

## **Impact of Industrialisation and Mining on Occupational Structure of Tribes in Singhbhum Region**

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### **Abstract**

Industrial concentrations are regarded as the poles of growth which brings regional development. It is assumed that industrialisation together with mining eradicates poverty is a myth in some states of India. The situation is almost different in states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Most of the mineral graced states are not as much developed as the other states not having very giant industrial clusters and mineral excavations. Further the development should all sections of population within its influence zone. It should influence tribes as well as rural masses. In this study an attempt has been made to examine the influence of industrialisation and mining on tribes. Singhbhum region of Jharkhand has been selected for this purpose. Singhbhum region of Jharkhand is one of the most significant industrial and mining region of India. The main objective behind this investigation is to know the influence of mining and industrialization on occupational structure of tribes in Singhbhum region. An attempt has been made to study the presence of tribes in various occupations such as industry, mining, food processing industries etc. This study is mainly based on primary data. Though secondary sources of information has also been used for having basic knowledge of the area. Primary data were collected from the three selected areas of Ghatsila division in East Singhbhum region of Jharkhand. The tribes dominated pockets, Jharia, Ichra and Ullidih of Ghatsila division of Singhbhum region are selected for data collection purposes.

**Keywords:** *occupation, tribes, industrialisation, development.*

### **Introduction**

Industrialisation and mining are important parameters of development. Industrial concentrations are regarded as the poles of growth which brings regional development. It is assumed that where there is industrialization there is development and where there is concentration of heavy or basic industries there would be mining and excavations. It is also

assumed that industrialisation together with mining brings regional development. But it is not so in some states of India. The situation is almost different in states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. It is found that most of the mineral rich states are not as much developed as the other states. The states with heavy industries and high degree of mineral excavations are comparatively less developed. Further, development includes almost all sections of population found within its influence zone. It should include even the people of last row in the society. It should be beneficial for tribes as well as the rural masses.

In this study an attempt has been made to examine the influence of industrialisation and mining on tribes. Singhbhum region of Jharkhand has been selected for this study. Singhbhum region of Jharkhand is one of the most significant industrial and mining region of India. Industrial clusters and mining centers are found in Jamshedpur, Gamharia, Adityapur, Musabani, Jaduguda and Narwa mines. Apart from these the region has almost one-third population composed of tribes. The tribes are exclusively local population while there are large proportion of population immigrated from West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Tamil Nadu etc. In this study tribes population is selected because they are local folk and not immigrated from outside.

### **Study Area:**

East Singhbhum is situated at the extreme corner of the south-east of Jharkhand. The East Singhbhum is surrounded by West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand in west, Purulia district of West Bengal in north, Mayurbhanj district of Orissa in south and Midnapur district of West Bengal in east. The district has about 2.3 million population as per the census of 2011 which includes 28.5 percent population of tribes. About 51 percent of the district population live in urban areas. The East Singhbhum district is divided into two divisions such as *Dhalbhumgarh* and *Ghatsila*. The sample areas selected for data collection purposes are from Ghatsila as this is more industrialised sub-division of the district as well as in whole of Singhbhum region. The selected sample regions are *Jharia*, *Ichra* and *Ullidih*. These pockets are dominated by the tribes.

### **Objectives of study:**

This research work is to find out the truth which is not apparent and which has not been investigated as yet. The idea behind this investigation is to know influence of mining and industrialization on the social and economic conditions of tribes in Singhbhum region. The main objective of this study is to enquire about the influences of industries and mining in providing employment opportunities to the tribes in the region. This study will examine the presence of tribes in different sectors of economy such as industry, mining, services etc.

### **Data and Methodology:**

This study is mainly based on primary data. Though secondary sources of information has also been consulted for having basic knowledge of the area. Primary data were collected from the three selected areas of Ghatsila sub-division. These areas were selected on random basis. For

the collection of data ten graduate persons were interviewed, twenty questionnaire of relevant questions were filled from each sample area selected for survey. Apart from above headman (*mukhiya*) of sample areas were interviewed for each area. The collected data were processed and then converted into percent form. Secondary data regarding population of tribes and their traditional occupation were obtained from the district census reports.

### **Discussion and Analysis:**

The study area of this research is Singhbhum region of *Chota Nagpur Plateau* which is an important mining and industrial hub of India. Ghatsila division is an intensely used area of the region from where three pockets are selected. These three sample areas selected for study purpose are *Jharia, Ullidih and Ichra*, a detailed discussion about the occupation structure of the population is done below.

#### **1- JHARIA – Sample Study Area:**

Jharia is another area of study found near Asanbani region. This is a village under Ghatsila police station. Basically Jharia is a village surrounded by Dhovni in north-west and Kogda in north. The village Jharia is well connected with block head quarter Ghatsila by concrete road. Concrete road and non-metal roads make Jharia accessible. The nature of Jharia is still village like. This village is mainly dominated tribal population. The village Jharia is a small village having 1089 population. There are about 200 household in the village. Total population of the village is comprised of tribes mostly engaged in agricultural activities.

#### **Occupational Structure:**

Jharia people mostly earn their livelihood from primary economic activities like agriculture, fishing and lumbering. These are 755 people involved in agricultural practices which constituted population. Apart from agriculture people engaged in mining activities is 12 percent of the total. These 12 percent workers are mostly working in coal mines of the district people of Jharia working in industries are only 3 Percent. These industrial workers are mostly labour class or fourth grade workers employed in Tata Steel and oil mills. People of Jharia are also engaged in other miscellaneous activities like food processing, household industries services, business and trade but the proposition of population engaged in these activities are very less. They hardly constitute 5 percent of the total population (Table-1).

**Analysis:** Over all standard of living is rural in nature. Living condition of Jharia people are low-middle class people. Literacy rate is above 60 percent. But educational level is low. Still people are far from higher education. Most of the educated people are middle school educated. Due to the low level of education economic activities are less profitable. Women's are largely engaged in domestic activities or lumbering and agriculture. From the point of industrial and mining employment, they still lag far behind the level of satisfaction. As has already been pointed out, that tribes of Jharia are 12 percent in mining and 3 percent in industrial activities. These miners rarely in supervisor grade and mostly in daily wagger grade. Thus the average living conditions of people in the village are not satisfactory. Observation show that one fourth

of the total population is still living below poverty line. They are under nutrition and running in food insecurity. Many people of Jharia do not avail modern medical faculties.

## **2-ICHRA – Sample Study Area:**

Ichra is one of the villages selected for sample study. The village is found in *Mahulia* region under Ghatsila. The village is a small area bounded by river *Gurra* in north and east. Ichra is surrounded by *Dukru* in north *Mechna* in west and *Swaspur* in east. The village is well connected with metal road running between *Chaibasa* and *Mednipur*. The total population of the village is 3220 which is completely a tribal population pocket.

### **Occupational Structure:**

There are about 400 households and hamlets. Out of 3220 people in the village only 255 people are earning men on a regular basis in the village. Large numbers of tribes are engaged in agriculture and lumbering activities on seasonal or marginal basis. Over two third of the total tribal people (2274 person) are engaged in this marginal or vocational activities. So far as the employment of these tribes in mining and industries are concerned, they are less than 2 percent (56' person) and more than 2 percent (69 person) working in mines and industries respectively. People of Ichra engaged in lumbering outnumber the mining and industrial employees. Apart from mining and industrial activities almost 5 percent people work for business, trade and services activities. Less than 1 percent people are found engage in food processing and household industries (Table-1).

**Analysis:** A keen observation show that Ichra settlement is an under developed village. This village lack in various amenities and facilities. Due to distance from main industrial and urban centres the village is still under developed. Tribes still are living in substandard style. Over all working people is less than 20 percent of the total population. There tribes are merely literate which account half of the total population. Less than 10 percent people are high school educated. Greater percent of tribes are un-employed, or seasonal and marginal farmers, labourers, lumbers and fisherman. Living conditions of Ichra people are very poor. About two-third of people are living below poverty line. Many of them are pray of malnutrition and unaware of the health facilities. They spent their lives mostly based on irregular economic activities.

## **3-ULLIDIH – Sample Study Area:**

Ullidih is another area selected for sample study. Area is known as the ward no. 1 and also called with the name of Ullidih. The *Ullidih* come under Ghatsila revenue block. The area is well served by district roads. Further the whole settlement is connected by lanes and by lanes. These lanes are sometimes connected with *Kachcha* roads or streets.

### **Occupational Structure:**

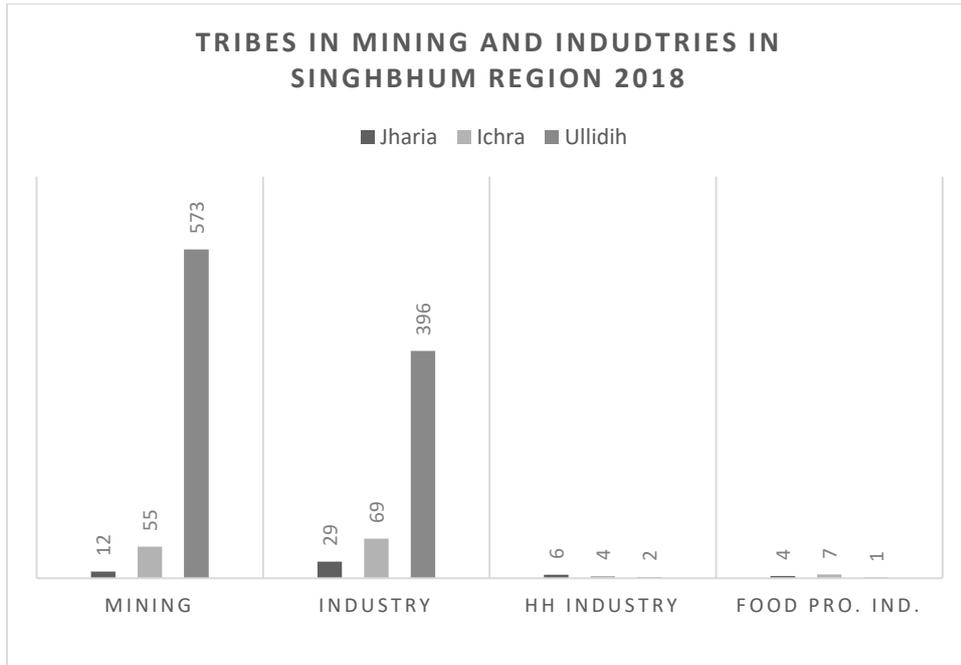
The total population of Ullidih is 4410 out of these 748 persons are tribes among these 210 people of tribes are doing agriculture which is about 25 percent (one fourth) of the total population. There are only 13 percent people engaged in mining and querying while 01 percent

tribes of Ullidih are associated with small scale industries. Great proportions of tribes in Ullidih are non-worker’s and marginal workers. In Ullidih 8 percent people are lumbers and gatherers. Rests of the tribes are unemployed (Table-1).

**Analysis:** Tribes of Ullidih are also aware of modernization change in the life style of tribes are seen but the level of standard is below satisfaction. In general only one fourth of tribes are benefited from the manufacturing and mining activities in the East Singhbhum district. It is observed that greater half of tribes are still living below poverty line. It is deplorable conditions. Almost one fourth children are away from the schools many of them are under nutrition. Great numbers of women folk are engaged in lumbering, gathering, animal rearing etc.

Apart from above new generation in aware of education and health facilities. Now the children are attending schools. Foods provided by schools to its children attracted tribal students greatly. Through the percent of people engaged in mining and manufacturing are low in Ullidih but the awareness has generated the waves of change. Over two-third of people adopted urban style of living. Their languages and dressing patterns have been changing certainly it will take few more decades but the waves of modernization are experienced in Ullidih.

<b>Table-1</b>				
<b>OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTRE OF SAMPLE AREAS</b>				
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>SCHEDULED TRIBES</b>	<b>JHARIA</b>	<b>ICHRA</b>	<b>ULIDIH</b>
1	Total Population	1089	3200	4410
2	ST Population	1089	3200	1102
3	ST in Agriculture	755	2274	748
6	ST in Lumbering	80	85	397
4	ST in Mining	12	55	573
5	ST in Industry	29	69	396
7	House Hold Industry	06	04	02
8	Food Processing Industries.	04	07	1
Source: Primary and District census reports, govt. of India				



*Figure 1*

**Conclusion and findings:**

It is apparent from above discussion that the tribes are mainly engaged in traditional activities such as agriculture and lumbering. They are practicing traditional occupation of farming for their survival, though some of them are producing vegetables for the market. Lumbering is second ranking occupation of the tribes in Ghatsila and Singhbhum region which has engaged about 10 percent of the agrarian mass. The tribes in mining and industrial activities are less than 08 percent in almost all areas under study. It is also clear from the study that their presence in House Hold (H. H.) industries and Food Processing industries are almost negligible, and it have been observed throughout the study and in all selected areas of study. It is found true in this study the states with heavy industries and high degree of mineral excavations are comparatively less developed. Further it has been observed that mineral excavation and heavy industrialisation have not included the weaker sections of population such as tribes and rural masses. Thus it is true that most of the mineral graved states are not as much developed as the other states in India.

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