

**1. DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT ON TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN ODISHA. SUGGEST MEASURES TO BALANCE DEVELOPMENT WITH TRIBAL WELFARE.**

**Introduction**

Odisha, with its rich mineral resources and tribal population constituting 22.85% of its total population, has witnessed significant industrial and infrastructure projects. However, these projects have often led to displacement of tribal communities, disrupting their livelihoods, culture, and socio-economic stability. Balancing development with tribal welfare remains a critical challenge for the state.

**Body**

**1. Impact of Development-Induced Displacement:**

○ **Loss of Livelihoods:**

- Tribal communities, primarily dependent on agriculture and forests, face economic marginalization due to loss of land and access to forest resources.
- Example: The Vedanta mining project in Niyamgiri Hills threatened the Dongria Kondh tribe's subsistence farming.

○ **Cultural Erosion:**

- Forced relocation disrupts tribal customs, traditions, and social structures.
- Case Study: The displacement of the Juang tribe in Keonjhar district led to the gradual loss of their indigenous knowledge systems.

○ **Socio-Economic Marginalization:**

- Displacement often forces tribal communities into urban slums or labor markets, where they lack skills and face exploitation.
- Example: Migrant labor from displaced communities in Jharsuguda often works under precarious conditions.

○ **Psychological Stress:**

- Displacement leads to alienation, loss of identity, and mental health challenges.
- Example: The displacement of tribal families for the Hirakud Dam project led to long-term socio-psychological issues among affected groups.

○ **Conflict and Resistance:**

- Displacement often sparks protests and resistance movements, creating tensions between communities and the state.
- Case Study: Anti-POSCO protests in Odisha highlighted tribal opposition to displacement for industrial projects.

**2. Challenges in Rehabilitation and Resettlement:**

○ **Inadequate Compensation:**

- Compensation often fails to reflect the economic and emotional value of land.

○ **Poor Implementation of Policies:**

- Laws like the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act, 2013, are inadequately enforced.

○ **Lack of Alternative Livelihoods:**

- Vocational training and employment opportunities are rarely provided as part of resettlement packages.

**3. Measures to Balance Development with Tribal Welfare:**

○ **Inclusive Planning:**

- Involve tribal communities in decision-making processes for development projects.
- Example: Conducting Gram Sabha consultations before land acquisition.

○ **Strengthen Legal Protections:**

- Strict enforcement of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, to ensure land ownership rights.
- Case Study: Supreme Court ruling in favor of the Dongria Kondh tribe halted mining in Niyamgiri Hills.
- **Sustainable Development Models:**
  - Adopt eco-friendly and community-centered development approaches that minimize displacement.
- **Improved Compensation and Rehabilitation:**
  - Ensure adequate compensation, alternative land allocation, and vocational training for displaced communities.
  - Example: Comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy by the Odisha government for dam-affected families.
- **Preservation of Culture:**
  - Establish cultural preservation programs to document and support tribal traditions.
- **Employment and Skill Development:**
  - Provide job opportunities and skill training to integrate displaced tribes into the economy.

### Conclusion

Development-induced displacement remains a pressing issue for tribal communities in Odisha, posing a challenge to their socio-economic stability and cultural identity. While development is essential for economic progress, it must not come at the expense of tribal welfare. A people-centric approach, emphasizing inclusive planning, adequate compensation, and cultural preservation, is crucial to achieving sustainable and equitable development.

