

Name - **Esha Ghosh**

Name of Supervisor- **Prof Zubair Meenai**

Name of Department- **Department of Social Work**

Title of theses- **Impact of Displacement on Indigenous People: A Case Study of the Oraon Tribe of Rourkela**

### **Abstract**

In this globalization era as the indigenous people are organizing and comparing their socio-political relations with dominant elites in terms of their habitation as survivors, these new alliances are producing new forms of indigeneity that influence existing relations, including claims to sovereignty, the land and social justice issues. Though with regards to social work there has been a long history of the profession's response to the plight of tribes, especially from Gandhian perspective, efforts should be made to analyze the tribe-State interaction in the light of globalization wherein the erstwhile communities living in isolation and insulated from economic and social influences of the larger societies are now brought face to face with alien cultures. This research tries to study the impact of displacement on the Oraon tribe of Rourkela, Odisha who were displaced during the 1950s to make way for the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). The specific objectives of the research are the following

- To study the dynamics of displacement as a result of development projects, with reference to the RSP.
- To study the impact of displacement on the social, cultural and economic condition of the displaced Oraon tribals in the RSP area.
- To study the role of Civil Society during and after rehabilitation.
- To propose suitable rehabilitation and resettlement strategies for displaced persons.

The study has adopted a case study method and have utilized both quantitative and qualitative data has been used extensively. In order to study the various economic groups among the displaced Oraons data was collected through structured interviews and focus group discussions from five different areas which represented various degrees of globalization. These included the Oraon residents of various residential sectors within Rourkela, an urban and a semi-urban resettlement colony, a partially displaced village within Rourkela and a remote reclamation camp. The sample was further divided into respondents who were above 60 years of age and those below it. This was done in order to do a comparison of pre and post displacement scenario which took place during the 1950s and 60s. The total sample size was 300 with 40 respondents above 60 years and 260 below. The findings of the study revealed decline in the popularity of mother-tongue, traditional folklores and Oraon handicraft items in the urban areas. On the other hand trends of revivalism and reformation regarding religion and language was observed among the most urbanized group in the sample.

There was improvement in the educational status of women in all the areas, though their participation in income generating activities had decreased with rise in urbanization. The impact of displacement and industrialization has thrown mixed results. Through policy measures and participatory development it will be possible to strike a balance between availing the benefits of globalization and ensuring social justice to people.