

**Lingering Impact of reckless mining /industrialization
in Angul District on Dalit Segment of Population with
special reference to Talcher & Chhendipada Blocks
during 2000-2010: A Pilot Study**

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Acknowledgement

The present report is the outcome of about nine months of intensive exercise by Nari Surakshya Samiti in collaboration with OMAM (Odisha Mahila Adhikar Manch) and ODAM (Odisha Dalit Adhikar Manch). However the very idea of carrying out a study on the impact of mining and industrialization on Dalit population in Angul District of Odisha can be traced back to the project sanctioned by DCA (Dan Churched Aid), New Delhi in 2008 titled 'Rights for Dalit Communities'. I therefore express first of all a deep indebtedness on behalf of Nari Surakshya Samiti to Mr. Jerom De'Souza Programme Officer DCA for having enabled us to carry out the Study to its completion.

This study would not have come into fruition in its present form but for sustained guidance and active collaboration by such veteran social activists of Angul and long time advisors of NSS Mr. Sisir Tripathy, Mr. Basant Pradhan, Mr. Santosh Mohanty, Mr. Ranjit Pattanaik, Mr. Manas Jena and Mr. Sanjit Pattanaik.

Mr. Chaitanya Pradhan, a retired teacher and social activist of Talcher who extended his unstinted support to us for conducting Focus Group Discussions in selected places of Talcher Block deserves our sincere thanks too.

The house to house survey in the selected 14 villages/ hamlets in Talcher and Chhendipada Blocks of Angul district would not have yielded the desired results if a self-inspired band of activists in their respective localities would not have shown their sincere enthusiasm in mobilizing villagers to participate freely in the household survey and FGDs. Among them noteworthy are Mr. Bikal Naik of Danara- Gandhinagar, Mr. Ajay Behera of Brahmanbahali- Ambedkarnagar, Mr. Chaitanya Pradhan of Madanmohanpur, Mr. Binod Naik of Mallibandha in Gopalprasad, Mr. Maharga Naik of Bauligarh of Gopalprasad, Mr. Kelu Gochhayat of Rajjharan, Mr. Narendra Naik of Kusumpal in Gopalprasad and Mrs. Pratima Behera of Gandhinagar in Talcher .

Needless to say, this report has been greatly enriched by information collected from various Govt. agencies. We therefore express our sincere gratitude to such officials as Mr. Swadesh Biswal, Co-ordinator of Water & Sanitation, Mr. Udhav Majhi Revenue Officer (MCL) of District Collectorate Angul and Mr. Chaturbhuj Pradhan DWO (District Welfare Officer), Angul. NSS is also grateful to the Regional Office of Odisha State Pollution Control Board at Angul for their prompt sharing with us of whatever information available with them on Environment Impact Assessment and Public Hearing on some mining and industrial projects.

This report in its physical shape is the output of sustained team work in our organization NSS. I thank from core of my heart to my colleagues/ staffs Miss Swarnarani Garnaik, Miss Anjana Mahakud, Miss Pratima Dwivedy, Miss Malati Mahapatra, Miss Mamata Sahu, Mr. Suresh Naik and also above all Mrs. Sandhya Rani Mahapatra for their involvement in different phases of the study process right from formulation of questionnaires up to the type setting of the report.

I shall be failing in my duty, if I don't place on record my special thanks to Mr. Chitta Behera who has been a long time well wisher and advisor to NSS and is the Principal Investigator of the current study and Chief Editor of its report. I wish the readers of the report to come up with their re-actions and even criticisms, if there be any, towards its findings and recommendations.

Smita Rani Patnaik
Secretary
Nari Surakshya Samiti,
Angul, Dated 10th November 2010

A Note from the Principal Investigator-cum-Chief Editor of the Study

The Pilot Study on “Lingering impact of reckless mining/industrialization on the Dalit segment of population with special reference to Talcher and Chhendipada Blocks in Angul District, Orissa during 2000- 2010”, has been conducted in three phases; (1) Preparatory- during which the methodology and questionnaires to be used were finalized; (2) Survey of sample Households and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted in randomly selected clusters of Dalit habitation and (3) Collection of secondary data, compilation, analysis and preparation of the consolidated Report. While all the activities of the initial two phases were carried out by the staffs of NSS with collaboration and guidance from the veteran civil society leaders of the district, I happened to get associated and involved only in the last phase and took upon myself the burden of scanning the mass of primary and secondary data available though in an unwieldy form in to an integrated and presentable whole.

I do understand that due to the short duration of the study i.e. from March to the first week of November 2010 coupled with relative inexperience of the commissioned student surveyors, several quality considerations that are usually expected of a study of this kind had to be willy-nilly foregone. However, keeping in view the great curiosity, nay anxiety among the eco-watchers across the country and abroad as to how could Angul-Talcher area emerge as India’s severest hotspot of climate change in the record span of a decade only, I had to link the local phenomenon of accelerated pace of mining and industrialization to the feverish worldwide trends for fast augmentation in steel and aluminum production with the help of raw materials like iron ore and bauxite along with coal as a cheaper source of power, which are of course available abundantly in developing countries like India. This accelerated pace of mining and industrialization in Angul district was incidentally witnessed during the peak phase of globalization before the latter met its inevitable melt-down in mid September 2008.

Another important input that I labored to incorporate in to this study is to undertake a critical overview of various so called R & R policies found in place at national, state or sectoral level in order to drive home, basing upon the collected data, a simple but serious truth that none of such policies is either fool-proof in its construction or taken seriously by the Govt or corporate sector.

Before parting with this note I wish to reiterate the abiding faith that has informed the nuances of this report. While we can’t do away with the exploration and exploitation of cheaply available raw materials like coal, we can certainly minimize their adverse fallout on the geo-climating conditions on one hand and on the poor and marginalized segments of population like Dalits on the other.

I wish the intelligent readership to come up with their critique in respect of any omission or commission found in this report so to encourage NSS to undertake still bolder studies of this kind in years to come.

Angul
Dated: - 10.11.2010

Chitta Ranjan Behera

CHAPTER-1: Preliminaries

Past Activities by NSS related to mining and industrialization—A brief note

It is worthwhile to mention that the current pilot study on lingering impact of reckless mining and industrialisation on Dalit segment of Angul's population came as a logical sequel to the long background of involvement of NSS in activities on issues related to mining and industrialization in Angul and outside.

NSS has held several Workshops on forestry & agricultural development in mining affected areas of Orissa in the past. Of particular note is the Two-day Workshop on Women and Mining (displacement, agriculture & forestry) held at Saralia Bhawan, Angul on 29-30 Nov 2000. Besides 5 nos. of volunteers participated in two-day training programme on mining and displacement organized by OMAPAN at Dhenkanal on 13-14 Dec 2000.

Coming to the context proper of the current study, NSS had taken a serious note when Angul-Talcher area was declared as a climate change hotspot by the Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi as a fall-out of rapid growth of industries & mining in a small patch of Angul's coal belt. Realizing the gravity of the issue NSS started working towards its mitigation in various ways.

It needs to be mentioned that Talcher area for its immense scope for low-cost but extensive open-cast coal mining attracted different power projects for location in its periphery. As a result, about 8 nos. of power projects have already been launched and as of now as many as 11 MoUs have been signed for another 11 nos. of power projects. Needless to say, the industrial and mining activities in various areas exert a lot of adverse impact on the people and forests. Mining involves land acquisition & displacement, pollutes air and water of the localities and discharges toxic effluents like mercury, lead, silica and arsenic etc. to the water bodies and ultimately to the second largest river in Orissa, Brahmani. In downstream areas of river Brahmani the traditional fisher folk like Jhara, Girigiria & Bahania lost their livelihood as the toxic effluent wastes were released by the mining to the river. The toxic waste kills aquatic life. The thermal power projects consume away combustive coal and generate fly-ash and the projects require a lot of space too for the ash-pond. But sometimes the ash-pond creates problems for the people. The occasional whirl-winds result in breakage of ash-ponds, causing several, severe health hazards in the localities.

To counter the above ill-effects NSS undertook certain activities for public awareness through meetings and workshops in its operational areas, specifically on such themes as mining & development, mining & women and mining & Dalits. During last ten years NSS published a series of booklets too on rehabilitation & resettlement policies in Oriya. It participated in different meetings & workshops held at state, national & international levels & highlighted the issues related to mining/ industry in Angul-Talcher areas. It also joined in as a member of state

mining network i.e. OMAPAN & National level Mining Network, where the issues related to mining/industry of Angul District were presented by NSS.

It also needs to be mentioned that NSS being a women based organization and working on different issues related to women, it identified an important issue i.e. growing incidence of unwed motherhood in the areas of mining belt, as an inadvertent consequence of social disorder resulting from reckless mining and industrial activities. In fact a lot many critical social problems cropped up and one of them was the increasing incidence of unwed motherhood. NSS made a survey & prepared an inventory of such cases, which were subsequently submitted to the District Collector, Angul for necessary intervention in the matter. To be precise, NSS has undertaken the following major activities related to mining & industry in the last decade.

Table on Activities by NSS related to mining/ industrialisation in the decade 2000-2010

Sl no	Date	Programme	Venue	Participant
1	13 th - 14 th Dec 2000	Training	MITRA Organisation Dhenkanal	Smita Pattanaik Elabati Pradhan Khiroda Nayak Kuni Gochhayat Anjana Mahakud
2	7 th to 9 th August 2001	Workshop on Mining & Women	Madhya Pradesh (Pithora)	ELabati Pradhan Anjana Mahakud
3	13 th to 14 th Oct.2001	Workshop on Mining & Development	Talcher	People from the mining area, mobilized by NSS
4.	On the 25 th June 2002	Women & Mining	Visakhapatana	Smita Rani Pattnaik & Minakshi Panda
5.	2004-05	International Convention on Women & Mining	Visakhapatana	Smita Rani Pattnaik
6.	2004-05	State level Convention on Mining	Basita Memorial hall, Rourkela	Smita Pattnaik, Anjana Mahakud & Bijayalaxmi Rout
7.	26 th March 2005	Workshop on different issues on mining & its impact	Jamunali, Boinda	NSS staff, OMPALN activists & peoples from the mining area
8.	2007-08	Women & mining	NSS office, Angul	NSS staff, Social activists & PRI members
9.	20 th December 2009	Workshop on displacement. (Issues & impact on Dalit community)	DRDA conference hall, Angul	Social activists and mining affected people & MMP women cell activists New Delhi.

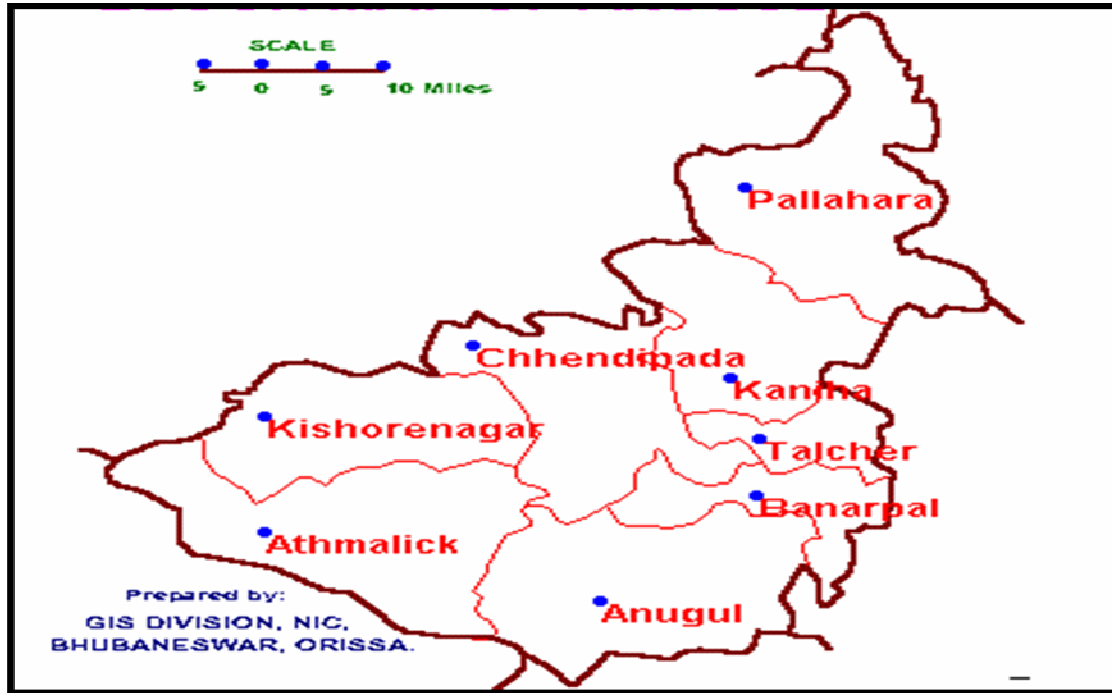
10.	11 th to 12 th February 2010	National level consultation on Women & Mining	Hotel Raj,Angul	Social activists from 6 States including Odisha working on Women and Mining issues
11.	22 nd -23 rd March 2010	National Consultation on Women & Mining	Visakhapatan a	Smita Pattnaik
12.	30 th March 2010	Consultation on issues related to mining & its impact	Hotel Durga, Angul	Smita Pattnaik, Swarna Garhnaik, Pratima Dwibedi, Suresh Nayak & Malati Mohapatra

MAP OF ODISHA

Showing 30 Districts of Orissa including Angul



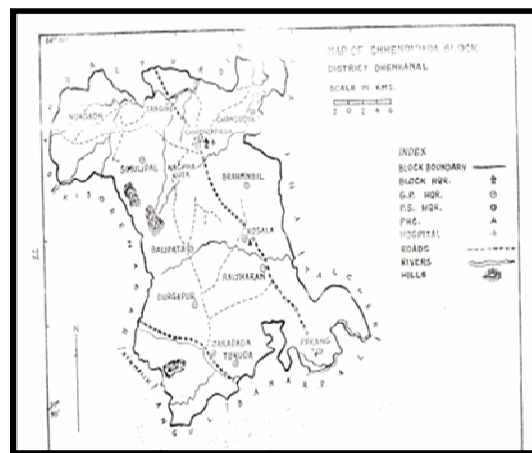
Map of District Angul showing Talcher & Chhendipada



Map of Talcher Block



Map of Chhendipada Block



Introduction

The District of Angul, Odisha is well known as an Industrial hub across the country for it harbours a noted public sector undertaking called NALCO (National Aluminum Corporation) set up in 1982 under the joint collaboration of Govt. of India and Govt. of France.

However in recent times it has gained notoriety of being the severest hotspot of environmental pollution where the atmospheric temperature rises upto 50°C to 52°C during the peak summer and the average daily temperature in a year hovers around 38°C to 40 °C . Earlier in the past it was a cool and green area though its Talcher zone was marked by large scale coal mining for several decades since the British times.

For its hospitable geo-climatic profile and sprawling, unbounded space along with its strategic location in the centre of Odisha, Angul was once slated to be the Capital of post independence Odisha before the Capital was finally shifted from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar in mid-40s. But in the wake of reckless, mushrooming of Industrial and mining activities that proliferated roughly in last 2 decades, not only its lush green landscape but also its atmosphere and hydrosphere have undergone an atrocious sea-change disfiguring the whole region into one of the worst ecologically degraded, semi-urban agglomerates. Alongside of a drastic distortion of Angul's geo-physical and climatic profile has occurred a visible metamorphosis in its demographic and socio-cultural pattern in recent times. In place of the old, traditional rural habitations have sprung up new semi-urban, clusters of human settlements formed by two way migration of big chunks of people. For all the apparent marks of modernity and advancement, Angul as it stands now is a classic case of how unbridled commercial motives can render industrial and technological advancement into baneful fallouts for both native humans and mother earth.

Apparently a busy industrial area, Angul has already paid and still continues to pay a heavy price for the messy, half-baked urbanization it has bought at the expense of its pristine natural endowments such as lush green forests, perennial water streams, and fertile farmland.

However, as elsewhere in India the brunt of the miseries falling out from a rash wave of unplanned and uncontrolled mining and industrial activities across Angul has fallen to the lot of poor and marginalized sections of population, who in the instant case belong to its Scheduled Castes, otherwise known as Dalits. The pilot study therefore principally aimed at discovering how the poorest of the poor i.e. Dalit segment of Angul's composite demography has suffered the worst victimization due to the recent spate of reckless and messy industrialization and urbanization thrust on them by the collaborative design of an unholy combine of profiteering corporate sector and a self-serving, servile class of bureaucrats.

Personnel involved

As a part of the national network "Women and Mining" based in Vishakhapatnam and operating since 2003, Ms. Smitarani Pattanaik, Secretary, Nari Surakshya Samiti, Angul has been mulling

the need for undertaking a ground survey of the impact of reckless mining and Industrialisation on the life and livelihood of the marginalized segment of the society, that is Dalits, who are invariably landless and small and marginal farmers and artisans.

In the year 2008 the project 'Rights for Dalit Communities' was initiated as a part of Dan Church Aid (DCA) Programme - 'Social and Economic justice'.

In consultation with the Programme Officers of DCA, New Delhi the NSS took a decision to undertake a pilot study as mentioned above in NSS operational areas in Angul District, and accordingly the survey process started in March 2010.

It was further envisaged that the findings of the survey would be shared with concerned Govt., Corporate and Civil Society agencies along with the media persons in the interest of sensitizing them on the problems and issues to be identified by the study. Besides the DCA also issued an advisory that the study report to be so prepared should be placed and shared with its national level Project Team-1 partners who would be assembled at Angul in a three day national convention in Nov. 2010.

The study as scheduled was conducted in three phases i.e. (1) Preparatory, (2) Household survey and Focus Group Discussions, and (3) Response Analysis, findings and preparation of the Report.

Phase 1 (Preparatory) : In this phase the modus operandi was designed in a mini-workshop held at Office of NSS, Angul attended by its concerned staff members and a few senior and experienced resource persons of the district, who happened to be the long time advisors and associates of NSS. Among the staff of NSS who attended it were Anjana Mahakud, Swarna Garnaik, Suresh Naik, Malati Mahapatra, Mamata Sahu and also Pratima Dwivedy. Among the Associates and Advisors who contributed their inputs at this stage were Sisir Tripathy, Basant Pradhan, Santosh ku. Mohanty and also Manas Jena. In this phase, specifically speaking, two open ended questionnaires were formulated, one for the household survey at the village/hamlet level and the other for Focus Group Discussions in selected places of the areas surveyed.

Phase-2 (Household survey and Focus Group Discussions): The household survey was conducted in the identified villages by a team of students of MSW, NISWAS, Bhubaneswar during August 2010 under the field level supervision by Sisir Tripathy and Sanjit Pattanaik. Miss Anjana Mahakud and Swarna Garnaik were entrusted with the documentation of the responses received. Besides another team comprising Mrs. Anjali Pattanaik, Mr. Sisir Tripathy and a few staffs of NSS had carried out a small household survey in a few villages/hamlets in Talcher Block earlier in June 2010.

Phase-3 (Analysis along with findings and preparation of the final report): In the third phase the responses so received were shared and analysed and findings thereof noted down for the purpose of compiling them into a consolidated report by the concerned staffs of NSS together

with advisors Ranjit Pattanaik, Santosh Mohanty, Sisir Tripathy, Basant Pradhan and Chaitanya Pradhan. A test-check field visit was undertaken on 24.10.2010 to the two field sites Gandhinagar (Danara, Talcher) and Ambedkarnagar (Brahmanbahal, Talcher), by a team comprising Ms. Smitarani Pattanaik, Mr. Sisir Tripathy and Mr. Chittaranjan Behera Principal Investigator of the study. A Mini-workshop was also held on the same day in NSS Office, Angul where the tentative outline along with chapterization for the proposed report was finalized. In this last phase the concerned offices of the Government and mining and industrial companies were also contacted for collection of secondary data along with their views on the subject of the study pertaining to their respective domains. The staffs of NSS were engaged for this purpose. Moreover the internet was also used as and when necessary to source additional but essential secondary data to enrich the contents of the study report. Mr. Sanjit Pattanaik along with the staffs of NSS carried out the internet search under the guidance of Mr. Chitta Ranjan Behera.

Needless to say, Smitarani Pattanaik, Secretary, NSS the project holder of the study ensured necessary organizational and infrastructural support for the smooth execution of various tasks undertaken in all the above phases until the final production of the report.

OBJECTIVES

Although Talcher area under Angul District was a well-known coal mining belt of the country since British times, it however did contribute only a little to the development of the district or for that matter Orissa state, the obvious reason being the predominance of lowly productive underground mining coupled with absence of any coal using industry and ancillaries and attendant network of infrastructures. As a matter of fact series of coal based industrial units were launched in the district starting with TTPS (Talcher Thermal Power Station) followed by FCI (Fertilizer Corporation India), ORICHEM (Orissa Chemicals), Arobrind Paper Mills and numbers of paint, ceramic, heavy water and hardware units. The launching of NALCO (National Aluminum Company) in 1984 and its continuous expansion and diversification in subsequent phases brought about a sea change in the earlier, predominantly agrarian profile of Angul district and made it one of the key strategic industrial/ urban areas of the country having massive potential for contributing to the national development. This process of industrialization was further reinforced by the establishment of NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) in 1992.

So far the drive for industrialization was mainly spearheaded by the central Govt. and had therefore some built-in checks and balances, which are necessary for a balanced economic development of the country. But with a privately managed Bhusan Steel Plant commissioned in 2004 an all together new phase of industrialization ushered in -the phase of rash and reckless drive of industrialization by the private sector with the state playing the role of a subservient, collaborating agent. In this new phase Angul district as a whole witnessed and experienced several problems of phenomenal nature, such as acute pollution of air, water and soil, excessive rise in air temperature, scanty and irregular rainfall, large scale de-vegetation, depletion of surface and ground water sources and sporadic recurrence of whirlwinds resulting in massive

eco-degradation in the total landscape. Precisely speaking, this recent phase with its contradictory fallouts, that is development on one hand and fast declining eco-balance on the other, is the focus of the current study.

Another pronounced facet of the recent phase of Angul's industrialization scenario is the phenomenon of lopsided impact of the current spate of industrialization and urbanization on different segments of population. It is an undeniable fact that there has occurred a visible growth in public infrastructures such as roads, electrification, hospitals, educational institutions and transport and communication facilities etc. However it also remains a fact, though not so visible, that whatever development has taken place its benefits have been cornered by the propertied and privileged classes- land owners, bureaucrats and corporate managers, who incidentally belong to upper castes and traditional elites. On the other hand, the so-called development has bypassed the poor and marginalized sections of population who incidentally belong in the main to the so called lowest caste, otherwise known as Scheduled Castes or Dalits. They have also become the worst sufferers of the latest phase of industrialization still sweeping the Angul District. Precisely speaking, such poor, marginalized and out-cast segment of Angul's heterogeneous population is the demographic universe of the current study.

Under the circumstances, the specific objectives of the current study are the following:-

- a) Impact of land acquisition and displacement on the Dalit population.
- b) Impact of the current spate of lopsided industrialization and urbanization on the Dalit in terms of income, employment and livelihood.
- c) The multiple factors of acute eco-degradation and their impact on the dalit population.
- d) Magnitude of marginalization of Dalit population as a cumulative result of the lopsided mining activities and industrialization.
- e) Exploring the nexus of Govt. and Corporate sector as instrumental in pushing the people into a situation of all out marginalization.
- f) Extent of feminization of miseries and eco-degradation.
- g) Way out, if any for the impoverished Dalit population from the current impasse.
- h) Review of the laws and policies related to land acquisition, displacement and allied matters.
- i) Role of civil society organizations and PRIs in the current situation with specific reference to Dalits, especially women and children among them.

Methodology Adopted

Keeping in view the subject of the study 'Impact of the mining and industrialization on dalit segment of population in Talcher and Chhendipada Blocks of Angul District', it was decided to develop the appropriate parameters for collection of necessary data from both primary and secondary sources and also for the tabulation and analysis thereof to arrive at the appropriately derived findings and conclusions. Of all, the utmost priority was assigned to contact in person with the affected Dalit households in the areas covered under the study on one hand, and the concerned mining and industrial

companies on the other, which stand so to say at two extremes of the mining and industrialization spectrum. Besides it was also envisaged to establish contact with the concerned Govt. agencies, which invariably play the role of go-between in relation to the affected public and the land acquiring companies.

To facilitate the collection of primary data from the affected households, an open-ended questionnaire was designed for use by the surveyors in the sample villages to grab an overall scenario of the problems and issues facing the affected households. Focus Group Discussions were envisaged to be held in selected places (Four nos. in total), where informed community leaders and elders and representatives of PRIs and women were supposed to participate and ventilate their views and experiences. The Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted by the senior advisors and long time associates of NSS, who were conversant with the local people and their problems and issues. An open ended questionnaire was also formulated for the purpose. It was further envisaged that the primary data from the concerned companies and Govt. agencies would be collected by the staffs of NSS through group visits to their offices for collection of information and views from them.

So far secondary data were concerned such publications of Govt. as District Handbook, Annual Report and Press Release etc. were used for collection of necessary information. Besides, the newspapers and magazines in both vernacular and English were also consulted for the purpose. Above all, internet was extensively surfed to gather information disseminated by the concerned corporate and official agencies and as well to gather the findings and views of various studies done on similar subject in the past. Keeping in view the obvious possibility that various data collected from both primary and secondary sources might suffer from subjectivity and lopsidedness, it was envisaged to hold series of in-house consultations through small, small meetings partaken by the concerned staffs involving quite often senior advisors and associates of NSS and even the community elders and leaders hailing from the affected areas.

In order to ensure authenticity and objectivity in the final report it was envisaged to hold a test check roundup visit to a few sample field sites and interact with the local people on the latest situation facing them.

Furthermore, keeping in view the pilot nature of the study and relatively short duration available for it, it was envisaged to choose some sample villages from each of the two Blocks, Chhendipada and Talcher in respect of household survey. Talcher Block being the oldest area for both intensive and extensive coal mining since British days, it was decided to take 10 sample villages from its jurisdiction. On the other hand, Chhendipada being an area recently exposed to mining and industries, where land acquisition has not made a visible headway it was decided to take only four villages from among the several affected villages for the purpose of study.

Sample Survey- area covered and design adopted

Angul District has 8 Blocks in total-Angul, Banarpal, Chhendipada, Athhamallick, Kishorenagar, Talcher, Kaniha and Pallahara. Out of these 8 blocks mining and industrial development are spread in 6 Blocks, only 2 being exceptions i.e Athhamallick and Kishorenagar.

Mining activities are concentrated in 3 Blocks, namely Talcher, Kaniha and Chhendipada. The industries small or big have been set up in all the 6 Blocks but the degree of their concentration

differs from one to another. Two giant national level industrial set-ups, namely NALCO (National Aluminium Corporation) & NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) named as TSTPP (Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant) are running in Banarpal Block and Kaniha Block respectively. Pallahara has only a small sponge iron unit while Angul Block has a few small scale industries like a Carbon Production unit, Aluminium utensil manufacturing unit and some bakery units etc. involving of course no land acquisition or any displacement. Thus Angul district has only two Blocks namely Talcher and Chhendipada where the recent spate of unbridled mining activities and industrialization has wrought havoc or going to cause havoc to the ecology and human population especially its Dalit segment. This is why the current study has chosen Talcher and Chhendipada Blocks as its focal area.

It is a fact that Talcher area has been subject to extensive and intensive coal mining since British days. Two old underground mines namely Nandira and Handidhua have been operating in Talcher Block since late 19th century involving of course no land acquisition and displacement. And that was the trend in coal mining all over the country until a quarter of a century ago. Only in the recent period, specifically speaking since 1986 when Jagannath Open Cast Mining was first set into operation, the open cast mining did emerge as the sole trend in coal extraction industries, due to its low cost application, adoption of advanced techniques and higher output, although it becomes an outright source of massive displacement and serious eco-degradation to no end.

During the last 26 years in Talcher Block alone as many as 5 open cast mines have been commissioned into operation, namely JAGANNATH, BHARATPUR, TALCHER, LINGARAJ and HINGULA. Besides, Bhubaneswari open cast mines has also come up in Kaniha Block adjacent to Talcher and has therefore its spill-over impact on the areas under Talcher Block.

Keeping in view the above facts, the current study has taken up the household survey in the villages affected by above mentioned 5 open cast mines in Talcher block. On a random basis, 10 villages/hamlets were taken up from among the affected villages of Talcher Block for the purpose of household survey and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The other Block namely Chhendipada has been covered under the survey for the specific reason that it comes under the coal bearing area like Talcher. However there is not a long history of organized coal mining industry in Chhendipada. Now only a single open cast coal mining unit namely SUBHADRA has been operating at Chhendipada since last 5 years. Though SUBHADRA has caused no displacement, its environmental impact is as damaging as the open cast mines in Talcher area. In addition to this sole mining unit, Chhendipada has already given away a lot of its space to two large industrial units like JSPL (Jindal Steel & Power Plant) at Nisha and Monnet Power Plant at Mallibramani under Nisha G.P. Again, absurd as may it sound, as many as eleven MoUs have been signed by the State Government of Odisha with various private companies for setting up power plants- a very ominous prospect for Chhendipada Block in particular, and for Angul District in general. Though Chhendipada has caused much less displacement and eco-degradation till date compared to the classic case of Talcher for obvious reasons, it has been

taken up under the current study with a view to ascertain the trends of public perception towards an ongoing, formative but nevertheless a rapid, nay, an aggressive agenda of mining cum industrialisation sought to be thrust on Chhendipada by a dubious nexus of profiteering corporate sector and conniving Govt bureaucrats. In view of the above, only 4 villages/hamlets namely Raijharan (Nisha G.P), Jagadmunda (Raijharan G.P), Chhotabereni (Kankarai G.P) and Basudevpur (Nisha G.P) have been selected from Chhendipada Block.

Thus a total of 14 villages, as already noted, 10 from Talcher block and 4 from Chhendipada Block have been covered under the current study for the purpose of household survey and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). As the title of the study suggests, only Dalit households in each such village have been covered for eliciting their response to the pre-scheduled questionnaire except in two villages, Bhalugadia (Gopal Prasad G.P under Talcher Block) and Madan Mohanpur (Kandhal G.P under Talcher Block). However in these two villages FGDs were held for ascertaining the overall public perception of the ongoing mining and industrialisation drive, in response to a separate questionnaire formulated for the purpose.

Demographic universe of the study

As is evident from the title of the study its main focus is to ascertain the nature and extent of impact of mining and industrialization on the Dalit segment of Angul's composite population especially in Talcher and Chhendipada Blocks. It is therefore necessary first of all to locate this space occupied by the Schedule Caste/Dalits of the demographic map of Angul district.

Table- Block wise Population Showing SC Component in Angul District (2001 Census)

	Block/Urban	Total Population			SC Population		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		587234	552769	1140003	99762	96347	196109
	BLOCK						
1	ANGUL	73410	71373	144783	14129	13630	27759
2	ATHAMALLICK	48448	48364	96812	7239	7317	14556
3	BANARPAL	92966	87309	180275	16804	16304	33108
4	CHHENDIPADA	73934	71325	145259	14438	14045	28483
5	KANIHA	70186	65714	136530	12611	11862	24473
6	KISHORENAGAR	48344	47158	95502	6896	6824	13720
7	PALLAHARA	57122	55725	112847	8590	8562	17152
8	TALCHER	76166	67437	143603	11852	11034	22886
	ULB						
1	ANGUL(N.A.C)	20892	17126	38018	2351	2216	4567
2	ATHAMALLICK(NAC)	5865	5511	11376	1553	1456	3009
3	TALCHER(M)	19271	15727	34998	3299	3097	6396

As revealed from the above Table (Population of Angul district as per the 2001 census) the total population of the district is 11,40,003 out of which the SC population is 1,96,109 i.e about 17% of the total. From the Block wise population figures of the said table it is learnt that in Talcher Block the total population is 1,43,603, out of which SC population is 22,886 i.e about 15% of the total. In Chhendipada Block total population is 1,45,259, out of which SC population is 28,483 i.e about 19% of the total.

As is well known, the SC/Dalits are not only outcast from the mainstream society but also mostly poor, illiterate and property-less. As elsewhere in the country, they are also mostly landless and only a few among them do own small, small homestead plots of land. It is a common knowledge that the bulk of SC population have set up their residence occupying the Govt. and forest land. There are only a small number of small and marginal farmers among the SC population.

As a matter of fact, out of the total land acquired for an industrial or development project only a small percentage belongs to the SC population. It is therefore observed that the big land holding households do take a live interest in the land acquisition process of the Govt, since it is they who largely stand to gain or lose from it. That's why, they exercise themselves feverishly to take a position either to support or protest land acquisition moves of Govt or Companies. Though Dalits also lose their small, small homestead plots along with tiny patches of cultivable or horticultural land, they somehow feel that their loss of land would be much lesser than the loss to be incurred by the middle and large land holding families. With this peculiar feeling they mostly keep away themselves from the process of any campaign or movement for or against land acquisition proposed for industrial/development projects.

Another contributory factor for the SC/Dalits getting sidelined in the land acquisition process is their illiteracy coupled with lack of a hegemonic status in the society. Lacking in the skill for articulating their specific interests and rights in a form acceptable in development discourses, they shy away from participating or deliberating in the public hearings called by the Govt. Due to their illiteracy they also show no or little interest in EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) reports published in the context of land acquisition for a project preceding the public hearing. However comparatively speaking, it is the SC/Dalits who are likely to suffer the greatest harm caused by eco-degradation of an area following the operationalization of an industrial or development project. But the issues of eco-degradation being the futuristic ones, the Dalit population who are more concerned with their instant day to day matters than with issues of long term significance, do seldom take the eco-logical dimension of the land acquisition with the seriousness that they should.

Only after an area is ecologically degraded out and out, the Dalit population who have little means to withstand its terrible fallouts, do start realizing the injustice done to them. But by that time they would be completely ruined and therefore incapable of doing anything to reverse the perilous course thrust on them unawares. This has so happened to the SCs/Dalits of Talcher Block in Angul district swept by the recent wave of mining and industrialization, while the

benefits of development have completely eluded them and consequently they have turned out to be the worst sufferers of resulting eco-degradation. Chhendipada Block being recently exposed to mining and industrialization with the process of displacement still halfway, its population including SCs/Dalits are yet to suffer the full consequences of displacement including the horrors of eco degradation, which the general and SC Population of Talcher have already gone through. But the harrowing tales of all out eco-degradation and consequent unbearable sufferings of people in neighboring Talcher have preemptively awakened and driven them to a path of resistance, feeble though, to the ongoing plans for mining/ industrial projects by corporate sector in Chhendipada Block.

Table- List of Villages/Hamlets surveyed in Talcher & Chhendipada Blocks

Talcher Block-

SL.	Name of the G.P	Revenue Village	Hamlet	Respondent	B P L	AP L	Already Displac- ed	Already Affected	To be displ- aced	Name of Minig/Indu stry
1	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Shiba Naik		√	√			HINGULA MCL
2	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Kalyan Naik	√		√			
3	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Athani Naik	√		√			
4	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Judhisthira Naik	√		√			
5	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Sadhu Naik	√		√			
6	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Jadu Naik	√		√			
7	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Sukanti Naik	√		√			
8	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Hari Naik	√		√			
9	Gopalprasad	Kusumpal	Harijan Sahi	Banambar Naik	√		√			
Sub-Total				9	8	1				
1	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Basanti Naik		√		√		HINGULA, MCL
2	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Dambaru Naik		√		√		
3	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Chingudi Naik		√		√		
4	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Tanka Naik	√			√		
5	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Nenkuri Naik	√			√		
6	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Golakha Naik	√			√		
7	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Narayan Naik	√			√		
8	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Rohit ku Gochhayat	x	√		√		
9	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Danei Naik	x	√		√		
10	Kalamchuin	Kalamchuin	Harijan Sahi	Jalandhara Naik	√			√		

Sub-Total					10	5	5						
1	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Janar Naik		√	√						KALINGA MCL
2	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Ramesh Naik		√	√						
3	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Sashidhar Naik		√	√						
4	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Lambodara Naik		√	√						
5	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Banita Naik		√	√						
6	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Bhaskar Naik		√	√						
7	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Balram Naik		√	√						
8	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Dukhabandhu Naik		√	√						
9	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Walli Naik		√	√						
10	Danara	Danara	Gandhinagar	Brahmanendra Naik		√	√						
Sub-Total					10	10							
1	Danara	Brahmanbahal	Ambedkar Nagar	Sada Behera		√	√						KALINGA
2	Danara	Brahmanbahal	Ambedkar Nagar	Ajaya Behera		√	√						
3	Danara	Brahmanbahal	Ambedkar Nagar	Santosh Naik		√	√						
4	Danara	Brahmanbahal	Ambedkar Nagar	Arjuna Naik		√	√						
5	Danara	Brahmanbahal	Ambedkar Nagar	Bandhua Naik		√	√						
6	Danara	Brahmanbahal	Ambedkar Nagar	Prafulla Behera		√	√						
Sub-Total					6	6							
1	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Chhabi Nayak		√	√						
2	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Magat Naik		√	√						
3	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Antaryami Naik		√	√						
4	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Binod Naik	x	√	√						
5	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Srinibasa Naik	x	√	√						
6	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Kabi Naik		√	√						
7	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Abhag Naik		√	√						
8	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Jogeswar Naik	x	√	√						
9	Talbeda	Balugaoun(Khamar)	Khamar sahi	Gangadhar Naik	x	√	√						
Sub-Total					9	3	6						
1	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Saibani Nayak		√						√	
2	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Markanda Nayak	x	√						√	
3	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Tophane Nayak		√						√	
4	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Bankanidhi Naik		√	√						
5	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Ganga Naik	x	√						√	
6	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakeshpadma batipur	Sasi Naik		√	√						

7	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Ravi Naik	√		√			
8	Kalamch uin	Rakeshbahal	Rakesh padmabatipur	Chaitanya Naik	√		√			
Sub- Total					8	6	2			
1	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Lambodar Naik		√		√		
2	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Indumati Naik	√			√		
3	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Arjuna Naik		√		√		
4	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Purandar Naik	√			√		
5	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Duari Naik	√			√		
6	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Pradeep Naik		√		√		
7	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Balabhadra Naik	√			√		
8	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Dhubei Naik	√			√		
9	Gopalpr asad	Malibandha	Mallibandha(H arijan sahi)	Pravat Naik	√			√		
Sub- Total					9	6	3			
Total					61	8	33	42	19	

Chhendipada Block-

Sl.No-	Name of the G.P	Revenue Village	Hamlet	Respondent	B P L	AP L	Already Displace d	Already Affected	To be displ ac-d	Name of the Mining/Ind ustry
1	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Susanta Dehuri	√		√			(JSPL)Jindal Steel & Power limited
2	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Girish Ch.Behera	√		√			
3	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Sapana Bhoi	x	√	√			
4	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Malaya Bhoi	x	√	√			
5	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Prashanna Dehuri	x	√	√			
6	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Bairagi Dehuri	√		√			
7	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Rajana Dehuri	√		√			
8	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Keshari Bhoi	x	√	√			
9	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Arun Dehuri	x	√	√			

10	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Samir Dehuri	x	√	√			
11	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Bimal Dehuri	x	√	√			
12	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Mitu Nahaka	√		√			
13	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Goutam Behera	x	√	√			
14	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Sadananda Bhoi	x	√	√			
15	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Pranabandhu Dehuri	√		√			
16	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Sulochana Dehuri	√		√			
17	Nisha	Nuapanpur	Panpur	Girish Ch.Behera	√					
Sub-total					17	8	9			
1	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Bharat Bhoi	x	√	√			
2	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Gunanidhi Bhoi	√		√			
3	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Sadananda Bhoi	√		√			
4	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Kulamani Bhoi	x	√	√			
5	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Dusmanta Bhoi	√		√			
6	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Jadumani Bhoi	x	√	√			
7	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Ramesh Bhoi	√		√			
8	Nisha	Basudevpur	New-Basudevpur	Jyotikrushna Bhoi	x	√	√			
Sub-total					8	4	4			
1	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Sudarshan Behera	x	√			√	
2	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Dhaneswara Behera	√				√	
3	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Kannha Behera	x	√			√	
4	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Pankaj Behera	x	√			√	
5	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Dyari Behera	√				√	
6	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Kabuli Behera	x	√			√	
7	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Tanu Behera	√				√	
8	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Dalu Behera	x	√			√	
9	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Pratap Behera	x	√			√	
10	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Bharat Behera	x	√			√	
11	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Gania behera	√				√	
12	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Shankar Behera	x	√			√	
13	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Sanju Behera	√				√	
14	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Raja Behera	√				√	
15	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Chaturbhuj behera	√				√	
16	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Sarat Behera	x	√			√	
17	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Swadhin Behera	x	√			√	
18	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Nirakar Behera	√				√	
19	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Saheba Behera	x	√			√	
20	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Anant Behera	x	√			√	
21	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Hati Behera	x	√			√	
22	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Arun Behera	x	√			√	
23	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Maheswar behera	x	√			√	
24	Raijharan	Raijharan	Jagdmunda	Taran Behera	√				√	
Sub-total					24	9	15			
1	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Bhaktabandhu Gochhayat	√			√		JSPL

2	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Baikuntha Gochhayat	√			√		
3	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Lochan Gochhayat	√			√		
4	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Dinabandhu Gochhayat	√			√		
5	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Kailash Gochhayat		√		√		
6	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Kela Gochhayat	√			√		JSPL & MCL
7	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Bhakti Gochhayat	x	√		√		
8	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Maharam Gochhayat	x	√		√		
9	Raijharan	Raijharan	Gochhayat Sahi	Dukhabandhu Gochhayat	√			√		
Sub-total					9	3	6			
1	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Ranjan Naik		√			√	
2	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Kintan Naik	√				√	
3	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Gagan Bihari Naik	√				√	
4	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Bibhuti Naik	x	√			√	
5	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Nenkuri Naik	x	√			√	
6	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Baita Naik		√			√	
7	Kankrai	Chhotabereni	Harijan Sahi	Fagua Naik		√			√	
Sub-total					7	2	5			
Total					65	6	39	25	9	31

N.B. Total nos. of dalit households surveyed in two blocks of Angul District namely Talcher and Chhendipada were respectively 61 and 65, thus adding to a grant total of 126.

Mining/ Industry in Angul-Talcher area At a Glance

Unlike other parts of the State, Angul-Talcher area has undergone a phenomenal growth in expansion of mining and industrial activities in the post independence era, especially in last one and half decades. As reported by the Angul District website itself, the following patterns of growth in mining and industrial activities were witnessed over time.

Mining and Mining based Industries

At present, 7 nos. of opencast and 3 nos. of underground coal mines are in operation. Coal mining in Talcher dates back to the twenties & thirties of 20th century when the underground mines were privately operated by BN Railways, MSM Railways, Villiers Ltd. etc. before being taken over by the National Coal Development Corporation in 1956. The concept of opencast coal mining came only in 1961 when South Balanda project took shape. Nandira underground mine was opened in 1962, followed by Jagannath OCP in 1972. The Central Coalfields Ltd., a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. took over control of all Coal mines in 1975 after nationalization. Bharatpur OCP commenced operation in 1985. In 1986 all the mines came under South-eastern Coal fields Ltd. Other opencast projects were opened one by one from 1990 onwards. Mahanadi Coal-fields Ltd. was created in 1992 having jurisdiction over Talcher & Ib valley coal fields.

With underground mining gradually becoming uneconomical and less productive, opencast activities grew for shallow but thick workable coal seams albeit of poorer quality. Phenomenal rise in production, use of heavy sophisticated machineries, and growing demand for thermal power grade coal compensated for the decline in quality. Opencast mines use shovel-dumper combination or dragline. Of late, use of surface miners have become popular which do not require blasting and ensures uninterrupted mining even if nearby population have not been shifted. Underground mines on the other hand are worked by bore and pillar method followed by depillaring. For roof stability, hydraulic stowing, roof stitching, roof bolting etc. are done. Coals produced are evacuated for sale as run-off-mine and after processing in the coal handling plants. Loading is done directly from the bunkers of C.H.P.s through chutes or by pay loaders. The existing modes of transport are rail, rail-cum-inland shipment, MGR and belt conveyors.

The level of production prior to 1956 was only 0.4-0.5 Million tonnes which has attained a stage of about 36.5 M tonnes at present. The only fireclay mine located at Telisinga remains inoperative for most of the time. It may be seen that the level of production has increased from 15.5 M.T. to 36.52 M.T. in the last decade and the corresponding revenue has increased by a staggering 400%. Phenomenal rise in mining and allied activities have generated prodigious employment opportunities in the region. Mega coal based industries like power plants of NTPC and NALCO have come up with present operational level of 1960 MW and 840 MW respectively. The capacity is likely to expand manifold in the years to come. One heavy water plant and one coal washery are also in operation. Prospects of a few more mega and a number of ancillary industries are bright. Proliferation in mining and industrial activities is bound to have impact on the ambient ecology and environment. A lot of measures are being taken for its protection vis-à-vis assurance of sustainable development. Yet the regional environment management plan needs to be more realistic and pragmatic so that the goodwill of the people affected is not lost and the economy of the State and the Nation as a whole flourish in a congenial atmosphere.

PROFILE OF TALCHER COALFIELD

As per the official claim, Talcher coalfield, located in the district of Angul of Orissa State, is one of the major coalfields containing huge reserves of power grade non-coking coal. The total area of the coalfield is 1860 Sq. Kms. whereas potential area is 1580 sq.km. The total geological reserve is 36868.12 million tonnes, which constitutes 18.7% of the country's total reserve.

The main pit head customers are TTPS (NTPC) NTPC Kaniha, NALCO and private washeries. The other major customers are APGENCO, VIJAYAWADA TPS, VISHAKAPATNAM STEEL PLANT, MUDANUR POWER PLANT, RTPP, TNEB RAICHUR TPS, KPCL, HINDUSTAN NEWS PRINT LTD. etc. of South India. Approximately 12.0 million tonnes is being consumed by pithead customers of the state. MCL contributed Rs.25, 849.00 lakh to public exchequer in terms of royalty, Stowing Excise Duty, CST, Orissa Sales Tax, Entry Tax etc. during 2001-2002.

MINING PROJECTS

At present there are 7 nos. of opencast mines and 3 nos. of underground mines in operation with a manpower of 10,220.

A. Open Cast Mines

Sl.No.	Name of the Area	Name of the Open Cast
01.	Jagannath	Balanda
02.		Jagannath
03.		Ananta
04.	Kalinga	Kalinga
05.		Bharatpur
06.	Hingula	Hingula
07.	Lingaraj	Lingaraj

B. Under Ground Mines

Sl.No.	Name of the Area	Name of the Under Ground
01.	Talcher	Deulabeda
02.		Talcher
03.		Nandira

The Major Mining and Industrial Concerns

NALCO: National Aluminium Company Limited. In Angul District NALCO has two separate plants such as, Captive Power Plant (CPP) & Smelter Plant, both of which are situated near Angul. It is basically an integrated aluminium project. NALCO has started setting up its unit from 1981 & in phases, it has upgraded its capacity. Both plants are located close to each other at Angul. This is a blue chip company in the Indian Aluminium sector and the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminium complex in Asia.

NTPC: The National Thermal Power Corporation, India's leader in power generation has its 1500 MW super thermal power station at Kanhia, in Angul. The beneficiary states from the power generation are Orissa, Bihar, Sikkim, Damodar Valley Corporation, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Southern States. Coal for the power generation is sourced from the Talcher Coal Field and water for the thermal power is taken from Samal Barrage Reservoir. The location of NTPC, Talcher is at Kanhia which is 60 km from Angul. NTPC Kanhia has its own township for its 1500 employees.

MCL: Mahanadi Coal Field Limited is located in Talcher (20 km from Angul), a well known mining centre of coal. A unit of Coal India Limited, MCL was previously under SECL (South Eastern Coal Field Ltd.). In Orissa, the coal deposits are concentrated in two regions and they are Talcher belt in Angul district and Ib valley area in Jharsuguda district. Coal mining operations all over the state including the Talcher region of Angul district are carried out by the Mahanadi Coal Field Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL). There are a total number of 10 Coal Mines (7 open Cast Mines and 3 Underground Mines) in operation at the moment in Angul district. So far as Coal Mines are concerned in Angul region the first was discovered at

Gopalaprasad in 1837, the first prospecting was done in 1920 and the formation of MCL was done and all the Coal Mines came in to its fold since 1992.

FCI: The **Fertilizer Corporation of India** has its unit in Talcher, Angul. One of the oldest industries of this area, FCI Talcher has faced problems in its viable operation. Hence, the plant has faced a closure since 1998. The township & plants do exist, waiting for much needed revival. As per a recent report RCF (Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers) there is a plan to revive the FCI plant in Talcher with a capital outlay of about Rs. 3000 crores. This plant couldn't achieve the targeted production year after year as a result of which it incurred a heavy loss and has been closed down since 1st April 1999.

HWP: The Heavy Water Plant located in Talcher, is a Govt. of India organisation under the aegis of Ministry of Atomic Power & Energy. This plant is involved in production of Organic Solvents like TBP, D2EFHA, TAPO & TOPO etc and other allied chemicals required as a part of the Nuclear Power Programme of the country.

TTPS: **Talcher Thermal Power Station** was the one of the oldest power generation plant of the Govt. of Orissa. with a capacity of 460 MW power generation and it is located in Talcher. Coal for the power generation is sourced from the Talcher Coal Field and water for the thermal power is taken from nearby Brahmani River. It faced problems in its operations and was in the red. The company was taken over by NTPC and its operation has once again become economically viable. The power plant is run efficiently by NTPC since 1998.

JSPL: **Jindal Steel and Power Ltd** is another major industry which has come up in Angul district with a capital investment of Rs. 20,000.00 crores for setting a steel producing facility and a 1500 MW power generation unit. JSPL plans to commission the first phase of its 6 million tonne per annum (MTPA) steel plant in Angul district by October 2010. In the first phase, it will have a capacity of 3 MTPA.

BSSL: **Bhushan Steel and Strips Ltd** is in the process of setting up a power plant and an advanced hot rolling plant on 1,618 acres (6.55 km²) at Angul, at a cost of Rs. 5,200 crore. It is also in with the State Government for the allotment of additional 3,500 acres (14 km²) to enable it to triple the planned capacity of 2.2 million tonnes (mt) in about five years. The Angul plant has already started producing 110 MW, sponge iron and billets production is close to 0.5 million tonnes.

MONNET: - Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd is to set up 3x335 MW TPP at Malibrahmani near Angul District of Orissa. The proposal is for setting up of a 1005 MW (3x335MW) coal based thermal power project. The land requirement is estimated as 40 ha. Water requirement will be 4620 m³/hr, which will be obtained from Brahmani river near Samal Barrage at a distance of about 24km. Coal requirement is 5.44 million TPA at 80% PLF and will be obtained from captive coal mining at Utkal B2 in close proximity and will be transported through conveyor system. [Source: - Website -www.developmentprojectsangul.in]

CHAPTER -2 : Results

Response from the displacees and would-be displacees

As already noted, the surveyors approached household to household in selected villages/hamlets in both blocks Talcher and Chhendipada to elicit response from them on such important matters as acreage of land acquired or to be acquired, compensation disbursed or promised, employment or cash in lieu of employment offered, homestead or cash in lieu of homestead received if any and their perception of the new environ following displacement etc.- all placed in a pre-scheduled questionnaire developed for the purpose. Besides, another questionnaire was also used for eliciting response from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held in a few selected villages in respect of more or less similar concerns.

As noted elsewhere in this report, Talcher Block was selected for the survey on the ground that displacement process has already been completed, and in contrast Chhendipada for the reason that displacement is still an ongoing process in the Block.

In Talcher Block five G.P.s involving seven villages/hamlets were selected and a total of 61 households responded to the questionnaire. Among the said 61 households 42 are already displaced (lost their homestead and agricultural land), and 19 are already affected (lost their agricultural land only). Among the total nos. of households 28 belonged to BPL families while 33 to APL. It may be noted here in parenthesis that the families categorized as APL are not necessarily above poverty line or in other words well off in economic position. Only due to lack of updating of BPL survey in Odisha for a long period, the BPL enumerations made under 1997 survey with some minor corrections here and there in 2002 do still prevail to this day. Thus quite many families which would be otherwise eligible for categorization as BPL are left out from the purview of BPL households and are obviously by default counted under APL category.

The displacement of the SC families in Talcher Block has been mostly caused by mining projects carried out under the aegis of MCL (Mahanadi Coal field Limited) the Govt of India's premier company for managing coal mining in Odisha.

In Chhendipada Block 3 G.Ps involving 5 hamlets under 4 revenue villages were selected and a total of 65 households responded to the questionnaire. Out of 65 households, 25 are already affected (lost their agricultural land only) and 39 are to be displaced. It is worth noting here that a great majority of households that is 39 out of 65 have not been displaced, though notices have been issued to them under Land Acquisition Act for acquiring of their homestead and agricultural land.

As revealed from the response to the questionnaire, the Dalit people of Chhendipada are damn scared of displacement and so a mood, though fluid and confused one, prevails among the public at large to resist the prospect of displacement. The bitter lessons of displacees of Talcher Coal Fields are writ large before them. A section of such would-be displacees are also using a deliberate tactic of delay in shifting to a new place as their point of bargain for getting better price against their land under acquisition and for better R & R package.

In Chhendipada Block most of the displacement has been made by JSPL (Jindal Steel & Power Ltd). Only a few persons in Gochhayt Sahi/hamlet of Raijharan G.P. expressed that they were likely to be displaced by mining project of MCL (Mahanadi Coal Limited).

Displacement scenario in Talcher Coal field

As already noted elsewhere in this report, there are only two underground coal mines, namely Handidhua and Nandira and as many as six open cast mines namely, Hingula, Bharatpur, Jagannath, Lingaraj, Kanha and Talcher in Talcher Coal fields. While two underground mines are pretty old ones operating since British days the open cast mines are a recent phenomenon. It is a common knowledge that the underground mines though fraught with geo-hydrological hazards involves practically no land acquisition or accompanying displacement and deforestation. But the open cast mining in addition to posing permanent threat to the eco-system including land, forest and water, does involve large scale displacement and deforestation. The current study has therefore taken up for in-depth understanding of the issues associated with open cast mining in above mentioned six places.

R&R STATUS OF TALCHER COALFIELDS, MCL SINCE INCEPTION (Open Caste Mining only) As ON 30.09.2010

Sl	Area	Land Acquired in Acres				No of PAF	Rehabilitation Benefits Offered			Resettlement benefits			
		Tenancy	Govt	Forest	Total		Emp l Offered	Cas h in lieu of Emp l offered	Total	Plots Prov i- ded	Cas h in lieu of plots paid	Total Resett - lemen t benefi t given	Familie s yet to be shifted
1	HINGULA	7314.69	2757.03	1633.441	1170.161	4248	2697	29	2726	0	571	571	2932
2	BHARATPUR	1981.115	686.06	428.42	3095.595	911	837	8	845	132	217	349	400
3	JAGANNA TH	2940.11	1062.115	2657.965	6660.19	1648	1477	41	1518	302	401	920	1120
4	LINGARAJ	1659.115	425.685	430.476	2515.276	1171	908	16	924	0	778	778	360
5	KANIHA	1072.885	360.53	5.70	1439.115	516	420	0	420	0	0	0	730
6	TALCHER	121.94	xx	Xx	121.94	110	57	0	57	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	15089.86	5291.42	5156.002	25537.277	8604	6396	94	6490	434	1967	2618	5542

N.B-

-Received from Sri Udhaba Majhi District Rehabilitation Officer, Angul on 28-10-2010 by Pratima Dwivedy and Anjana Mahakud for Nari Surakshya Samiti, Angul.

-As per the statement by District Resettlement Officer, Angul, no special provision in terms of Rehabilitation & Resettlement benefits was made for people belonging to Scheduled Castes.

The District Welfare Officer (DWO) also admitted the same thing.

Though Resettlement Officer (RO), Angul District Collectorate Mr. Udhav Majhi was requested to provide us with detail household wise figures on compensation and R & R benefits offered in each affected village of Talcher coalfields, he provided only a single consolidated sheet on R & R status in Talcher Coalfields, MCL since inception, which mentioned on one hand the land acquired in acres and nos. of PAFs (Project Affected Families) and on the other rehabilitation benefits and resettlement benefits offered to the households.

It is noticed from the above sheet that a total of 25537.277 acres of land comprising Tenancy, Govt. and Forest land was acquired for the above six opencast mines. Out of the said total, the largest contingent that is, about 15090 acres was tenancy land followed by 5291 acres of Govt land and 5156 acres of Forest land respectively. The total nos. of PAFs (Project Affected Families) in six places is 8604. However it is not possible to ascertain as to how many SC PAFs have received compensation, and the rate per acre and the extent of pendency in disbursement of the compensation amount to them.

From the above information sheet, it is also revealed that out of a total 8604 PAFs, 6490 nos. have received so called rehabilitation benefits (either employment or cash in lieu of employment). Then out of a total 6490 PAFs, 6396 nos. have received employment and 94 nos. cash in lieu of employment. But it is not revealed, what kind of employment (unskilled/semiskilled/super skilled) has been made available and the monthly salary thereof if any. Besides it is also not revealed, what amount of cash assistance in lieu of employment has been offered to 94 PAFs. Above all, the information sheet does not speak anything as to why 2114 nos. of PAFs have not received any of the so called rehabilitation benefits, that is, employment or cash in lieu of employment.

The above information sheet also informs that out of a total of 8604 PAFs, only 2618 nos. of PAFs have received so called resettlement benefits (Homestead plots or cash in lieu of homestead plots). Admittedly, as many as 5542 nos. of PAFs (65% approx.) have not received any such resettlement benefits and the reasons thereof are not discernible either. Out of the total 2618 nos. of resettlement beneficiaries, only 434 PAFs (only 17% approx.) have been provided with homestead plots. But the location and size of the plots so allotted are missing from the information sheet. Further, 1967 nos. of PAFs have reportedly received cash assistance in lieu of homestead plots but the amount thereof disbursed to each PAF and the criteria of determination of the rate of cash assistance have not been made transparent.

Thus the information sheet on the R & R status of Talcher coalfields provided by the district rehabilitation officer MCL/NTPC reveals only some aggregate data on land acquisition and R & R package project-wise while withholding the most crucial information relating to the rate of compensation against land acquisition and monthly salary of job offered and the amount of cash in lieu of employment disbursed or the location and the size of the plots offered or the amount of cash offered in lieu of the plots, if any.

Further the above information sheet does not inform us as to the class-wise configuration (such as Sc, ST, General etc. or APL/BPL etc.) of the total nos. of PAFs that have received compensation or R & R benefits, especially the nos. of PAFs belonging to SC/Dalit segment.

From the response of the displaced households of Talcher area, a glaring discrimination came to the notice of the surveyors in respect of compensation and R & R package disbursed to them. For

instance, Mr. Arjun Naik in village Mallibandh an employee in NALCO got a paltry compensation of Rupees 1 Lakh 88 thousand only against a total of his 5.5 acres of agricultural land plus 4 decimals of homestead, whereas Mr. Daranidhar Naik of village Kalamchhuin was displaced by the same company MCL (Mahanadi Coal Limited) but had received as much as Rupees 5 lakh per acre in addition to a lucrative job of Rupees twelve thousand per month in the company. Thus there existed no uniform rate of compensation paid to different displaced families even under the one and the same company.

It was further noticed that a few persons who could manage to receive bumper compensation against their land and homestead, were quite happy, while most of the displacees who were subject to discriminatory deprivation felt let down by the loss of their land and homestead.

Another heart rending tragedy came to the notice of the surveyors, particularly among the mining displaced people of Talcher area. The very families who were not accustomed to transacting huge amounts of cash in earlier days did simply get off their feet, the moment they were handed over a fat cash in terms of lakhs of rupees. Some male members started indulging in all sorts of weird behavior –keeping several wives, wearing costly dresses and spending time in merry making with great extravaganza. Most of them very quickly picked up a regular habit of drinking and dining in posh hotels. All this led to growing tension and alienation within the family resulting ultimately in family breakdown, increasing crime rate and social disorder.

Displacement scenario in Chhendipada Block

Unlike Talcher Coal-fields, where the displacement process is completed but Resettlement and Rehabilitation along with eco-degradation issues hardly addressed to, Chhendipada Block presents a mixed scenario of partial displacement and ongoing land acquisition along with people's resistance thereto.

Strangely enough, the LAO (Land Acquisition Officer) Angul district, even if contacted duly by NSS staff on 25th Oct. 2010 for information on the status of land acquisition and R & R provisions to the PAFs, expressed his inability to comply on the ground that such data were available with the concerned land acquiring companies only.

However, the current pilot study had contacted and elicited response from 65 respondent households (all SCs) in course of its random household survey based upon a pre-scheduled questionnaire. Besides, the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held in Chhendipada area at Jagadmunda of Rajjhran G.P and Chhotabereni of Kankarei G.P, both being the areas where the displacement has not yet taken place though notices for the same have been issued to the concerned households.

The Table showing the companies involved in mining/industries in Chhendipada Block

SL.No	Company	Type of Industry/Mining	Place
1	JSPL(Jindal Steel & Power Limited)	Thermal Power Steel	Nisha
2	MonnetIspat & Energy Limited)	Thermal Power Project	Malibrahmani in Rajjhran
3	MCL(Mahanadi Coal Limited) SUBHADRA Open Cast Project(OCP)	Coal Mining	Chhendipada

From the response of the households covered, it was revealed that most of the households were reluctant, even resistant to the very idea of being dislocated from their traditional habitation, just to pave the way for some private companies to set up their mining or industries for making super profits out of the natural resources deposited in their areas over centuries, nay, millennia.

The reason for their indecision coupled with resistance is rooted in the terrible lessons of pauperization and deprivation that the displaced people in adjacent Talcher coal mining areas have suffered and are still suffering from. The all out eco-degradation including the ghastly scene of ever burning coal-fires here and there across Talcher Coal-fields is a grim reminder to the people of Chhendipada on the nature of ill fate that awaits them, should they ever concede to the combined drive of both Govt and Companies to clear their areas of habitations and forests preceding the mining and industrial activities.

As for an instance of the kind of resistance the villagers in one case have shown to the prospect of displacement, Miss Mamata Sahoo a resident of Kankarei village under Kankarei G.P narrated the story of her village which runs as follows. About 700 nos. of households have received notification for displacement from MCL (Mahanadi Coal Limited) in respect of its proposed Hingula mines. Out of the said total, 200 households belong to SC/Dalit. Now the entire village population including Dalits has already boycotted both Govt. and Company to protest against the proposed displacement.

A village anti-displacement resistance committee has been formed to carry forward their campaign till their charter of demands is fully met. Such demands are-

- 1- Rupees 15 lakh of compensation against each acre of land.
- 2- All the males between the age group of 18-35 to get job by the company.
- 3- All the unmarried daughters about 30 years and above to get job from the company.
- 4- The displaced families to be resettled in a new suitable place and 2 Gunths (about 8 decimals) to be provided to each family for homestead purpose.

It is noteworthy that the team of surveyors sent by the company was resisted by the village committee under the leadership of its President Mr. Dharani Dhar Sahoo. The resistance movement in Kankarei village has triggered off a chain of anti displacement reactions across Chhendipada Block.

However a section of Chhendipada respondents were found willing to give up their land and homestead, provided they are offered a sumptuous compensation against land to be acquired along with attractive R & R benefits like employment, suitable alternative habitation having adequate infrastructural facilities and a satisfactory monthly living allowance until their final rehabilitation.

As revealed from the respondents, glaring discrimination has been noticed in the compensation amounts disbursed to the land owning households in Chhendipada area. For instance, in village Raijharan Mr. Lochan Gochhayat, whose 2.5 acres of land was acquired by the company JSPL (Jindal Steel & Power Limited) has received only Rs.5 lakh 44 thousand (Rs.2 lakh 17 thousand per acre approx.), whereas Mr. Bhaktabandhu Gochhayat of the same village has got as much as Rupees 5 lakh against only 1 acre of his agricultural land. Thus it seems there is no uniform rate

laid down by the land acquisition authorities in respect of compensation already paid to the land losing displacees in Chhendipada Block.

Mining/industries induced Health Hazards

In course of the household survey and Focus Group Discussions, an effort was made to ascertain the health hazards and morbidity scenario in areas affected by reckless mining and industrialization. Besides, a team of NSS had been to the Office of CDMO (Chief District Medical Officer) on 26th & 27th Oct 2010. The concerned ADMO (Assistance District Medical Officer) Dr Aruna Kumar Mishra who interacted with the surveyors admitted that disease wise data of patients are being maintained at P.H.C level and could be collected therefrom. There is as such no compilation on the said data especially with reference to mining /industries affected areas of Angul District available at CDMO level. This very confession by a responsible District level Medical officer indicated the absence of any priority on maintenance of pollution borne morbidity pattern in the mining /Industrial areas. However Dr. Mishra suggested the NSS team to contact the Office of Rural & Water Sanitation Mission (RWSM), Angul which had conducted a survey on water borne diseases in the above area in 2008, the report of which can be made use of in connection with the current survey by NSS. But to the dismay of the surveyors the said report couldn't be sourced from the office of RWSM Angul, even if the latter was contacted for the purpose.

It is a pretty common knowledge that the people living in coal mining areas especially where open cast mining is the pre-dominant practice do suffer from certain critical illnesses such as TB, bronchitis and cancer in addition to water borne diseases like diarrhea, skin complications, asthma, typhoid, pneumonia and gastroenteritis. Needless to say, increasing incidence of malarial deaths is now a common feature in the areas ravaged by reckless mining and industrialization. But the expansion of medical facilities in public sector to address to the ever increasing scale of morbidity in mining affected areas has not gone apace as it should have. However there is a visible growth in the nos. of hospital facilities in private sector as is evident from the mushrooming growth in nursing homes and diagnostic clinics in the industrial-urban areas of Angul District in recent times.

But it is well known that the poor and Dalit people can't access the privately managed medical services because of the exorbitant expenses charged from the patients. In such an unsavory situation, the poor Dalits cannot but stick on to their age-old traditional and indigenous therapies and dependence on local quacks, which are cheaply and easily available and almost always at their doorstep, but are fraught with serious risks and hazards. Thus as is evident from the response from the households and Focused Group Discussions a peculiar dichotomized health scenario has emerged in recent times across Angul District. On one hand, modernized and high-tech clinical and hospital facilities are available at a high price to the elite persons having the capacity to pay and on the other native indigenous faith healing practices by local quacks are frequently used by the poor Dalits for its cheap and easy availability.

Growing Incidence of HIV/AIDS

As noted elsewhere in this report, the migration from and to Angul areas has phenomenally increased along with accelerated tempo of mining/industrialization across Angul District in recent times. An inevitable fall-out of increasing migration is the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS in the region. As revealed from the District Statistical Handbook, Angul 2007, out of 650 blood samples screened in 2006 only 14 nos of cases were found HIV+. But merely after a couple of years, that is in 2008, as many as 241 cases were found HIV positive (a quantum jump by more than 17 times) and moreover in the same year 29 cases were found dead due to HIV/AIDS. Then after the next couple of years, that is in 2010, the nos. of HIV+ cases detected were 570 (that is more than double compared to 2008) and the cases of death due to AIDS numbered 89 (about 6.5 times the death figures of 2008). This alarming rate of growth in HIV/AIDS can be traced to the feverish spate of mining and industries in Angul District in the last decade and consequent increase in the to and fro migration mostly involuntary in nature by displacee population.

Despite the growing spread of HIV/AIDS, there are no facilities either in public or private sector to address to it in Angul district except the free of cost provision for screening of blood samples for HIV+ in Govt run dispensaries. Needless to mention, the affluent sections of society can afford highly expensive treatment of therapies including ART available in select places of the country while it is utterly impossible for the poor and Dalit population to avail such provisions for obvious reasons. Surprisingly, the big, big companies which have made massive investment for their mining and industrial projects have not spared even a farthing towards setting up of HIV/AIDS treatment centers or facilities anywhere in Angul District. The Govt. of Odisha which is well aware of the ominous spread of HIV/AIDS in a mining & industrial area like Angul and its possible spill-over impact all across the State is, pathetically enough, pretty callous in this matter. As a result of all this, the brunt of the fast growing fatal epidemic is borne by none else than the very poor and marginalized Dalit segment of Angul's composite population.

EIA Reports, R&R Policies and Public Hearings – Scarce and Skewed

EIA and R & R Policies: An Overview

Before 2006 the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) Reports used to be prepared by the concerned project proponent companies through professional consultancy firms commissioned by them. And such reports also used to constitute the background material for the so called public hearings which invariably used to be held indoors by a select group of bureaucrats in a highly non-transparent setup. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI issued a Notification in 2006 that replaced to a great extent the earlier non-transparent procedures for preparation of EIA Reports and conduction of Public Hearings. The 2006 Notification provided for an open and transparent conduction of public hearings at the site of the proposed industry itself with participation from all sections of population including disadvantaged groups like SCs, STs and women etc. It also emphasized the need for circulation of EIA Reports to the public at the Panchayat level in the local language and also the circulation of the proceedings following the conduction of Public Hearings for further public feedback, even if critical on the same.

Another welcome development in this field is the Notification of National R & R Policy 2007, which in fact provided for a more radical consultation process with the affected population both before and after the Public Hearings involving all stake holders, even including the landless agricultural laborers, artisans, small and marginal farmers, SCs and STs, minorities and women. The National Policy of 2007 also talked of two reports to be prepared and circulated preceding the public hearing, namely EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) and SIA (Social Impact Assessment) besides the mandate for getting prepared the said reports not by the private consultants engaged by the land acquiring companies as before but by a specially constituted independent expert body comprising both Government personnel and eminent resource persons from across the civil society. The other positive features of the National Policy of 2007 were the limitation in the size of the land to be acquired by the Govt for private Companies, disposal of disputes around the land price by an ombudsman mechanism to be set up for the purpose, constitution of National Rehabilitation Commission as the final adjudicating authority at the apex level and above all special provisions for the excluded social groups like SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, women and disabled etc.

Strangely, the Government of Orissa which set out on a reckless course of mining and industrialization as early as 1999 with installation of Navin Patnaik as Chief Minister, the State of Orissa didn't have to its credit a comprehensive R & R Policy until 2006. It is only after the tragic en masse death of 13 tribal protestors by police firing at Tata project site in Kalinga Nagar on 2nd January 2006 that the Government of Orissa notified under duress the much awaited Orissa Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy 2006 and that too with much fanfare. However, the said Policy did conspicuously lack in certain basic entitlements for the displaced populations right since inception. As it stands today, from the perspective of the rights and entitlements of displaced people, it is on the whole out of sync with above mentioned two major instruments in place at national level, namely GOI's EIA Notification of 2006 and National R & R Policy of 2007. The Orissa policy merely talked of holding consultation on land acquisition with people at Panchayat level but did not elaborate on the specific procedure to be followed for the purpose. Again it talked of grievance redressal mechanism in respect of compensation or R & R benefits, but vested the powers of arbitration thereon in the hands of the District and State revenue authorities, who are ironically the land acquisition agencies themselves. Above all, the dispensation offered by the Orissa R&R Policy 2006 for the displaced households belonging to poor landless encroachers is hemmed in by so many ifs and buts that it is virtually unrealizable by the displacees of the above category, who are usually illiterate and therefore powerless to get through the complex and cumbersome procedures laid down in such a Policy.

It may be incidentally noted that the Coal India R &R Policy 2008 was also notified in respect of land losing households in the context of any Coal mining project. But comparatively speaking, it is the worst of all the R & R policies ever announced at national or state level. Not only its package of compensation against land acquired is too low but also it exhibits no special concern

for the poor and marginalized sections such as Dalits. Above all, there is no semblance of any grievance redressal mechanism within the Coal India R & R policy of 2008.

Status of EIA and R & R in surveyed Areas

From the response of the households surveyed and Focus Group Discussions held in randomly selected villages, it could not be ascertained if any respondent was ever and at all aware of the EIA reports or public hearings on the projects for which they were displaced. Their knowledge on land acquisition process was exclusively limited to notices for acquisition issued by the Govt and to financial compensation and/or some paltry R & R benefits received by them from the concerned companies. It seems either they were calculatedly kept outside the mandatory consultation process or they themselves were not interested for participation in the said process.

It further seems both the hypotheses are partially true. This contention is corroborated if we look the Proceedings of public consultation for the proposed Thermal Power Plant (1005MW) of M/S. Monnet Power Co. Ltd held at Mallibrahmani U.P. school, Angul on 23.10.2007 at 11 am. As is evident from the above proceedings, as many as 31 persons from different areas of Angul District had participated in the said consultation, out of which only one Sri Ramchandra Behera Member GP Committee Nisha belonged to SC/Dalit. All other participants belonged mostly to upper caste land-owning households from Brahmin to peasant castes, besides of course a few tribals. As already mentioned, the SCs/ Dalits even if they were aware about the public hearing to be held on issues of land acquisition and displacement, they didn't feel like partaking it, most probably for the simple reason that they were mostly landless or land owners for name's sake. Since the provisions for employment or for alternative homestead, or for assistance for self employment or for relocation were less advertised compared to the provision for compensation against land acquisition, the SC/ Dalit segment of the population took less interest in the public hearing. Because they were perhaps more interested in the R & R package than compensation against land.

Another startling feature of the public hearings held in the recent past in Angul area is that, the compliance report submitted by the concerned company in response to the apprehension and suggestions of the participants lacked in truthfulness. For instance, a participant of the above public hearing Mr. Ranjit Kumar Pattnaik of Boinda did raise so many issues in course of his deliberations such as, non-circulation of the Rehabilitation plan among the people, felling of Sal forests, rise of temperature even up to 51 degree Celsius, absence of any compensatory plantation/ afforestation plan, worsening morbidity profile in the pollution affected areas, diversion of water of Samal Barrage from irrigation to industries to mining, need for a foolproof Environment Management Plan (EMP) and its circulation among the wider public and absence of proper disposal of fly ash by NTPC and NALCO. But strangely enough, the project proponent company in its too sketchy one-page compliance note brushed aside the problematic issues so raised and went on to assert in a brazen manner, "Though Angul-Talcher area has been declared a critically polluted area, problems of environmental pollution have been mitigated gradually.

However the company shall adopt and implement all pollution control systems and environmental development activities as per the guidelines of CPCB/MOEF/SPCB to remain much below the prescribed limits which will not add to the present pollution load”. Without mentioning any specifics it further boasted, “employment opportunities to displaced and affected persons will be provided as per the R & R policy and their eligibilities in terms of education/training facilities”. Incidentally it is worth mentioning here that not only Monnet as in the instance case but also most of the private companies have resorted in the recent times to such rough-shod and too evasive manner of framing their compliance reports vis-à-vis the issues of concern raised by the displaced people in the public hearings, simply to by-pass their burdensome responsibility to specifically address to the concerned issues in future. This is also one principal reason as to why the poor and illiterate have lost interest in going through EIA reports or in participating in public hearings.

SOME CASE HISTORIES

Employment in the company-A Mirage for Bikal Naik, a displacee

Bikal Naik (SC) aged about 37 years was reading in School in 1974 when the Kalinga mines was proposed to be set up in their village known presently as Gandhinagar under Danara G.P, Talcher Block. In 1984 the Kalinga Mines started its operation and it was promised by the company that 1062 persons would be given employment in its Bharat mines project. But all those jobs were only in the nature of daily wage laborer, which involved continuous work for inordinate length of time in hazardous conditions of underground mining. 700 persons got such jobs. However, the company had promised then to employ all the persons on attainment of 18 years of age by 1992 even in skilled and semi-skilled jobs according to their qualification.

Our family had lost 2 acres of land to Bharat mines. Two of my elder brothers got jobs as mines laborers. In 1992 I had passed +2 and became eligible for a skilled job in the company. In the same year I was also called for interview by the company but no job was offered to me for reasons known to the company. Wonderfully, long after 16 years since then, that is, in 2008 I was called for interview again. I attended it but there was no job given to me this time also. Meanwhile 2 years have gone by but company maintains a stoic indifference in respect of my case. The only thing that I could do during thee two years was to meet District Collector and MCL authorities and put forth my grievances before them time and again but to no result. Thus I have spent the prime of my youth running after a mirage called employment for a semi-skilled job in the Kalinga Mines Company.

All-round Ruination of Mining- Displaced Dalit Households- A classic story from Ambedkar Nagar Brahmanabahl hamlet in Talcher Block

Brahmanbahali is a revenue village under Danara G.P in Talcher Block of Angul district consisting of 140 households, among which 30 belong to Dalits. Earlier the people were living in their native land in a cool and green environment. In the village Brahmanbahal the 1st

notification was made under LA Act 1894 in 1980 by Kalinga mines, but the actual land acquisition process was undertaken during 1992 to 1994. In 1994 each of the families displaced in the first phase received only Rs.50,000/- as a lump sum compensation, as they didn't possess any Patta land. Having got the cash in their hands they got off their feet and picked up a spendthrift lifestyle knowing little that they would be soon pauperized. In fact they led a migratory life during 1994 to 1999 living haphazardly in small, small makeshift huts here and there depending solely on daily wage labour for their livelihood.

The next phase of land acquisition was made by Kalinga Mines in Brahmanbahal in 2001-02. The 30 Dalit families who were already displaced in the past came back and settled together in a common place on their own initiative. This place was earlier used as a coal depo by Kalinga Mines. They named it as Ambedkar Nagar. Now-a-days the male persons are doing private jobs as truck driver and helper and also in coal loading and unloading in mining areas. The women are working as domestic workers in the neighboring colony.

It is strange that these people are still deprived of their basic rights. Even after 64 years of independence, they except being voters are not enrolled as beneficiaries under any Govt. Scheme, be it Indira Awas, Antodaya, Annapurna, Madhubabu Pension or Mo Kudia etc. There is only one Anganwadi Center working since last two months. Going round the village one can see for himself what a terrible environ is their living place- waste coal everywhere, no vegetation, no electricity, no shop and no civic facility of any sort.

There is also complete lack of drinking water source in that hamlet. They steal water from the main pipe of Kalinga Mines for all types of use as they don't have any alternative. As they are not recognized under BPL category, they could not get any benefit of Govt scheme including rice at Rs.2/-per kg. Ambedkar Nagar is coming under Danara Gram Panchayat but the elected Ward Member is not visiting the hamlet or address to any of its problems. That is why the residents of the hamlet have chosen Mr.Ajaya Behera from among them as their Ward Member proclaimed by themselves.

Though beset with serious problems the people of the hamlet have no papers with them documenting the facts of their deprivation in the past or plight at present. Taking for granted their miseries in a fatalistic fashion, they have not approached any authorities for redress of their grievances either.

Discriminations Galore in compensation and RR package (A story from Chhendipada Block)

Taking advantage of ignorance and lack of organized advocacy or resistance the concerned companies have practiced glaring discrimination in compensation and RR package offered to the displaced families in general and to the dalit displacees in particular.

Mr. Arjun Nayak, 32 belonging to Sub Caste Pana, in Village Mallibandha under Malibandha G.P. of Block Talcher had given his 5.5 acres of agricultural land along with 4 dec of homestead thus totaling 5.5 acres and 4 decimals of both agricultural and homestead land. But he has

received a total compensation of Rs 1 lakh and 88 thousand only. In contrast, Mr Dharanidhara Naik of village Kalam Chhuin under the Kalam Chhuin GP of Talcher Block displaced by the same company MCL received Rs 5lakh per acre along with a job of Rs.12,000/- per month in the company. Thus is a huge discrimination noticed between the amount given to one family and that to another. Therefore it is evident that there was no uniform rate of compensation adhered to by the company in respect of the displaced families. While a microscopic minority of displaced families felt quite happy for the sumptuous amounts they received from the company, overwhelming bulk of displacees, who were given paltry amounts are still anxious about the uncertain future of themselves and their offspring.

In Chhendipada Block too, serious discrimination was noticed in payment of compensation to the displaced households by JSPL and MCL Companies. For instance, Mr Lochana Gochhayat of Village Rajjharana under Rajjharana G.P. who owned 2.5 acres of land now acquired by the company got only Rs.5, 44,000/- towards compensation, whereas Mr Bhakta Bandhu Gochhayat of the same village owning only one acre of land got as much as Rs 5,00,000/-. Thus it seems there was no specific norms in payment of compensation to the displaced families. The person who got less suffers from a persistent feeling of discrimination and remains therefore malcontented. He thinks that while the paltry compensation would not provide any sustainable livelihood for his family in future, the compensation money has however become a factor of bitter intra-family squabbles leading to breakdown of the family altogether.

**United Resistance by Villagers to proposed Displacement
(A Story from Kankarei village in Chhendipada Block)**

Kankarei is a village under Kankarei G.P in Chhendipada Block of Angul district. About 700 nos. of households have received notification for displacement from MCL (Mahanadi Coal Limited) in respect of its proposed Hingula mines. Out of the said total, 200 households belong to SC/Dalits. Now the entire village population including Dalits have boycotted the efforts of both Govt. and Company to register their protest against the proposed displacement.

A Village Anti-displacement Resistance Committee has been formed to carry forward their campaign till the charter of their demands is fully met. Such demands are-

- 1- Rupees 15 lakh of compensation against each acre of land.
- 2- All the males between the age group of 18-35 to get job from the company.
- 3- All the unmarried daughters about 30 years and above to get job from the company.
- 4- The displaced families to be resettled in a new suitable place and 2 Gunths (about 8 decimals) of homestead to be provided to each family for housing purposes.

It is noteworthy that the team of surveyors, who were sent by the Company, was resisted by the village committee, which now runs under the leadership its President Mr.Dharanidhar Sahoo. The resistance movement in Kankarei village has of course triggered off a chain of anti-displacement reactions across Chhendipada Block.

[Source: Mamata Sahoo a resident of Kankarei village and a staff of NSS]

CHAPTER – 3 Major findings

It is worth noting that a strident wave of industrialization accompanied by accelerated mining activities swept Angul district during the decade of 2001-10, which roughly corresponded to the heyday of Globalization until the latter dissolved itself into an abrupt meltdown in- mid Sept 2008. During this upbeat phase of Globalization the demand for basic materials like Steel & Aluminum was growing by leaps and bounds in comparison to relatively limited supply of them in the world market. Every country big or small, be it a developing country like India, China, Japan or Brazil or a developed country like USA, England, Germany or France, strove its best to produce or procure these basic materials in their search for more and more profits in the world market. However, as is well known, basic materials like Steel or Aluminum required adequate sources of power or energy for their production into finished articles, besides raw materials like iron ore or bauxite.

A Steel Plant or Aluminum Plant in order to expand its scale and productivity required captive power plants, which are run with coal as the combustive raw material. If coal is easily and cheaply available in great quantity, then the per unit production cost of Steel or Aluminum could be greatly minimized.

In order to avoid pollution and other hazards the developed countries were found to outsource the production of Steel and Aluminum to developing countries where basic raw-materials like iron ores and bauxites along with coal as the source of thermal power were available in plenty. It is for this reason that the Steel & Aluminum plants together with Thermal Power Plants were found to be proliferating all across India, especially in areas where the above raw materials were available abundantly and without much of administrative hurdles put up by the respective state governments. No wonder that during this very period, a feverish drive was made by several Govt. and private Companies to extract coal and use it as a cheap source of thermal energy to run the mushrooming Steel & Aluminum plants. This is the background as to why a lot many coal mining undertakings coupled with several steel plants and sponge iron units in the Private sector came to be set up in quick succession accompanied by their constant expansion and diversification - all within a compressed span of only a decade across two main coal belts of Orissa, namely Angul-Talcher area and IB Valley area in districts of Jharsuguda and Sundargarh.

1. Emergence of Angul as the severest hotspot of climate change-

The peculiar experience of a secular rise in air temperature even up to 51 degree centigrade during summer in Orissa's two coal-belts, Angul-Talcher area and IB Valley area of Sundargarh and Jharsuguda districts disproves in a way the grandiose thesis of the

global climate change that the depletion of Ozen layer in some far-off cosmos has led to rise in global warming. Because every inhabitant of the above two major coal-belts of Orissa knows pretty well that it is not some remotely occurring geo-climatic mega-changes that have led their own areas to increasingly hot up beyond the tolerable limit in the last decade, but a very reckless spate of mining and industrial exploitation, which could have been pretty well controlled and its disastrous impact mitigated by an appropriate, eco-balanced mining and industrial policy of the Govt. with involvement and collaboration of the primary stake holders of any policy, the local population. The people in the areas surveyed vehemently asserted that it is only such reckless policy of mining and industrialization pursued in last few years by a nexus of govt. bureaucrats and corporate bosses that disfigured their cool, lush-green and fertile terrain into an unbearable hotspot in a record time of less than a decade.

2. Poor Dalits bore the brunt:

It was further noticed that the poor and marginalized sections of population mostly including the Dalits had to bear the brunt of reckless mining and industrialization for the obvious reason that they didn't possess the costly wherewithal to withstand the baneful fallouts of the hotspot syndrome on their life and livelihood. The well-off minority consisting of the managerial class, white-collar personnel and prosperous businessmen and contractors etc who were otherwise the major financial beneficiaries of mining and industries, could jolly well afford air conditioners, coolers, refrigerators and other such costly appliances that enabled them to carry on their life and business as usual even if the outdoor atmosphere went on heating up preventing poor manual workers doing their manual labour under the scorching heat of the sun.

3. Accentuated Health Hazards-

The ever worsening climate change scenario in the areas surveyed has brought in its trail new health hazards occasioned by all out pollution of air, water, soil and above all the forest and vegetation profile in Angul-Talcher areas. Such known diseases as TB, Cancer, Asthma, Gastric and Respiratory disorders, Malaria and Typhoid went on increasing in spread and intensity among the people in areas affected by reckless mining and industrialization. This very scourge was found again to befall more on the poor and marginalized sections including Dalits than on the affluent section, for the obvious reason of their situation of impoverishment. No doubt, there occurred a visible growth in the medical and health care facilities including a network of nursing homes across Angul district during the last decade, but that is mostly confined to urban and semi-urban areas and in private sector, which because of their exorbitant charges couldn't be availed by poor and Dalit population. The latter, who are as such steeped in all sorts of superstition about faith healing and indigenous quackery, couldn't but slide further along the direction of native therapies because of its cheap and easy availability. Though the Government

run district dispensary at Angul could't provide any specific data relating to incidence of mortality and morbidity in the mining and industrialization affected areas, it was revealed from the household surveys that hardly any poor Dalit could avail the treatment facilities available in privately managed clinics and nursing homes.

4. Haphazard Compensation and R&R Benefits:

The lack of even an iota of sincerity on the part of the administration and company in respect of compensation and R&R package for the displacees was glaringly evident from the absence/ non-disclosure of detailed household-wise data on the same in the concerned offices of the govt. and company. The interaction with the households did also reveal that neither all the eligible households were covered under the compensation/R&R package, nor were there any uniform standards maintained in determining such benefits. However it was also noticed with concern that there occurred no organized resistance to the arbitrary manner in which compensation and R&R benefits were disbursed to the displacees in Talcher Block. But wonderfully, some sort of strong resistance is now noticeable in Chhendipada Block as reported from the case of Kankarai village. As a matter of fact, absence of conscious and articulate resistance by the displacees has allowed both Govt. and companies to deal haphazardly and discriminately with them, especially the Dalits among them.

5. The hollow and skewed R & R Policies –

Since Orissa didn't have any R & R Policy till 2006, most of the popularly known R & R entitlements such as provisions of alternative homestead or cash-in-lieu of it, job in the company or cash-in-lieu of it, infrastructural facilities in alternative house-sites, vocational training for self-employment, work-shed for artisans, especial provisions for disadvantaged groups such as widows, disabled, women heads of household and aged persons etc were not taken into considered at all. Most of all, the Dalits who constituted about 17% of total population and who are socially and economically marginalized, were not given any special consideration. Even after coming into force of Orissa R & R Policy in 2006 the ground reality didn't show any visible improvement. Because the much vaunted Policy didn't provide for even a semblance of grievance redressal mechanism worth the name. Ironically, the vary same revenue authorities who acquire the land on behalf of the Government or companies are placed in the position of arbiters over any dispute concerning compensation or R & R benefit at different levels. Further it didn't have any provision whatsoever for consultation with the displaced and affected people in any manner. It is worth noting here that though National R & R Policy 2007 was duly notified as applicable to all the projects proposed by the Government or a corporate agency, and though it has some admittedly positive features such as more transparent manner of preparation of EIA reports, conduction of public hearings, a robust grievance redressal mechanism and above all ombudsman system for disposal of compensation and R&R related matters, it has not received any executive importance from the Central or State Government, nor regretfully has it been ever talked about by the articulate sections

of displaced people. The Coal India Policy 2008 which specifically addresses to the households displaced by a coal mining project is the worst of all, since it does not vouch for any definite norm in determination of R & R benefits or talk of the special concerns for the displacees belonging to SCs/Dalits.

6. No transparency –

As a matter of fact, until the EIA Notification of 2006, there was no mandatory mechanism for circulation of EIA reports or conduction of public hearing in an open venue at the site of the concerned project involving different sections of affected people. It was therefore found that the Coal mining projects, which got through prior to 2006 Notification were all implemented without any semblance of consultation with the affected public. However, even after the above Notification came into force, its mandate for transparency in the process of consultation with the public or for a more objective approach to clearance of a project by the Government, were not adhered to. The EIA reports continued to be prepared by the private consultancy firms engaged by the concerned company and hardly were these circulated by the State Pollution Control Board in regional language among the public at Panchyat level on behalf of Govt. From the entire survey, not a single instance was found where the affected Dalit households had seen or read any EIA report or taken part in the deliberations of public hearings. Again, the rationale of the short shrift given by the Government in respect of EIA reports and public hearings is rooted in the innate apathy of the poor people especially the Dalits among them, who are mostly landless besides being illiterate. All this calls for a radical amendment to the existing EIA Notification with a view to provide full transparency in the mechanism for public consultation, drafting of EIA reports by independent and neutral bodies and above all facilitation of participation by the poor landless and disadvantaged sections of displaced population including Dalits.

CHAPTER- 4 Recommendations

Based upon the findings of study it is now felt worthwhile to suggest remedies by way of recommendations to be implemented by the Govt., displaced groups and civil society organizations. Such recommendations, we do believe, have replication potential for other areas in and outside Odisha wherever reckless mining and industrialization has turned a lush green terrain and its long settled habitations into a hellish environ in a record span of a few years.

To the Govt.:

- 1) Recent ubiquitous practice of open cast mining, though low-cost, more profitable and technologically compatible in comparison to age-old underground mining, has an irreparable deleterious impact on the eco-system as a whole, particularly the atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere of the earth. It renders the affected parts of earth permanently unlivable for the human beings and also for the nature given flora and fauna. In situations where coal deposits are available at a meager depth, say for instance at 15ft at Rajjharan in Chhendipada Block,

the option of open cast mining may be resorted to, provided that the vacuous space left away after open cast mining should be immediately filled with the very heaps of soil dug out in course of coal extraction. The Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India ought to develop a consultative process involving all stake holders including the organizations of displaced people to find out more ecologically viable and humane methods of coal extraction.

- 2) In course of the study it was found that not only the sums given as compensation against agricultural land and homestead are too paltry, but lacked any uniformity in standard. The compensation against land acquired and benefits under RR package though two distinct dispensations, have however been messed up by the concerned companies and Govt. agencies. The information sheet provided by the R.O., Angul Mr. Udhav Majhi as on 30.09.2010 on “Rehabilitation and Resettlement Status of Talcher Coal-fields, MCL since inception” talks of compensating, resettling and rehabilitating only the land holding tenants, whose land has been acquired for six coal mining projects, but there is no space at all for providing any benefits to landless households, who as everyone knows, belong to SC/dalit segment of population. Under the circumstances, R and R packages of MCL are thoroughly anti-Dalit and therefore deserve complete rejection by Dalit population.
- 3) There should be a sync between “National R & R Policy 2007”, ‘Orissa R &R Policy 2006’ and ‘Coal India R & R Policy 2008’ to ensure better governance in general and justice to the marginalized sections, especially SC/Dalit community displaced by mining and industrial projects. While the National Policy 2007 is explicit in its concern for SC/Dalit, the corresponding Coal India Policy 2008 does not even by mistake talk of any special provisions for Dalits. Orissa R & R Policy 2006 in its Section-9 talk of the provision for landless households, but the procedure to avail the benefits there-under is made so complex and cumbersome that no person belonging to the said categories can practically comply with it. Thus an imperative need exists for both Central and State Govt. to launch an open debate on national, state and sectoral R & R policies involving all the stack holders so as to provide for a uniform and just dispensation for the displaced and affected populations at all levels.
- 4) Now that a stiff rise in the air temperature even up to 51°C in midsummer is visibly correlated to expansion of open cast mining operations and coal fired power plants in the region, it is very much probable that the abnormal rise in temperature and regular occurrence of heat waves all across the state of Orissa can be traced to the reckless mining and industrialization in two coal belts of the state, namely Ib valley in Sundargarh and Jharsuguda Districts and Bramhani Valley in Angul district. For about one and half decades the entire Orissa has been experiencing ever increasing intensity of the heat wave occurring regularly every year. Needless to say, coal mining and coal fired industrialization is now the single greatest factor contributing to the ever worsening climate change scenario in Orissa and adjacent states such as Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

There is therefore an imperative need for measuring the cost benefit estimates of coal fired industrialization vis-à-vis climate change degradation.

- 5) The compensation matters dealt with by the MCL or Govt. are governed still by the over arching, colonial Land Acquisition Act 1894, which only provides for compensation to the land owners and never talk of the case of landless people or even of Govt. land or forest land. Above all, the L.A. Act 1894 shies away from talking anything about the ecological cost of land acquisition, irrespective of the type or size of the land so acquired. This Act is explicit in its bias for private companies and poised against the poor and marginalized sections of displaced population. Being totally out of harmony with the present day thrust on climate change, participatory development, positive discrimination for the poor and marginalized, and above all social justice for the outcast/Dalit communities, the L.A. Act 1894 deserves to be abolished at once lock, stock and barrel.

To the displaced people's organizations:

- (1) It was found in course of the study that the displaced people being poor, illiterate and disorganized are not in the habit of maintaining any written records with them as regards losses suffered or benefits if any received from the Govt. and companies. As a result, it is well nigh impossible on their part to establish the legitimacy of their claims or pendency thereof before any administration, company or court. Besides they are mostly in the habit of only verbalizing their grievances before anybody who approaches them at their doorstep, since they have not prepared any memorandum of demands in a form presentable before any agency whatsoever. Moreover, they don't have any organized forum with them through which they can negotiate or bargain with Govt .or Company in respect of any of their claims. It is therefore imperative that the leadership of the displaced people develop a method of systematic documentation of the losses and claims, frame memoranda on their grievances and also form forums and do the network building among them whereby they can do the necessary lobbying and advocacy before external agencies to press for their interests and rights.
- (2) As is well known there is a hell and heaven gap between land-holding displacees and landless displacees. The Scheduled Castes /Dalits are invariably landless and therefore have separate group of interests completely divergent from that of the land owning displacee families. Thus it is imperative that the landless Dalit segment of displaced population have their own exclusive organizational platform whereby they can strongly vouch for rights and interests peculiar to them.

To civil society groups:

- (1) It was noticed in course of study that though Angul District has several NGOs working on different subjects, none of them except Nari Surakshya Samiti has ever identified itself with the Dalit displacees. Though some media persons highlight the issues of adverse climate

change, such as recurrent heat waves and allied health hazards, they have so far conspicuously failed to establish a correlation between the worsening climate change on one land and open-cast coal mining and coal fired industrialization on the other. Thus it is imperative that civil society groups and media persons exert themselves with sincerity for delving deep into the issues facing Dalit displacees and as well highlight theoretical issues of locale-specific climate change that have wider ramification and implication for the state as a whole and even the country at large.

- (2) At present there is only a piecemeal localized campaign against unplanned displacement and reckless industrialization or even for articulating concern over worsening climate change in an isolated, specific area. There is no state level forum as such to voice the interlinked concerns together in a single dispensation covering the rights and interests of displaced people and ecological malaise at one go. Such a platform with the mandate of twin resistance to mindless displacement and worsening climate change is the need of the hour.

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