

RESEARCH ARTICLE
DISPLACEMENT OF TRIBES AND ITS IMPACT ON THEIR SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN JHARKHAND

Dr. Samu Mahali

Associate Professor and Head HOD in Geography

Khejuri College, Baratala, Purba Medinipur (WB)

Pin- 721431, email-samumahali@rediffmail.com, mob-+919434015938

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Abstract:

The word displacement means the removal of something or people from its usual place or position by government which then occupies that place or position. Or displacement is the forcing of people away from the area or country where they live.

“Jharkhand” literally means ‘the land of forests’ or ‘land of Tribes’ came into existence as 28th state of the Indian union on 15th of November, 2000 after a long mass struggle, which took place in the 20th century for the realization of a beautiful dream of the Adivasi heroes – Tilka Manjhi, Sidhu-Kanhu and Birsa Munda. The dream was to form exploitation free, humane and just Jharkhand, where the Adivasis can practice their ownership rights over the natural resources, enjoy autonomy and rule themselves as earlier they used to. As per the Census 2001, their total population in the state is 70,87,068 including 35,65,960 male and 35,21,108 female, which consists 26.3% of the total population (26,945,829) of the state though they were more than 50 percent before the independence of India. The growth of the Adivasi population is steadily declining. It was 17.3 per cent in 2001, which is lower by 6 per cent if compared with the growth (23.3 per cent) in 1991. The state has a total of thirty two (32) sub-communities of the Adivasis. Among them Santal, Oraon, Munda, Ho and Kharia are the major Adivasi groups in the state. The major Adivasi populations (91.7 percent) reside in villages and merely 8.3 percent have shifted to the urban areas. The rapid industrialization is one of the major reasons for population declination of the Adivasis. Jharkhand is witness of unending struggle for mineral resources as the state contains 40 percent. But the Adivasis are not convinced with the ideas as 91.7 percent of them still rely on agriculture, forest produces and livestock for their survival. They protest against displacement. As a result, 3 criminal cases were registered against 1025 anti-displacement activists under the sections 307, 147, 148, 149, 323, 341, 342, 427, 506 of IPC and 9 of them were arrested but some of them were released after a huge people's protest. But the leader of Jharkhand Ulgulan Manch, Munni Hansada was kept in Jail for six months. The fundamental question is why Adivasis do not want to give their land for the development projects, which can provide them jobs? The instant answer can be found in the history of pains and sufferings of the displaced people, which suggests that after the independence, 17,10,787 people were displaced while acquiring 24,15,698 acres of their lands for setting up the Power Plants, Irrigation Projects, Mining Companies, Steel Industries and other development projects in Jharkhand. In every project approximately 80 to 90 percent Adivasis and local people were displaced but merely 25 percent of them were halfway rehabilitated and no one has any idea about the rest 75 percent displaced people. The benefits of these development projects

were highly enjoyed by the Landlords, Project Officers, Engineers, Contractors, Bureaucrats, Politicians and outsiders, and those who sacrificed everything for the sake of the “development” are struggling for their survival. Secondly, the people were betrayed in the name of rehabilitation, compensation and jobs. The promises were not fulfilled and the jobs were given to the outsiders. In the present era, the technologies are mostly used in the companies therefore job opportunities and job security have declined the corporate. For example, when the Tata steel was producing 1 Mt steel, the work force was 70,000 in 1995. The growth of the Tata steel went up to 7 Mt in 2008 but the workforce declined to 20,000. Similarly, in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi there were 23,000 employees at the beginning but it declined to 3000 in 2009. The Job insecurity can be learnt from the Mittal Company, which is said to provide 1 lakh, jobs to the people. Presently, the company operates in 60 countries and it has plants in 20 countries but the company has been suffering from the economic crisis since 2008. The demand of company’s steel went down to 10 percent. Consequently, the company cut the production in Canada by 45 percent and axed 9,000 employees. It also cut the job of 1000 employees in lowest cost plant in Poland and shut one out of its two blast furnaces in west Belgium. The company had total workforces of 3, 26,000 which was cut down to 3, 15,867 as a result 10,133 people lost their jobs. The present status shows that the company is totally failure in protection of its employees’ rights therefore 2000 employees had attacked the company’s headquarter at Lubzumburge. In these circumstances, how can people believe on the propaganda of providing job to the affected people? Printer-Friendly Page 4 of 6 <http://www.countercurrents.org/print.html> 8/5/2009 Thirdly, In fact the Adivasis had the ownership rights to the natural resources and they judiciously used these resources for their survival. But soon after the East India Company entered into the territory, the Britishers realized the enormous commercial potential of India’s natural resources and systematically went about acquiring control over it. In 1793 the “Permanent Settlement Act” was passed, which affected the socio-economic and cultural life of the Adivasis, and their lands slipped into the hands of the Zamindars (landlords). In 1855, the government declared the forests as the government property and the individuals have not right and claim over it. In 1865 the first Forest Act came into force, an avalanche of regulations followed this act. Wherever a loophole was detected in the existing laws a new law would be passed. After the independence, when Indians took over the driving sit they also followed the Britishers’ foot steps. The rights over natural resources of the Adivasi were snatched away through the various legislations. The government of India accepts through the Forest Rights Act 2006 that the historical injustice was done on the Adivasi community. Fourthly, there are numerous laws made for protection of the Adivasis’ rights but these laws were never enacted honestly. The Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act 1908 and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act 1949 prohibit the sale and transfer of Adivasi land to non-Adivasi but the land were illegally snatched away from them. In 1969, the Bihar Scheduled Areas Regulation Act was enforced for prevention and legalization of illegal land transfer and of Adivasis. A special Area Regulation Court was established and the Deputy Commissioner was given special right regarding the sell and transfer of Adivasis land. When the special court started function, a huge number of cases were registered. According to the government’s report, 60,464 cases regarding 85,777.22 acres of illegal transfer of land were registered till 2001-2002. Out of these 34,608 cases of 46,797.36 acres of land were considered for hearing and rest 25,856 cases related to 38,979.86 acres of land were dismissed. But after the hearing merely 21,445 cases regarding 29,829.7 acres of lands were given possession to the original holders and rest remains with the non-Adivasis. Further more 2608 cases of illegal land transfer were registered in 2003-2004, 2657 cases in 2004-2005, 3230 cases in 2005-2006, 3789 cases in 2006-2007 and 5382 cases in 2007-2008, which clearly indicates that the cases of

illegal land alienation is increasing rapidly. According to the Annual Report 2004-2005 of the Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India, Jharkhand topped the list of Adivasi land alienation in India with 86,291 cases involving 10,48,93 acres of land. Similarly, the constitutional rights, provisions for the sixth scheduled Areas and the Extension of Panchayat Act 1996 were never been implemented with the true spirit in the state. The ruling elites always misused these laws for their benefits. Fifthly, the government of India was unable to bring a law for the rehabilitation of the affected people even after the 62 years of independence but legislation for the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was passed immediately. Similarly, when the Jharkhand state was created the first chief minister, Babula Marandi brought the Industrial Policy but at the same time, the same government was unable to make a rehabilitation policy. This is why the intention of the state was always questioned and the people are resisting against displacement everywhere. The people were displaced from one place to another in the name of development but they were not rehabilitated. Hence they feel that they were betrayed in the welfare state in the name of “development” and “national interest”. Therefore now Adivasis believe that they can protect their land only through the mass struggle. Finally, one should understand that the displacement is not just shifting people from one place to another but it is destruction of their livelihood resources, culture and identity which they develop by nourishing for the ages. The life cycle of the Adivasis is based on the natural resources therefore their co-existence with the nature cannot be questioned. Hence, it is need of the hour to rethink on the present development model. The unjust development process cannot be carried on as the Adivasis also have similar rights to life with dignity, freedom and equality guaranteed by the constitution of India. The Adivasis have lost their faith in the state machinery, constitutional authorities and judiciary therefore they have firmly decided not to allow laying down the foundation of corporate development model over their graves. Printer-Friendly Page 5 of 6 <http://www.countercurrents.org/print.html> 8/5/2009 Gladson Dungdung is a Human Rights Activist and Writer based at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Data shows displacement people and their landed property:

Years	Landed Property acquired by different company	No.of displacement people	Others
2005	25000 acre land acquired by Tata,Mittle company at Tata	58900	
11 th Sept.2008	1200 acre acre land acquired by Bhshan steel company	3900	
1 st Oct.,2008	3000 acre land acquired by Kohinoor steel plant company at Tata.	4000	
Dec., 2008	3000 acre land acquired by Green field steel plant company at Tata.	5000	
2009-2012	Koil-Karo Dam	256 villages	

Source: Printer-Friendly Page 5 of 6 <http://www.countercurrents.org/print.html> 8/5/2009 Gladson Dungdung is a Human Rights Activist and Writer based at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Materials and Methods:

Regarding the subject matter of the article various books of scholars and research scholars have been consulted. Materials and data has also been collected from the concerning institute and offices like Tata company, HCL (Hindustan Copper Limited) library, GM (General Manager) office, BDO, Dumuria, NGO-Marsal club Chhamraghutu and others NGOs of locality's of the information has also been collected from local old people and extreme care has been taken to be objective in approach.

Location of study area:



Case study of farmers, numbers cattle, cultivated land and cultivated crops before displacement in Jharkhand.

Sl.No.	Area of Cultivated land (in acre)	Crops Cultivating/Fishing	No. cow/buffalo of farmers
O1	18	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fish,	2 buffalos, 4 cows

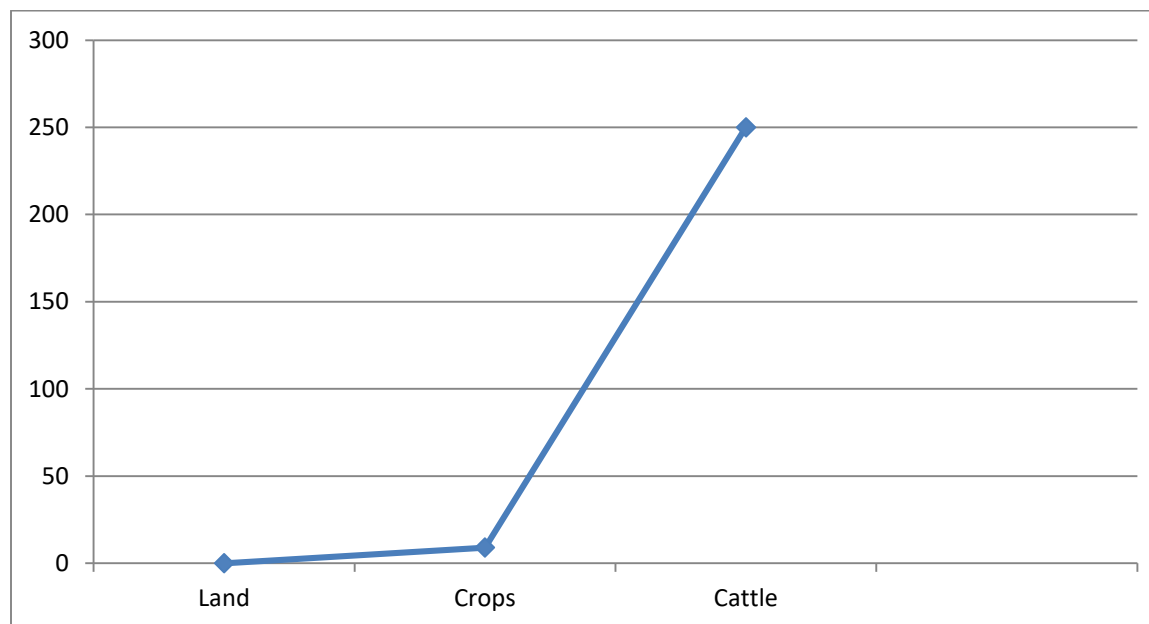
02	04	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fish,	2 cows
03	05	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fish,	2 buffalos, 4 cows
04	04	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fish,	2 cows
05	02	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
06	02	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
07	02	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
08	02	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
09	02	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
10	02	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
11	15	Paddy and Gram	02cows
12	15	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
13	03	Paddy and Gram	02 cows
14	12	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	04 cows
15	02	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fish,s,	02
16	02	Paddy	02
17	02	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fish,s,	02
18	02	paddy	02
19	02	paddy	02
20	04	paddy	02 buffalos
21	03	paddy	02 cows
22	04	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	02
23	10	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	02 cows
24	02	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	02
25	02	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	02
26	02	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	03
27	02	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	07
27	02	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	03
28	02	Paddy ,grams, pigeon pea	03
29	02	Paddy	02
30	05	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	04

31	02	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower	02
32	04	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	06
33	02	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower	02
34	02	Paddy, Wheat	02
35	15	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	04
36	15	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	04 (cows) and 02 Buffalows
37	25	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	42 Cows and 06 Buffalows
38	15	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	40 Cows and 04 Buffalows
39	03	Paddy	02cows
40	04	Paddy, mastered oil,tomato	02
41	10	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	12 cows and 02 buffalws
42	16	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, 4 cows	04 cows and 04 buffalows
43	10	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram	04 cows and 04 cows
44	02	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram	02cows
45	02	paddy	02cows
46	02	paddy	02cows
47	15	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean,gram	06c0ws and 04 buffalows
48	03	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean,gram	02cows
49	12	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean,gram	04coww and 04buffalows

50	04	Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, gram	02cows
Total	301	Number of crops =09	258

(Ref- Mahali S,2013,Social and Cultural Geography , ACB publication Kolkata.)

Linear graph showing the land use, cattle and crops Status before displacement (1901-1940)



Impact of displacement on farmers, numbers cattle, and cultivated land after independence

Sl.No.	Name of marginal farmers	Area of Cultivated land (in acre)	Crops Cultivating/Fishing	No. cow/buffalo of farmers
01	Let -Aklu Baskey	18	Paddy and fish	
02	Let -Fagunath Baskey	04	NCL	
03	Let- Kandra Baskey	05	Paddy	
04	Let - maisa Baskey	04	NCL	
05	Let- Kushal Baskey	02	NCL	
06	Let -Chadra Baskey	02	NCL	
07	Let -Chaitan Baskey	02	NCL	

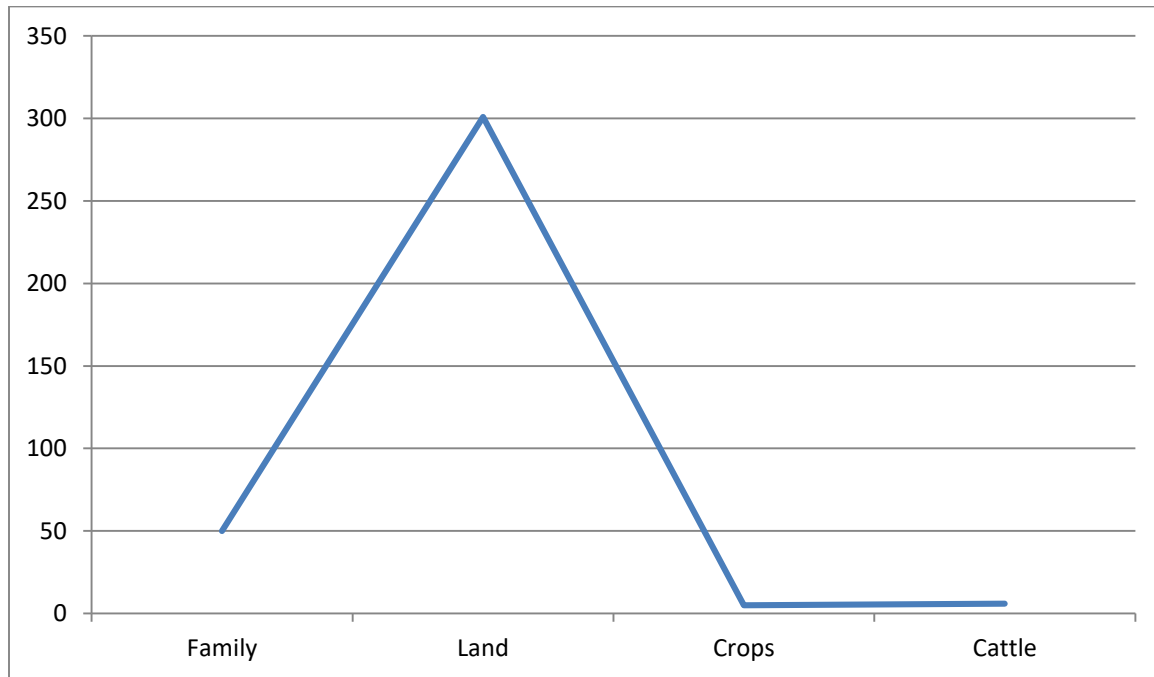
08	Let-Chandrai Baskey	02	NCL	
09	Let -Pukan Baskey	02	NCL	
10	Let -Mokar Baskey	02	NCL	
11	Let Jharak/Kanhai Lal Soren	15	NCL	
12	Let- Dukhu Soren	15	NCL	
13	Mr. Ramsing Soren	03	NCL	
14	Let- Ghasia Soren	12	NCL	
15	Let -Mathu Soren	02	NCL	
16	Let -Chakai Soren	02	NCL	
17	Let Aklu Mardi	02	NCL	
18	Let –Kushal Mardi	02	NCL	
19	Let -Poko Mardi	02	NCL	
20	Let -Tumba Mardi	04	NCL	
21	Let- Pagla Mardi	03	NCL	
22	Mr. Kala Murmu	04	paddy	02cows
23	Mr. Shakra Murmu	10	NCL	
24	Mr.Suklal Beshra	02	NCL	
25	Pagla Murmu	02	NCL	
26	Tibu Murmu	02	NCL	
27	Aklu Mandi	02	NCL	
27	Kushal Murmu	02	NCL	
28	Kala Murmu	02	NCL	
29	Jitu Murmu	02	NCL	
30	Let- Ishwar Mardi	05	NCL	
31	Let-Tumba Mardi	02	NCL	
32	Let-Ghashia Beshra	04	Paddy, WheatTomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes,	02cows
33	Let-Gumda Mardi	02	NCL	
34	Let-Suru Mardi	02	NCL	

35	Let- Dukhu Soren	15	NCL	
36	Let Jharak Soren	15	NCL	
37	Let -Madhu Hembram	25	Paddy, Wheat, , Tomato, Gram, Fishes,	02 Cows
38			NCL	
39			NCL	
40			NCL	
41			NCL	
42	Let-Huah Beshra	16	NCL	
43	Let-Ramo Beshra	10	NCL	
44	Let- Lakhan Beshra	02	NCL	
45	Let-Bagai Soren	02	NCL	
46	Let-Charan Beshra	02	NCL	
47	Let-Let-Goda Beshra	15	NCL	
48	Let- Mora Hembram	03	NCL	
49	Let-Fakuh Hembram	12	NCL	
50	Let-Dula Mardi	04	NCL	

(Ref- Mahali S,2013,Social and Cultural Geography , ACB publication Kolkata.)

(NCL= No Cultivated land)

**Linear graph showing land use, numbers of cattle and crops status of
Study area after displacement (after 1947).**



After the comparison of both data we may conclude, following impacts introduced among tribes which are seen in the tribal agricultural system in the study area:

1. Number of cows, buffalos and others cattle are decreases after 1947.
2. Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, etc cultivation are stopped.
3. Cultivated area is decreases.
4. Cultivated land is becoming fellow land.
5. People /Farmers are depended on imported rice and wheat and others edible things.
6. Farmers are using chemical fertilizer and pesticide which caused the un sustainable.
7. Abolition of Indigenous fertilizer/manure from the tribal society.
8. Erosion of traditional/indigenous crops and cultivation system.
9. Increase of soil pH in the area and destruction of earthworm from the land.

10. Erosion of subsistence agriculture/tribal agricultural system among the tribes.
11. Increasing rate of migration of local farmers from their native place.
12. Decrease of life expectancy rate of local people.
13. Decreasing rate of per capita income.

Above mentioned problems may be solved through following ways:

1. Number cows, buffalos and others cattle should be increase for cultivation and milk purposes
2. Paddy, Wheat, Mastered oil, sun flower, Bringal, Tomato, Bean, Gram, Fishes, etc cultivation are to be continued.
3. Cultivated area is to be developed.
4. Fellow land is to be developed as the cultivated land, agro forestry, social forestry, fishing, settlement and garden area.
5. People /Farmers have to self dependent
6. Farmers should check the using chemical fertilizer and pesticide. They must use cow dung, manure, compost and others Indigenous /traditional fertilizer.
7. Indigenous fertilizer/manure should use for cultivation.
- 8 Traditional/indigenous crops of paddy like dudheshwar,sitasal,chingri chopra,bhutia,lakshman sal etc.should cultivated.
- 9 Soil of in the landed property should be controlled by the use of cow dung, manure, compost and others Indigenous /traditional fertilizer.
10. Subsistence agriculture/tribal agricultural system should continue for tribal land use /tribal land ownership system among the tribes.
- 11 Rate of migration should be minimizing of local farmers from their native place.
12. Life expectancy rate of local people should be increased.
13. Increase of per capita income of local people.

Impact of Displacement on Tribal Society in Jharkhand:

1. Destruction or erosion of Tribal agricultural environment.
2. They have own genetically land ownership, seeds, pesticides, fertilizer, agricultural processes, agricultural instruments, agricultural by products and irrigation etc but displacement will destroy all system.
3. Destruction of Indigenous fishes, herbs, seeds (paddy),fertilizer are eroded and whole agricultural land of this area are converted as unfertile and fellow land due to miss use of chemical disposal, pesticide and fertilizer.
4. Marginal farmers have sold their bullock cart, wooden tiller, bullock cart and traditional equipments. After the displacement recent types of equipment are introduced for tilling and harvesting in the field of agriculture.
5. Genetically male generation hold the land ownership of paternal properties. Female generation has no right on land properties. They are nominally holding the properties at the house of father's in-law, if she takes birth male child. In case of unmarried girl, she may only use her landed properties till her death. (Ref- Mahali.S,Ph. D Thesis,page-204,2014)
6. Rice "Oriza Sativa", Wheat "Triticum Aestivum Linn",Tea "Thea Sinerinis", Corn, "Zea mays", Maize, Gram, Mustard, "Brassica campestris", Ground nut, Sugar cane, Mango,"Mangifera indica" Mahua and Jamun etc were the indigenous crops but after green revolution new high yielding variety seeds are introduced.Lakshman sal,Sita Sal,Basmoti,Dudheshwar,Bhutiya etc paddy seeds are about to abolish from the country. Tulsi, "Ocimum Sanctum", Cow dung, Compost, Nimleaf, "Azaadirachta indica" and Trifala fruits and leaf.
7. To control the soil pH they use Ash, Cow dung, Mud and Herbs will be vanished.
8. Land use pattern in Urban Areas will be changed.
9. After independence Government policies are also changed. Tribal displacement continuously happened as a result they lose their traditional medicine for paddy plants. Those are Neem leaf, Kargale leaf, Lupung leaf, Mohua Manure and compost use has also decreased (Whittlesey, D, 1936:89-119)
10. Dishonor of Tribal forefathers Land i.e land of Birsa Munda and Sidu- Kanhu.

11. Abolition/ Destruction of Tribalism.

Conclusion:-

Displacement of Tribal people and changing of land ownership is major challenge for the Indian Tribal society. Abolition of tribal land use pattern, Majhipargana, Marriage system, own title, Traditional land use pattern, Use of traditional pesticide and fertilizer, Musical instruments, Communal(Paternal) Land Ownership and their traditional dances etc are decaying from the society due to lost of their landed property or displacement. Adibasi, NGOs and their society are experimenting with numerous methods to check the erosion of society but still it is continued. So Government should implement such types of plan/ project to continue the Tribalism in Scheduled area and Tribal area in India.

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