

## **Extended Abstract**

### **Impact of Urbanisation on tribal development: a case study of Jharkhand**

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#### **Introduction**

Jharkhand is a smaller state of India, which is situated in the eastern part of the Indian peninsular plateau. The word 'Jharkhand' has special significance for this state. It expresses the characteristics of this region, namely, it is a forest and hilly tract. Due to its rugged topography and dense forest this region remained isolated for a long period from the other part of the country. Until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century this land of forest was mainly inhabited by indigenous people who enjoyed more or less self sufficient economy and fulfilled all of their primary necessities by the forest. When the Britishers captured the political and economic system of the region, the period of self sufficiency and isolation was broke up. The pace of opening of the region become more pronounced during the later half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; it was in this period when newly formed Indian Government started setting up several mining and industrial units in the name of development of this backward region. These newly established units accelerated the pace of urbanization. Later on, with the intensified industrialization programmes, many non-tribal communities came into this tribal region in substantial number and the indigenous people turned into minority where they were in majority for the centuries.

In the beginning of the last century, the urban population of Jharkhand was less than 2 percent. With the intensification of the industrialisation in the post-independence period, many of the regions of Jharkhand got remarkably urbanized. Therefore by 1961 it increased by 11.5 percent and according to the 2001 census, it has gone up to 24.6%. These urban centers not only brought a different type of settlement system in this region for the local inhabitants but it also changed the social, economic, political and cultural atmosphere of this region. To get economic opportunity, in such type of new system, one

has to have good education and some kind of professional skills. But due to the centuries long isolation, tribes of this region are lagging behind in modern education and technological skills. That is why they are not able to get the benefits of urban economy and most of the jobs are acquired by the immigrants with the help of their better knowledge and technical skill.

### **Theoretical Background:**

With the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the rapid changes which happened in tribal society generated a big debate among the different scholars. The conflict started between the people who sought to promote integration of tribals to the rest of the world and those that argued to maintain status quo suggested for the complete isolation of tribal society, unfortunately both schools of thought have their narrow viewpoint. There is no doubt that before the 20<sup>th</sup> century tribals enjoyed a self sufficient economy, they were happy with whatever they had and their social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of life were inherently different from the other groups and had every right to preserve it. Not with standing the fact that the world is changing very fast with the advancement of technologies and communication, no part of the world is left untouched. The idea of complete isolation in this regard is not possible. On the other hand the policy of integration would become an imposition of an unfamiliar culture and economic system on the tribal society. In fact transformation in any society usually takes place by gradual and slow manner. Although it is an inevitable process, but it will be better when it is been self generated. No society can resist itself from the gradual changes when they come in the contact with other society. Subsequently when the tribals and their habitat are greatly affected by the different developmental projects, then it is difficult to expect that they would be indifferent from development and not get the benefits of the development.

In India there are ninety million tribals of various groups comprising 9 % of the total population are living in the different part of the country. Till now most of the tribes of India are living below the poverty line, they have lower educational level, lower nutritional status and high incidence of sickness. Therefore how the vast segment of Indian population can be alienated from the benefit of the development process. Thus India discarded the sectarian approach of isolation and integration in favour of the policy of smooth interaction. The fundamental principle of this policy was based on

‘Panchshila’ of Pandit Nehru, which included respect for the tribals’ rights on the land, forest, administration and development through local people. We, the human being, so called civilized have been some and other time were tribes, underdeveloped and deprived of many facilities that we are availing today. As the time passed, one civilization came in contact with other, and happened to know many new things. Gradually, each society generated ideas after the modification as they came into the contact with other. Tribals today are underdeveloped as they have been in isolation. Therefore there is a need to provide the entire infrastructure available for the development to them so they can utilize in their own fashion

### **Objectives:**

Keeping the theoretical background in view, it is necessary to assess the impact of urbanisation on the tribals in Jharkhand. For this the present paper has undertaken detailed empirical investigation with a view to analyse the following objectives:

1. To examine the variations in the levels of standard of living among the tribal people in different settings (rural/urban).
2. What are the main causes responsible for tribe’s underdevelopment?
3. How the urban life has affected the elements of tribal structure?
4. How do the tribal people respond to the changes in their traditional societies?

### **Database, the Sample Design and the Field Method**

The study has incorporated Ranchi city and its hinterland as a distinct geographical unit where the tribal people are in majority rural areas. Because Ranchi is one of the earliest urban settlements of Jharkhand where industrialization started in late fifties, therefore the impact of urbanization on a relatively homogeneous and traditional tribal society can be easily measured. The data for the present study has been collected from the three villages (*Marwa, Tigra and Latma*) and two colonies of city. These three villages have been selected on the basis their location and the concentration of tribal population. A village with more than 50 % tribal population has been taken in order to observe the impact of urbanization. As far as location is concerned, villages have been selected on the basis of their distance from the city. They are categorised as (a). *Village adjoining the city* (b) *Village distantly located but on road* (c) *Village distantly located away from road*. The data at city and village level has been collected from secondary

sources and the information regarding the standard of life at household level has been gathered through primary survey. For the analysis of standard of life of tribals, firstly the household are stratified on the basis of their location. After that a total of 150 household (30 household from each village and 60 household from two housing colonies of city) has been surveyed. For the selection of household a simple random sampling has been used. Two approaches have been chosen to get the picture of impact of urbanization on tribals. First, to find out the standard of living, certain development indicators based questions were asked, and secondly, people's perception based questions were asked to find out the changes in tribal society. Further, this study applied different variables for analysis, which requires a systematic approach; therefore certain standard statistical techniques have been used in this paper.

### **Some Expected Findings:**

While analysing the data, a significant variation in the standard of living of tribals has been observed in Ranchi district. The standard of living of the tribals gradually goes down as we move from village adjoining the city to the village distantly located away from road. Most of the tribals living in the city have higher Standard of living than the tribals living in the distantly located village. Here it is important to note that the standard of living of urban tribal population is lower than the general population of the city. In Ranchi city, most of the tribals were engaged in unskilled jobs; therefore their income was very low. In the rural areas poverty is very high among the tribals and the monthly household consumption on non-food item is very less. On the basis the present study this paper provides some basic suggestions for the overall development of the tribals of Jharkhand.