony Megrews (McGrew, 2007) elaboration of this concept that "globalization is a process which generates flows and connections, not simply across nation-states, national territorial boundaries but between global regions, continents and civilizations. This invites a definition of globalization as an "historical process which engenders a significant shift in the spatial reach of networks and systems of social relations to transcontinental or interregional pattern of human organization activity and the exercise of power".

**Approaches of globalization:** Scholars are divided about the nature of new process called globalization and consequently its impact. One approach consisting of scholars, such as K. Ohmae, called the hyper globalists see it as a central and irreversible process, and define globalization as a new epoch of history in which traditional nation-state have become unnatural, even impossible business unit in a global economy. In this view international markets and multi-national corporations, have become strong and impersonal forces driving the world. Consequently the power of state is correspondingly declining. A new international elite or 'knowledge' class is developing world-wide which is equipped to benefit from the changes that globalization has introduced, while others are marginalized. So the hyperglobalists believe that globalization represents 'a fundamental reconfiguration of human action'. Sharply opposed is the approach consisting of scholars best described as the skeptics who argue that globalization as described by the hyperglobalists is a 'myth'.

They point out that the 19<sup>th</sup> century witnessed a greater increase of trade, labour flows and economic interdependence with much higher levels of integration of states into the international system under the laissez-faire state, and propagation of theories of comparative advantage by Adam Smith and others. All are experiencing today is heightened levels of internalization of these processes. The forces of globalization are themselves dependent upon the regulatory power of national governments to make state globalize liberalize and privatize. The skeptics also point out that increased economic activity has led to "regionalization" of the world economy i.e.; the emergence of three main financial blocs; Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. Finally, the skeptics point out that there has been no re-structuring of the world economy. In fact, they feel that it is these rising inequalities, which are leading to fundamentalism, ethnic resurgence and aggressive nationalism rather than a world civilization and internationalism. So the skeptics argue that there is no global governance, only western dominance which hides behind a convenient slogan of globalization (Martell, 2010). A third and more balanced view, comes from the transformation lists, who believe that globalization is 'transforming' the world and see it as a driving force behind the rapid social political and economic changes that are reshaping modern societies and a world order. In such a system there is no longer a clear distinction between international and domestic, external and internal affairs. In this account, globalization is conceived as a powerful

transformative force, which is responsible for a 'massive shake-out' of societies, economies, institutions of governance and world order. Thus, at the core of the globalization debate is a belief that it is reconstituting or reengineering the power, functions and authority of national government. (Martell, 2010). The advocates of globalization through their arguments try to demonstrate the positive aspects of globalization. They consider globalization a completely positive and useful trend while the opponents consider it dangerous and negative. Whether globalization is a threat or an opportunity will be discussed below.

**Globalization as an opportunity:** This approach encompasses various viewpoints including the neo-liberalist and neo-functionalism. The neo-liberalist approach considers globalization is the liberation of various fields in the interdependent world which expands the communication and exchange of human societies. The neo-functionalists consider the era of globalization that of enhancement of regional interactions, which in turn prepare the grounds for upgrading international cooperation and convergence a step towards globalization (Qarib, 2001).

- Expansion of communication, reduction of time and spatial distances and removal of hurdles in the way of free flow of information.
- Enhancement of collective consciousness towards common fate of mankind.
- Feeling of belongingness of human beings to the great family of nations and international society will be more comprehensive than the national communities.
- More inclination of authoritarian government towards democracy.
- Closeness and more condition between international players
- Possibility of exchange of views and mutual understanding among cultures.
- Expansion of man's choice from national to international level.

**Attacks on Globalization:** This contains neo-Marxist and neo-realist attacks. The first through a centre periphery attitude considers globalization a factor for the enhancement of the power and wealth of the metropolitan countries and marginalization and gradual death of the weak countries (Qarib 2001). The second approach is power based in which a few great powers at the cost of the destruction, bankruptcy, disintegration and dismemberment of national sovereignty of most of the countries concentrates on the consolidation and exertion of power in the post. Westphalia System According to Verse; might is right, if you want to have peace, you have to become strong (Cook and Patrick, 1997). Therefore,

- The opponents of globalization consider it a hostile act and even horrible and maintain that globalization will exacerbate inequality among nations, threatens employment and standards of life and prevent social progress.
- Globalization is a project and a major social-political engineering in the world which will lead to the impoverishment of the poor and enrichment of the rich.
- Imposition of values and strategies of the power wielders.

- Threatening the international peace and stability due to expositions stances of the big powers.
- Widening of the gap between the rich and the poor in national level and widening of the hiatus between the developed and underdeveloped countries on international level.
- Globalization of organized crimes. Shaking the cultural, spiritual, social and economic foundations of societies.

**India and globalization:** Till the nineties the process of globalization of the Indian economy was constrained by the barriers to trade and investment and financial flows initiated in the nineties has progressively lowered the barriers to competition and hastened the pace of globalization. In India, the new economic policy that was the harbinger of globalization to India was initiated in 1991 under the leadership of the congress party led P.V. Narsimha Rao government. Over the last decade, the open market policy of the Indian government has resulted in decreased privatization, huge lay off labor, rise of corruption and heavy debts on the nation. The benefits of development under globalization have not reached the poorest sections of the society. The disparity between the rich and the poor has widened. Its disturbing impact on family and the drastic erosion of traditional social life is a main concern.

**Conceptual framework:** Theories of global politics tend to emphasize the process of globalization generally seen as capturing the growing interconnectedness and integration of human society on a planetary scale. Over the years there has been a lot of debate on global politics with Liberalists supporting the concept of globalization and on the other hand Realists opposing it. Realist's views on globalization are based on the reality of how the world is rather than what it should or could be (Scheuerman.2010). Make clearer Liberalists imagine a better world with capital growth, improvement, changes and individual rights. This underlines the reasons as to why realists, who are critical thinkers, disagree with the beliefs of liberalists. The proponents of globalization view it as a savior of the world while opponents see it as a strategy by powerful governments to reap benefits from weaker nations. Realists analyze the advantages of globalization with objectivity and attach the problem of exploitation to its advent (Held and McGrew 2007). Liberalists never acknowledge existence of exploitation since they are ones propagating it. From a realist point of view globalization development is not as forceful as it may seem, it is just a progression which needs securitization. Realists look into the rationale of globalization (Scheuerman2010). Against this background this study aims to examine the impact of globalization on the tribal society of Odisha.

**Odisha and globalization:** Odisha is known for its firm support to economic reforms like privatization and globalization. It has been witnessing a series of reforms in various sectors of the economy since mid 1991. The so called reforms composed of structural adjustment and liberalization policies are more or less based on market approach to development and therefore they are likely to have impact on the poor and unemployed. As the reform period is now more than one and half a decade old, an attempt has been made to analyze the impact of globalization on the tribal society of Odisha.

Globalization has its deep impact on the tribal people of Odisha. (M.Narasingh Rao, Social and Human Development in post reform era)

**The tribes of Odisha:** In India there is an amalgam of 437 tribes and in Odisha the number is 62. According to 1991 census in Odisha the total strength of tribal population is approximately seven million which constitutes 22.21% of the total population of the state. Linguistically the tribes of India are broadly classified into four categories, namely (1) Indo-Aryan speakers (2) Dravidian speakers (3) Tibeto-Burmese speakers (4) Austric speakers. In Odisha the speakers of the Tibeto-Burmese language family are absent, and therefore Odisha tribes belong to other three language families. The Indo-Aryan language family in Odisha includes Dheki-oriya, matia, haleba, jharia, saunti, jaria and oriya. The Austric language family includes eighteen tribal languages namely Birija, Parenga, Kisan, Bhumija, Kodo, Mirdha-kharia, Juang, etc. And within the Dravidian language family there are nine languages in Odisha namely Pengo, Gondai, Kishan, Konda, Koya, Parji, Kui, Kuvi and Kurukh or Oraon. Tribal societies share certain common characteristics and by these, they are distinguished from complex or advanced societies. In India tribal societies had apparently been outside the main historical current of the development of Indian civilization for centuries. Hence tribal societies manifest such cultural features which signify a primitive level in social-cultural parameter.

Tribes of Odisha are about seven million in the world. The total numbers of tribes living in the state of Orissa is much more than other places in India. Some districts have presence of tribal population while some of the other district of Orissa hold a small number of tribal, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, and Naurangpur are some of the districts of Odisha where more than fifty percent of the total population are tribal. The main ethnic groups of the place are Kondhas, Oraon, Godabas, Jungs, Koyas and sandals. The Dongaria and Kutia kondhs are two main tribes; they are mostly suffered due to Vedanta. As stated above, the two communities believe that the bills are sacred and that their survival is dependent on the integrity of this ecosystem. The proposed mining lease site is among the highest points in the hills and is considered especially important as a sacred site. The proposed mining lease (PML) area is used by both Dongaria and Kutia Kondh for their livelihoods as well as religious practices. Their customary use of the area, including for grazing and the collection of forest produce, is well-documented. Mining operations will have significant adverse impacts on the livelihoods of these communities. Mining will destroy significant tracts of forest. According to the assessment of the Wildlife Institute of India in its 2006 study, as many as 1, 21,337 trees will have to be cut if the mining lease is granted. Of these, 40 per cent will be in the PML area and the remaining 60 percent would have to be removed to make the access road and other planned activities. Since the Kutia and Dongaria Kondh are heavily dependent on forest produce for their livelihood, this forest cover loss will cause a significant decline in their economic well-being. It must be noted that the Vedanta proposal assumes that no displacement will be caused by the mining project whereas there is overwhelming evidence that mining will not only result in widespread resource displacement but may well permanently undermine the survival of the Dongaria Kondh. While both Kutia and Dongaria Kondh communities will be adversely affected by mining in the area, the likely negative impacts on the Dongaria

Kondh are particular cause of concern. The Niyamgiri hills are the sole and unique habitat of this tiny community. Any major disruption of their relationship with their environment is not only a serious violation of their rights under the Indian Constitution and forest laws, but also a grievous threat to their cultural integrity and their ability to survive as a distinct social group. The Committee found convincing evidence that mining will destroy Dongaria Kondh livelihoods and culture ([www.tribals.nic.in](http://www.tribals.nic.in), <http://www.freedomindia.com>)

**Impact of Globalisation on tribals of Odisha:** Tribal people in Odisha even after more than six decades of independence, still occupy a marginalized and backward place in society. Their contributions and sufferings were not duly recognized by the mainstream due to their voiceless nature in particular. However all the negative symptoms related to the tribal development had accentuated substantially since the inception of globalization. In India since 1991 and had accelerated with the inclusion of India in the WTO in 1995. It was also clear from the experience during the last two decades that globalization had strong and distinct likes and dislikes and such characteristics had worked against the tribal people further. The situation had worsened still further due to the truncated nature of the current globalization, where labour was not globalised and India had her comparative advantage in the sphere of unskilled labour (The Hindu, Sunday, May, 08, 2011). Indigenous people are on the cusp of the crisis is sustainable development. Their communities are concert examples of sustainable societies, historically evolved in diverse ecosystems. Today they are facing the challenges of extinction and survival in a globalised world. The impact of globalization is strongest on these populations perhaps more than any other, because these communities have no voice and are therefore easily swept aside by the invisible hand of the market and its proponents. Globalization is not merely a question of marginalization for indigenous peoples. It is a multipronged attack on the very foundation of their existence and livelihoods.

## Conclusion

Ceaseless quest for development aspiration of developing countries, has redefined the development discourse in the era of globalization. Since mid-80s, the macro economic adjustment, under the pretext of common global market propelled by the capitalist developed world has instead created a social and gender gap in the developing world. In the era of globalization, the outlook, nature and role of welfare state witnessed radical changes thus has urged the civil society to become pro-active for safeguard of citizen's interest. The LPG model has set new terms of development discourse and policy choices to the developing societies. Globalization while, enriching a common parameter of development for all nation states but what way it has yielded development gains for policy excluded social classes, the vulnerable, indigenous population. However the terms of growth gains have not been equal and even for regions, sectors and social classes in India too. On the auspicious of globalization new development has led to depletion and destruction of Forests which has eroded the already fragile survival base of tribes across the country. Deprived of their traditional livelihoods, an alarmingly large number of tribal have been displaced to make way for development projects. Many tribes are further alienated by being migrating to cities in search Of livelihood.

The loss of land and livelihood of tribal in India, which began during British Administration, further intensified in the LPG era. Thus Globalization, while adopting economic reform though micro-economic adjustment model look at the plurality of third world society particularly country like India, whose major chunk of population is marginalized and vulnerable tribal people. Similarly, Odisha which in blindly welcoming the MNCs and Global Agent for so called economic development purpose, must see the other side of it, should have a look towards the real and objective development of its tribal people, who have pushed to nuke oblivion due to effects of Globalization.

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