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**GLOBALIZATION AND FORCED MIGRATION
AMONG THE KONDH OF ODISHA:
AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY**

Biswajit Parida



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Diaspora and Transnationalism

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Abstract

In a global context, Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG model) are no longer an opinion but a fact. Globalization is often associated with the integration of the world, with the market breaking open the barriers across nation states in terms of flow of trade, finance, knowledge, capital culture, and technology across national boundaries. Globalization is also contemporaneous with development of capitalism. Development in the aspect of Globalization demand some sort of sacrifice more so from the vulnerable groups. Tribal are the most affected group in this prospect. The survival of tribal communities critically depends on land and forest resources. The forest occupies a central position in tribal culture and economy. Thus tribals are the worst sufferers since most development projects such as dams and industries are located in inaccessible tribal areas. The impact of globalisation is strongest on these populations perhaps more than any other because these communities have no voice and are therefore easily swept aside. Compulsory acquisition of land is done for activities like construction of industries, mining, hydropower projects, reservation of forests for National Parks, etc. These projects require huge land acquisition, deforestation and depletion of natural resources for their establishment. Displacement of people from their traditional habitat causes much trauma to the affected persons. As a result their livelihood is now under threat and they are becoming the victims of land alienation, poverty and bonded labour. They are kind of forced to migrate from their native place in search of a better livelihood. The studies included intensive field work among the Kondha Tribe of Kalahandi district of Odisha. The Kondha is the largest tribal community in Odisha and aboriginal inhabitants of uneven hilly terrain and forests. The present paper will try to see the impact of such development on the traditional livelihood of these people with special focus on the proposed Vedanta Aluminium Limited Plant in the Kalahandi district of Odisha.

Keywords: Globalization, tribal livelihood, displacement, land alienation, migration.

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Statement: All the views expressed in the paper are of the author(s).

GLOBALIZATION AND FORCED MIGRATION AMONG THE KONDH OF ODISHA: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY

Biswajit Parida

I. INTRODUCTION

Globalization refers to the global economic integration of many formerly national economies into one global economy by free trade and free capital mobility but also by somewhat easier or uncontrolled migration. It is the effective erasure of national boundaries for economic purposes. Globalization is also contemporaneous with development of capitalism. Development in the aspect of Globalization demand some sort of sacrifice more so from the vulnerable groups¹. Migration has taken a pivotal place in the present development discourse. Many economists view it as an integral part of demographic transformation having greater potential for poverty reduction and economic growth. It has different dimensions and these dimensions could be analysed in terms of “WHO” migrates and “WHY”². Migration can be defined as the movement of a group of people from one place to other. It has a watertight link with the avenues of income available at the destination. It can be permanent or semi-permanent. Sometimes migration is voluntary, but many times people are forced to migrate because they do not have any other choices. Labour migration is a part of semi-permanent migration also called seasonal migration.

1 Nithya, N (2014), Globalization and Plight of tribals: The case of Kerala, India. The Down Journal. January, Vol. 3 (1).1-3

2 Diwedi, R (2012), Migration: an Overview and Relevant Issues. Management Insight. December, Vol. 8 (2), 1

The word migration has been defined by many authors. Dr. S. N. Tripathy writes, “Labour migration is a form of labour mobility towards district or state or outside where industry and employment are expanding. In other words, migration may be the phenomenon of the flow of the people over shorter or longer distance from one origin to a destination either for temporary or permanent settlement.”

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MIGRANT

Now-a-days migration is a very common phenomenon. To understand the effects of migration on the sending country, it is important to have a theoretical background that explains why people move (whether they have economical political or social reasons), where they move to (whether they go to the countries with the best social benefits, the highest economic earnings or the best political rights or simply to countries with permissive immigration legislation) but also who is moving³. The most important question of all because it helps us understand the effects that their moving away has on the economy of a country. The effects of losing a big part of the youngest population are not nearly as dangerous as losing the elder population, just as having less unskilled workers does not have the same effects as having less skilled or less highly educated population. This subsection will make a brief survey

3 Mohapatra, A (2012), Migration: An overview and Relevant Issues. Kuruksetra. December, Vol.8 (2), 16-19.

of the economic theory of migration in an attempt to answer these questions.

STATUS OF MIGRANT LABOUR IN INDIA

India's total population as recorded in census 2011 stands at 1.21 billion. Internal migrants in India constitute a large population-309 million internal migrants on 30 percent of the population (2001 census) and by more recent estimates 326 million on 28.5 percent of the population⁴.

STATUS OF MIGRANT LABOUR IN ODISHA

Out of about 0.94 million total out migrants by last residence from Odisha to different parts of the country as per 2001 Census, 326114 (34.80%) has been reported as inter-state migrants migrating due to work and employment followed by marriage 278618 (29.73%), moved with household 171639 (18.32%), moved after birth 22701 (2.42%), business 13161 (1.40%), education 10198 (1.09%) and other 114845 (12.24%).

II. OBJECTIVE OF MY STUDY

The major objectives of the study are

- a. To find out the cause of migration of the study area.
- b. to analyse the role of social and economic factor influencing migration among the Kondh of Odisha.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Migration to urban areas forms a livelihood option for thousands of poor in India. Aloka (2008) in his study in 12 villages in Jharkhand, found that one-third of the households had at least one member migrating. Around seventy percent of these were short term migrants who went out during the lean period⁵. De Haan, Brock,

⁴ Government of India, NSS Report No.470 Migration in India, 1999-2000 round 55.

⁵ Aloka, M (2008) "Migration in Jharkhand; An important Livelihood Strategy for the Poor.

and Caulibaly (2002) have emphasized the patterns of labour migration in Mali, where populations have been on the move for the past few centuries. Migration is widespread and acceptable and its factors complex. Demand for labour is important but also important are local institutions and the availability of opportunities. Migrants are often thought of as victims of weather conditions and economic crisis, but the authors go on to show that people have successfully used migration as a risk management strategy, and that migration for work (both domestic and cross-border) is an integral part of households in Mali⁶. According to De Haan (2000) the factors influencing migration, like gender, economic status, and rural-urban dynamics and stresses that although migration has been underrated throughout history, it must be viewed as a strategy employed by households to improve their livelihoods and economic conditions and as a legitimate means of enhancing livelihoods and spreading risk. Poverty may or may not be the leading cause of migration and migration may or may not lead to inequality and economic decline in recipient areas; there is empirical evidence for both cases. He also suggested that in his paper that paper recognises the need for a policy framework that focuses on ways to support and increase migration, rather on trying to curb it⁷. McDowell and de Haan (1997) have critically reviewed the literature on sustainable livelihoods and the strategies of rural households in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Mali with respect to migration. They pointed out that migration is viewed as an exception or a departure from the normal patterns of society and that it needs to be accepted completely and treated as the rule

⁶ De Haan, A., Brock, K., & Coulibaly, N. (2002), Migration, Livelihoods and Institutions: Contrasting Patterns of Migration in Mali, *The Down Journal*, 38(5), 37-58.

⁷ De Haan, A.(2000), 'Migrants, Livelihoods and Rights: the Relevance of Migration in Development Politics', Social Development, Working Paper No.4.

rather than the exception and as a livelihood strategy of households. Finally, as migration can differ in cause and in purpose, an institutional approach is necessary to gauge its full extent and effects. It has been widely acknowledged, as also mentioned above. Caste-kinship bonds and other kinds of village networks help rural job seekers arrange urban-based jobs⁸ (Banerjee 1986). The large concentration of migrants from the scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) social categories, especially in the informal sector⁹ (Basu, Basu, and Ray 1987; Kasturi 1990; Nithya suggested that the positive effect of the presence of SC/STs in urban destinations on further rural-to-urban migration. However, with social networks, the probability of experiencing upward mobility also declines, as an 'excess-supplies-limited-demand' situation emerges in the context of a geographically segmented labour market¹⁰. According to Sharma (1997) and Karan (2003) observed that rural poverty, high population density and growth rates, skewed access to productive resources and slow economic growth are among the drivers of migration of Jharkhand to West Bengal, Odisha and Assam¹¹.

IV. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Study area: Rayagada

Odisha state now comprises of 30 districts. According to census 2001, the sex ratio in the state is 971 and literacy rate 49.09 percent as many as 87 percent of the total

8 McDowell, C. and De Haan, A. (1997) 'Migration and Sustainable Livelihood: A Critical Review of the Literature',

9 Banerjee, B. (1986), Bombay: Himalaya Publishing House. Basu, A. M., Basu, K., & Ray, R. (1987), 'Migrants and the native bond: an analysis of micro level data from Delhi', Breman, J. (1985), Delhi, India, Oxford University Press.

10 Nithya, N (2014), Globalization and Plight of tribals: The case of Kerala, India. The Down Journal. January, Vol. 3 (1).1-3.

11 Sharma, A (1997), People on the Move, Vikas Publishing House, Delhi.

population live in rural areas and nearly 64 percent of the total workers derive their livelihood from agriculture. The study area, Rayagada is the headquarters is situated in Rayagada itself. The district has two sub-division such as, Gunupur and Rayagada, it has 11 blocks, such as, Bisam-Cuttack, Chandrapur, Gudari, Gunupur, Kalyansinghpur, Kashipur, Kolnra, Muniguda, Padampur, Ramanaguda and Rayagada and 171 Gram Panchayat and 2667 villages out of which 2467 are inhabited villages and 200 are uninhabited villages. On October, 2, 1992 the erstwhile Koraput district was divided into four district-namely, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur and Rayagada for administrative convenience. Rayagada is a mineral-rich district in the southern part of the state of Odisha, in India. The city Rayagada is its headquarters. Rayagada district got the status of a separate district. The population of this district consists mainly of tribals. The Kondhas or Kondhs forms the majority of population of the district. This district has a predominant tribal population of 57.52% consists of 11 blocks. The topography of Rayagada gives a perfect platform for the tribals in sustaining their ethno-cultural identity in the district. Forest area covers an extent of 4785.36 km² out of which 777.27 km is reserved forest¹² ().

Profile of the Study Area: Pipiliguda Gram Panchayat

The present research work was undertaken among the Kondh of Karubai and Pipiliguda village of Pipiliguda panchayat of Rayagada district of Odisha. Karubai is consists of 109 households residing. It has population of 532 which 297 are males and 235 are females. Pipiliguda village is itself panchayat. This village is consists of 131 households which 887 population which 479 are males and 408 are females. This village is tribal dominated. Mainly Kondh (Scheduled Tribe) peoples are residing. These villages has lower literacy rate compared to Odisha. In 2011, literacy rate of these villages was 23.58 percent compared to 72.87 percent of Odisha. Village are administrated by Sarpanch (Head of Village) who is elected representative of village.

12 www.rayagadadistrict.nic.in

THE KONDH

Khonds (also spelled Kondha, Kandha, Khondha) are an ethnic indigenous tribal people of India. They are the largest tribe of the state in terms of population. They have a population of about one million and are based mainly in the Kandhamal and adjoining districts namely Rayagada, Koraput, Balangir and Boudh. They are comes under the particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of India (PVTGs). They are a designated Scheduled Tribes in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal¹³. Traditionally hunter-gatherers, they are divided into the hill-dwelling Khonds and plain-dwelling Khonds for census purposes; all the Khonds identify by their clan and usually hold large tracts of fertile land but still practise hunting, gathering and slash and burn agriculture in the forests as a symbol of their connection to and ownership of the forest¹⁴. The Khonds speak the *Kui* language. But they have no script. They are believed in supernatural entity. They have their own God and Goddesses.

V. METHODOLOGY

Anthropological studies characterized by this holistic approach of study based on first hand information collected through field work. Stage stratified random sampling method was used for selection of the sample. Two villages from one Gram Panchayat were selected; majority of tribal population an incidence of tribal migration is high in this district. From two villages respondents were selected on a random sampling. i.e. 40 respondents from each village were selected. Simple stratified tool were used to analyse data and draw conclusion.

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data for gathered information. More emphasis is given on primary data which are collected by researcher through intensive field work

13 Census 2011. Government of India

14 The Kondh (2008), Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute, Bhubaneswar -751003.

from the selected respondent in the study area. Secondary data collected through various sources like journals, published works and web sites etc. The intensive field work was conducted among the target community. For the collections of primary data, both qualitative and quantitative tools has been used the quantitative tool in clued structured questionnaires were administered to the respondents for the said study. The data collected through the help of non-participant observation, key informant and interview scheduled were prepared enabling the researcher to administer them and collect the required data. Participatory observation method was adopted in the field to make an objective evaluation of the impact of migration among the trial of Pipliguda panchayat of Rayagada district.

The data so collected has been analysed and presented findings indicating the outcome and suggest remedial measures for improvements. For the purpose of collection of data, a well pretested schedule was prepared and personal interviews were conducted with 80 respondents migrant.

VI. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Factors responsible for Migration

There are two factors are responsible for the migration. That is, push factors (Negative) and pull factors (positive)¹⁵.

Table no.-i

Classification of push factors (Negative) and pull factors (positive)

Sl. No	Push factors (negative factors)	Sl. No	Pull factors Positive factors
1	Poverty and starvation	1	Bright city lights
2	Unemployment	2	Children's future
3	Low agricultural productivity	3	Better standard of living

15 Mohapatra, A (2012), Migration: An overview and Relevant Issues. Kuruksetra. December, Vol.8 (2), 16-19.

4	Failure of crop	4	Scope of employment
5	Landlessness	5	Better Gender equality
6	Lack of irrigation facility	6	Prospects for better life
7	Poor education and medical care	7	Better Amenities
8	Lack of credit facilities	8	Wage differentials

Source: Mohapatra, 2012

Types of Family

Table no.-ii

Types of the family of the migrant labour the study area

Sl no.	Types of households	Number of households	percentage
1	Landless Farmer	41	51.25
2	Marginal Farmer	15	18.75
3	Small Farmer	21	26.25
4	Large Farmer	03	03.75
Total		80	100

Source: primary data

It was observed that majority of sample who migrated belonged to the category of landless labour or marginal farmer. Table no ii represents the background of sample migrant (18.75 percent) were marginal farmer whereas 51.25 percent were landless farmer and 26.25 percent and 3.75 percent sample migrants belongs to small and large farmer family respectively.

Table no.-iii
Age group of Migrant

Sl no.	Age Groups	Number of migrants	Percentage
1	16-20	13	21.25
2	21-25	16	20.00
3	26-30	19	23.78
4	31-35	11	13.75
5	36-40	08	10.00
6	41-45	04	05.00
7	46-50	03	3.75
8	51-55	04	05.00
9	55-60	02	2.5
Total		80	100

Source: primary data

From the above table, it is clear out of 80 individuals, 21.25 percent belongs to the age group of 16-20 years,

which includes child migrants. The highest and lowest number of migrants and was found between the age groups of 26-30 and 55-60 years respectively. The youngest and eldest age of the migrant was around 16-60 years respectively. As the age group increases beyond 26-30 years there is a fall in the number of migrant's staying in the destination place. Two reasons were mentioned for out migration; firstly, after the complication of agricultural work, it is very difficult to sustain their life so that they force to move and secondly, to get the money as lien period of agriculture. It is also says that, age after the age of 40 years, most of these migrants are unable to work for long hours (12years). As a result, they return to their villages with or without saving. The youngest migrants therefore, replace the elder migrants.

The following table represents information educational level of the migrants.

Table no.-iv
Educational level of Migrant

Sl no.	Educational level	Number of migrant	Percentage
1	Illiterate	22	27.5
2	Primary	21	26.25
3	Metric	15	18.75
4	Intermediate	11	13.75
5	Graduation	04	5.00
6	Higher (post graduate)	03	3.75
7	Others	04	5.0
Total		80	100

Source: primary data

From the above table no iv, is clear that, 22 (27.5 percent) numbers of migrant illiterate they have no education, 26.25 percent of the migrant have primary level education which is high level of education among the migrant. About 19 percent of the migrant have a metric level of schooling, only 5 percent of the migrant have graduation qualification, around 4 percent are

graduate and 4 have others level of qualification like, ITI. In conclusion, the general trends as that people who had level of education tend to be more mobile and end up getting jobs in the informal sector. The same way not is applicable; however to those who have relatively better education, then she/he stands no opportunity of getting job in the formal sector and hence resorts to informal sector for merger substance. Srivastava¹⁶ and suggested that the bulk of migrant work force in India has little or no education. The finds of his study suggested that the majority of migrants lack minimum education and hence end up getting jobs in informal sector.

Monthly Income before Migration

Table no.-v
Monthly Income before migration

Sl no.	Monthly income before migration	Number of migrant	Percentage
1	No wages	26	32.5
2	12000-20000	21	26.26
3	21000-45000	05	6.25
4	45001-50,000	06	7.5
5	51,001-60,000	08	10.0
6	60,001-70,000	04	5.0
7	70,001-80,000 and above	10	12.5
Total		80	100

Source: *primary data*

Table no.-vi
Monthly Income after Migration

Sl no.	Monthly income after migration	Number of migrant	Percentage
1	24,000-36,000	03	3.75
2	37,000-45,000	05	6.25
3	46,000-51,000	09	11.25
4	52,000-57,000	13	16.25
5	58,000-62,000	11	13.75
6	63,000-68,000	07	8.75
7	69,000-74,000	09	11.25

16 Srivastava R S (2009) "Rural labour Utter Pradesh Emerging Features Substances, contradiction and Resistance. Journal of peasants Studies. Vo.26. No.2 and 3.

8	75,000-80,000	11	13.75
9	81,000-86,000	04	5.0
10	87,000 and above	08	10.00
11	Total	80	100

Source: *primary data*

VII. CONCLUSION

The above study shows that households with illiterate heads show a relatively higher incidence of migration. Migration is a livelihood strategy for the marginalized sections of the state, particularly the scheduled tribes. It has wide-ranging consequences on both the migrants and those who stay behind. Though it results in positive externalities as increased socio-economic status, it has some negative impacts as well. The migrants are vulnerable at both the places they migrate to as well as during the journey back and forth. There is a tendency of labour shifting to better jobs after migration, though it is not a widely prevalent phenomenon. As far as all migrants (temporary and permanent) are concerned, in the equation for the rabi season, age is seen to reduce the probability to migrate. This indicates a higher degree of mobility among the younger ones. However, there is also evidence that the probability to migrate out goes up with the possibility of finding better jobs, such as in non-agricultural labour.

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) is a consortium of researchers and policy makers drawn from national and international universities, institutes and organizations. GRFDT is presently based in India and is shaping as the largest such group focusing specifically on the issues related to diaspora and transnationalism.

The GRFDT works as an academic and policy think tank by engaging national and international experts from academics, practitioners and policy makers in a broad range of areas such as migration policies, transnational linkages of development, human rights, culture, gender to mention a few. In the changing global environment of academic research and policy making, the role of GRFDT will be of immense help to the various stakeholders. Many developing countries cannot afford to miss the opportunity to harness the knowledge revolution of the present era. The engagement of diaspora with various platform need to be reassessed in the present context to engage them in the best possible manner for the development human societies by providing policy in-put at the national and global context.