

## Victims of Development – a story of tribal mission in Sundargarh district of Odisha, India

Industrial activity in the tribal areas is a tragic reality for tribal communities in Odisha, India. Tribal people live amid natural resources, which the administrative authorities want to exploit for development through industrial enterprise. Thus the tribal people become victims of development because they lose everything – their land, forest, water, social structure, culture and religion as they are displaced and resettled.

This has happened among the tribal in the northern Odisha. The mineral-rich tribal district of Sundargarh was taken for large scale industrialization for progress of the nation and development of the tribal. Natural resources were ruthlessly exploited and soon mines, factories, roads, dams and industrial townships shot up. New economy and lifestyle emerged, but simultaneously there was rampant land-alienation, cultural degradation, displacement, resettlement, rehabilitation, migration and human trafficking among the tribal.

Christian Mission accompanies the people commendably. But, there is no easy way to remedy. It is a complex issue and a matter of great concern. Modern advancements too adds to the complexity and throws further concerns.

For simple tribal people ruthless maneuvering of seasoned corporates and Governments are insurmountable. Also that their religious adherence, politics and tribal ethnicity keep them divided.

Mission enterprise faces stiff challenge to keep balance, mitigate division, foster unity to achieve common benevolent goals. It fights huge odds in order to succeed. Tribal people have to be protected from the ruthless corporates. Youth and children have to be educated toward benevolent future. For this, well considered common action programs have to be proposed and executed.

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