

Interrogating Vulnerabilities of India's Indigenous People: Towards a Holistic Missiological Paradigm

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India is home to over 700 hundred indigenous groups, referred as tribals or adivasis, with a population of around 8 millions of the nation's 1.3 billion people and considered the largest indigenous population in the world. One can feel the pain and agony of India's innocent tribals in their tragic stories of forcible encroachment of their lands in the name of development, displacement of over 200, 000 people as in the case of the [infamous Narmada eviction](#). Stories about the exploitations on rights of the tribal people, is not just about their land and water by the recent exploits of globalization and industrialization. Their tragic stories go as far back as their encounter with modernization and Western Christian missionary movements.

This paper attempts to make an analytical interrogation on the vulnerabilities of India's tribals from an inter-disciplinary perspective focused on underlying socio-cultural, socio-religious and socio- economic issues. The goal is to identify critical implications towards a holistic missiological paradigm for doing mission in the context of a wounded world of the indigenous people in India. The paper will be based on a case study analysis of two indigenous people groups – The Kol Adivasi of Uttar Pradesh and the Bodo tribe of Assam that represents the vulnerabilities and the struggles of India's millions of indigenous people whose cry for justice and self identity cannot go unheard.