

# Paradigm of Development: Inclusiveness of Indigenous people.

Dr.Giridhar Rao.M.S.

Associate Professor of Sociology,

## Abstract:

*All round Development of an economy depends not simply on its infrastructure and economic activities. Rather, how far the fruits of development are distributed on an equitable basis among the different sections of the society is the predominant indicator of its overall development. In a country like India with several socio economic and religious diversities the paradigm of development requires inclusion of the lowest sections of population as well who constitute a decisive portion of population. The concept of development is meaningless without inclusion of these groups. The present paper discusses the conditions, challenges and solutions for inclusive development of the deprived communities on the wake of development with particular reference to Dakshina Kannada District.*

## Key words:

**Human Development:** Development of conditions of live of people

**Inclusive development:** process of socioeconomic development which includes all sections of a population including those at the lowest level.

**Displacement:** Issue of physical dislocation of people taking place on account of developmental activities, such as construction of factories, roads, dams, and other establishments for the benefit of the society.

**Indigenous rights:** The rights of the people belonging to lower sections of society over their traditional land, art and craft, and occupations.

## **Introduction:**

Human development is expected to include cultural, traditional and spiritual elements in addition to economic and political. It should be inclusive enough to encompass all sections of the society especially in a heterogeneous population like that of India. From an indigenous perspective, human development should be defined by indigenous people, for indigenous people. For them development is not something that can be 'granted' by others, nor defined and conditioned by the majority population. Rather indigenous people should own it, feel it and grab it.

However, in the modern world, the process of globalisation initiated and driven by the forces of liberalisation and privatisation policies of the modern capitalist economies tend to side-line and overtake the indigenous people in its march towards progress. The paradigm of development modelled after the interest of the majority people not only tend to push the indigenous people backward but also make them unable to compete with the majority. Development has been and still is a problem for the indigenous people and not a solution.

The indigenous people who used to lead a simple and self-sufficient life in their own territories for centuries have now been affected by the developmental activities and processes. The lives of the

indigenous people have been turned upside down in the name of economic development . Many were forced or lured to leave their lands to give way to huge industries, plants, and other enterprises.

The impact of developmental activities on the indigenous people has been overwhelmingly negative rather than positive.

There are certain direct impact on their lives, such as:

1. Displacement, loss of property and sources of income, and loss of traditional employment.
2. Impoverishment, increased health problems, crimes and abuse of their human rights.

There are also many hidden and indirect impact of development on these people. They are:

1. Widening of the gap between rich and the poor which has made the lives of the indigenous people even more miserable.
2. Impact of climate change has worsened the living conditions of the people.

Indigenous people today are enmeshed in the expanding modern economy, subject to the pressure of both market and government.

The impact of development activities on the indigenous people is similar all over the world. They are the losers to a great extent than the gainers in the process of development.

In the Indian context, the plight of indigenous people is not different altogether. Instead, the heterogeneity of the indigenous people in India has made their condition still worse.

The developmental activities in India which includes construction of infrastructural facilities, and establishment of industries, plants and other enterprises conceive development from a macroscopic point of view, by looking at the benefits of the majority population, neglecting the disadvantages fell on the indigenous people. The developmental process results in the advantages for the majority people , whereas the benefits do not percolate down to the indigenous people. The developmental concerns of the government shown in the form of benefits extended to weaker sections of the society in continuation to the constitutional provisions and legislative policies and measures of the government are only an eye wash and pacifying the tendencies of resistance and revolts by them.

These measures contribute to the percolation of the pathetic plight of these people instead of improving them in the long run.

Based on this background, the present article is an attempt to look at the plight of the indigenous people of Dakshina Kannada district on the wake of onset of developmental process taking place here.

The district has a population of 18.98 lakhs as per 2011 census with a population density of 340 per sq km. The literacy rate is 83%. there are five talukas in the district which has a significantly large number of indigenous population. Being the cradle of banking and one of the most industrialised districts there are well developed IT Sector, chemical and fertiliser industries, refinery and petrochemical industry, harbour and airport, SEZ, and railway connectivity to the major cities of India. The district is also sufficiently advanced in agriculture, fisheries, small scale industries, education and medical health services. Consequently the standard of living and cost of living is also high.

Demographic profile of Dakshina Kannada District (in lakhs) 2011 census.

Category	Total	Male	female	Rural	urban
Population	2090	1035	1055	1094	996
SC	148	73	75	103	45
ST	82	41	41	66	16
Literate	1666	864	803	828	838

Despite all these positive effects of development, the plight of the indigenous people is far from satisfactory. Rather, they are still more backward, and neglected lot. Casteism, communalism, evil customs and practices still prevail and worsen the conditions of the indigenous people. The process of development has utterly failed to take them in its march towards progress.

### Indigenous rights

India is home to about 700 tribal groups with a population of 104 million, as per 2011 census. These indigenous people constitute the second largest tribal population in the world after Africa. As industries encroached upon their lands, many communities were displaced and some continued to wage a struggle to either protect their homes or demand a fair compensation.

By taking away forest lands for industries and plantation forestry instead of preserving natural species that provide livelihood to these people, the government was depriving them of the basic means of livelihood.

The battle for Niyamgiri may be won by Odisha's Dongria Kondhs and the Baiga tribe of Madhya Pradesh may have become the first indigenous people to get habitat rights in India after a century-long struggle, but these developments don't dwarf the challenge that lies in promotion and protection of indigenous people's rights.

Recognising their rights to forest areas and forest management practices is critical to understand their struggle for survival. Loss of forest cover, mining and the expansion of hybrid crops remain direct threats to food security of these people who count on forest resources and wild food. There's a need for scientific discourse on the impact of climate change on species that grow in the wild and are used by indigenous people living close to forests.

As legal loopholes, poor enforcement of existing safeguards, bureaucratic apathy and corporate neglect of human rights try to further isolate these indigenous people and muffle their voices, it is time we had a look at the encouraging and disturbing developments that took place over the last few years.

### Need for Inclusive development:

On the wake of globalisation, the need for inclusive development is the need of the hour. The paradigm of development is not perfect unless it maintains equality in standard of living of all sections of population of a country. Also it is essential to maintain equality of opportunity for all within the population of an economy. Equality in terms of opportunity, security, capability and access to the resources are the pillars of inclusive development

The basic requirement for the inclusive development of all sections of population includes skill development, empowerment of vulnerable, financial inclusion, economic growth and technological advancement.

### Challenges of Inclusive Development of Indigenous people.

Developmental indices of a population a lot of socio economic disparities essentially reflect a wide range of inequalities. In the context of demographic profile of Dakshina Kannada, the district consists of several castes and sub-castes, religious and linguistic communities with socioeconomic and cultural diversities. The educational and economic background of these diverse population differ significantly from one group to another. Any developmental policy or program requires to be very elastic in its implementation. Several challenges arise with regard to the question of developmental activities.

Clash of interest of different groups and conflicting interests of people is a big challenge for inclusive development. Development of infrastructure facilities requires removal of certain traditional buildings and religious restructures, which often confront with opposition by the people. Conversion of agricultural land for developmental purposes face certain legal complications. Traditional art and crafts which were the backbone of certain indigenous communities have long been disappeared, leading to the social, economic, and physical displacement of certain communities. With the coming of Mangalore Special Economic Zone, many of the indigenous groups experience worst effects of displacement.

Rehabilitation of the people who are subjected to physical displacement on account of infrastructural and industrial developments is a herculean task. The paucity of land for proper rehabilitation is a big issue. The Social displacements are indirect and invisible effects of developmental activities, for which there is no explicit solution. Skill development programmes for the benefit of indigenous people may be useful for their inclusion in development process. This requires starting of technical and vocational courses for the benefit of these groups. Regularisation of property rights, provision of employments as compensation for loss of property and financial assistance may help the indigenous people to become empowered. Construction of housing colonies and development of all season roads and other infrastructural facilities are useful measures for the inclusive development of indigenous groups in the growth process.

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Justice K S Hegde Institute of Management.

