



## Human rights violation in Naxal affected area in India: An analysis of economic dimension

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### Abstract

Denial of genuine economic benefits is one of the Human Rights violation. Continuous economic deprivation resulted into humiliation, deprivation, poverty and frustration. India's red corridors where tribal are in a majority have been denied the economic benefits by both the center and state government. Consequently, the growth of tribal area embraced Maoist ideology, which believes in violent revolution, as the only way for their liberation from state manufactured poverty, exploitation and scarcity. Subsequently, the state and central government branded Maoist as terrorist groups and branded them as anti-nationals. Moreover, all the successive government pursue the negative agenda of military offensive for overcoming the armed maoist groups. Consequently, the maoist region is continuously witnessing different types of human rights violation. Firstly, the state centered human rights violation of denial of the genuine development cakes to the people of the darkest part of India. Secondly, in the name of eliminating the Naxalite, the security forces are violating Human Rights of different form like torturing, arresting, raping and killing of people and women. In this context the paper would like to analyse how the Naxalite area has been targeted by the state agencies and violation human rights.

**Keywords:** human rights violation, Naxal, economic dimension, deprivation

### Introduction

*"A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess."*

A. Philip Randolph

In India more number of peoples are killed in Naxal-related violence than insurgency in North East and cross boarder terrorism in Kashmir. Since Independence, the problem of terrorism have been hurting India in several ways. Significantly, this grave problem does not appear to be solved or recede. Only a few systematic studies have been carried out to understand the root causes of the terrorism. Although there are many reasons for the emergence of terrorism as stated earlier, only few studies have been carried out to understand economic dimension of human rights violation in naxal affected area in India. It is very difficult to come to a conclusion that how far economic dimension of human rights violation has been the main reason for the emergence of naxalism. But as far as India is concerned, being a democratic country and it could not fulfil the people's expectation and it has resulted in discontentment of the people.

In any democratic country it is very important for the state to ensure the welfare of the people. State is responsible for the economic, human and physical security of the people. But unfortunately in India, certain section of the people such as SC and ST in a few pockets are left with sufferings of poverty, illiteracy and lack of development due to deprived policy of the state. These people have been struggling to join the mainstream in all walks of their life. Except during the time of election, no politician visits these people. Moreover, due to

illiteracy, these people never had awareness about all the facilities they can enjoy including contesting in election. Even if they contest in election, the trauma they had to undergo cannot be explained in words.

*In 1952, in the first General Elections, an adivasi Mochaki Kosa won the Parliament seat with the help of his former ruler Raja Pravir Chandra Bhanj Deo. But soon he was fed up of living in Delhi. Among other things he complained of lack of money and resources to live a decent life in Delhi! Much later it was disclosed that his personal assistant assigned by the government cheated him of the allowances and perks that were due to him as a member of the Parliament. He left Delhi in the middle of his term and never returned<sup>[1]</sup>.*

Apart from that, the State has failed to address the grievances of the grass root people. This in turn created discontent and discomfort among some sections of people who resorted to violence to get their voice heard. This has not happened with all the people in the organisation involved in terrorism. Although initially some people involved in terrorism to fulfil organisational and ideological requirements, in later period it took the shape of other way round. The people who are not interested, are also either forced or dragged into the organisation. Likeminded people are easily attracted towards this. Various reasons such as political, social, economic, historical and psychological aspects had added its contributions to this.

Furthermore, organisations carrying out terrorist activities differ in the nature of their objectives from place to place. For example, all those organisations involved in naxalism and cross boarder terrorism in India and Insurgency in the North Eastern part of India never shared same reasons to resort to

violence. Motives and objectives varied as per the organisations' psychological, social, historical, economic and political requirement.

As India is reeling under left wing terrorism and is posing a major security threat to the world's largest democracy, this study would help to understand the economic dimension of human rights violation committed by government in naxal affected area of India. Moreover, this attempt would help find a solution to the problem of Naxalism as far as human rights violation is concerned and suggest policy measures to Indian democracy to contain the domestic terrorism.

### **Economic dimension of human rights violation in Naxal affected area of India**

Naxalism in India is not an outcome of an emotional outburst of a few people of the society but the failure of democratic India to win the hearts of the deprived people by sharing their genuine cake of development which they are badly in need of. The alienated people from tribal India had no option but to take arms under a label which is giving them the identity and legitimize violence. The unholy alliance of corrupt political system supported by the greedy crony capitalism and its negative consequences are some of the reasons and the courses and consequences are disastrous. The Union and State governments are directionless in dealing with the deep-rooted menace. In this context, this paper intends to discuss the human rights violation of both government and Naxalite as far as economic dimension is concerned.

### **Marginalized tribal community**

In India according to 2011 census the Schedule Tribe population accounts for 8.6 % of the total population. Out of this, only 2.8 % of the tribal people live in urban area and 11.3 % of the people live in rural area <sup>[2]</sup>. Indian constitution has ensured the protection and development of tribal people in fifth (Article 244(1)) and sixth schedule (Articles 244(2) and 275(1)). Besides that, the Indian Government has enacted laws such as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 aiming the protection of the tribal people from atrocities <sup>[3]</sup>. Similarly, many developmental programmes such as Integrated Tribal Development Projects, Stipends and Scholarships, Ashram Schools, educational incentives like free supply of uniforms, stationary, books etc., and post-matric scholarships targeting the welfare of ST people have been implemented to raise their standard of living. In spite of all these provisions, the prevalence of low level of literacy rate, acute poverty, unemployment, lack of health facility, high infant mortality rate, lack of sanitation and drinking water facility etc., has continuously side-lined these people.

According to the statistical Division of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Housing condition (40.6%) of the tribal people in India is very poor compared to that from other social groups (53.1%). Similarly in terms of sanitation, only 22.6 % of the tribals have toilet facility compared to other social groups (46.9%). Only 19.7% of the tribal people have access to pure drinking water with in their premises compared to 46.6% of the other social groups. According to the NSS report No: 543, for the year 2009-10, literacy rate of Schedule Tribal children below 5 years are 63.1% while that of the other social groups

is (72.8%). Similarly, the dropout rate of ST boys from class I-X in 2010-11 was 70% while it was 50.4% for other social groups. Dropout rate of ST girls is 71.3% while in other social group (47.9%). These data suggests that the tribal people in India are marginalised <sup>[4]</sup>.

Similarly, they have been denied health facilities and infrastructure facilities and they are not connected to the main stream by transport facilities. Though most of the tribal areas are blessed with rich minerals and natural resources they have been denied the basic facilities like power and other livelihoods while the multi nationals are continuously exploiting their natural resources. Moreover, the illiterate tribals are victimised by money lenders, middle men contractors, tribal chief tenants, tribal priests, corrupt bureaucrats, forest guards, police forces and vested interest corrupt politicians. Consequently, most of the tribal people in India are living in darkness and ignorance. The spread of modern education, the committed works of various missionary organisations, NGOs and political activists create a lot of social and political awareness among the tribals. Consequently, one group is coming up in life understanding and adjusting with the forces of modernisation, other majority group living in an unreachable, untameable, and opinionated mentality are living in continuous darkness and still another group which is getting ideological based training join in various violent groups such as naxalism and Maoism.

### **Displaced people and lack of proper rehabilitation**

Development is inevitable for India to sustain in the globalized world. The post and pre globalization periods have witnessed many changes in the connotation of the development. In the pre globalization period, India was following mixed economic policy where in both public and private were involved in the economy, with more preference given to the public. But in post 1990's, India has opened up its economy to the world through liberalization, privatization, and globalization policy. This policy has brought more FDI to India. These FDI forced the Indian government to continue even exploitative nature of land reform policy than earlier. All the land reform policies targeted at exploiting the poor people and benefitted the corporate world. In pre globalization era, Nehru favoured the policy of building large heavy industries and Dams. While speaking on the construction of Hirakud dam on 1948 Jawaharlal Nehru said, "If you are to suffer, you should suffer in the interest of the nation". These sufferings continue to exist still now and it seems this applies to the tribal and poor people alone and not to corporates. The rehabilitation and resettlement policy of the Indian government has not been favorable to the people living in that area. For Projects such as Hirakud, Nagarjuna sagar, Mayurakshi and Tungabhadra dams, the Rourkela, Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants, several defense establishment coal mines etc. the government did not provide the house sites for the project affected people in resettlement and rehabilitation plan. Only two government undertaking companies such as National thermal power corporation (NTPC) and Coal India Limited have formulated their own policy of rehabilitation and resettlement in order to rehabilitate the people in the proper manner <sup>[5]</sup>. The database shows us that from 1947-2000 around 6 crore people had been displaced due to various development

projects. In 1985, the committee appointed by Tribal Ministry found that over 40% of the displaced people and Project Affected People between the periods of 1951 – 1980 were tribals [6].

The post globalization scenario has suggested that the framing of Land Reform Policy was under the pressure of World Bank, which was to benefit the corporates. In order to vacate the people from their lands often force had been used. World Bank senior advisor, Dr Michael M Cenea says that, “Our study found that impoverishment and brutal violation of basic human rights happen most frequently in programmes that are not subject to agreements on policy guidelines and to professional outside review, supervision and evaluation. Such domestic projects account for overwhelming majority – at least 95 per cent – of the millions and millions of people forcibly displaced worldwide. This fact is irrefutable argument for adoption of national policies and legal framework for resettlement in all developing countries” [7]. The local people’s protest against POSCO steel plant in Orissa, and Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project in Madban village of Ratnagiri districts in Maharashtra has witnessed the people’s disappointment against the government’s land acquisition policy. Similarly, Tata’s Nano car project in Singur in West Bengal attracted the attention of the International media for the government’s forcible displacement of the people from 997 acres (4.03 Km<sup>2</sup>) of agricultural land under colonial Land Acquisition Act of 1894 [8]. As a support to the farmers, the Opposition Party (TMC) Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee’s movement titled “Save Farmland” was started. This movement also received support from the renowned environmental activists like Medha Patekar, Arundhiti Roy and Anuradha Talwar and Intellectuals like Kaushik Sen, Aparna Sen, Suvapasanna, and Shaonali Mitra. However the Noble Laureate Amritya Sen supported the idea of car project but opposed the forcible land acquisition [9].

Like Singur, many places have been under the controversy of forcible farming land acquisition. Activist like Medha Patekar had been fighting for the rights of the people over lands. She has initiated and still been working on Narmadha Bachao Andholan, where in many tribal and poor farmers have been forcibly displaced without any proper compensation. Likewise she is also involved in other protests like Golibar demolition, and Kovvada Nuclear project in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh [10].

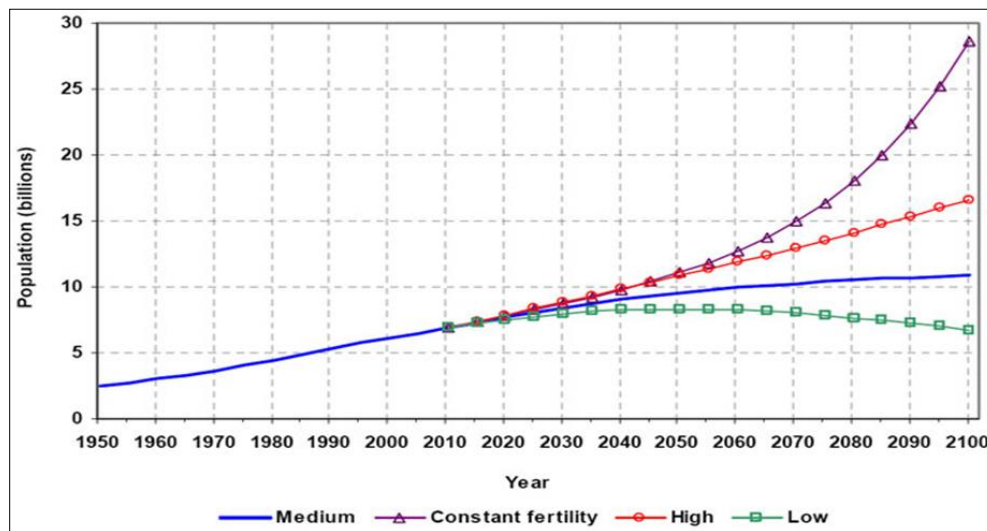
Despite such oppositions from the people against these companies, the government continues to carry out the projects without considering the local people’s welfare. The meagre rehabilitation packages given by government are not sufficient for the affected people for their livelihood. The government need to take more steps to ensure the proper rehabilitation of the people but so far it has failed to do so.

**Exploitation of natural resources**

Natural resources are the significant determinants of the economic and human development of any country. The demand for natural resources arises due to many factors. Firstly, over population: for centuries world population grew relatively less, but then it suddenly took a big leap. The human population on Earth never passed the 1 billion mark until 1804. Then it took only 123 years to double and reach 2 billion (in 1927), then within 48 years doubled to 4 billion (in 1974), and has now exceeded 6 billion. The earth’s population is projected to grow from its present 6.2 billion to 8.5 to 11 billion by the end of the twenty-first century.

The Government hardly meets the basic needs of all the people due to the vast growing population. The Government has failed to meet the necessities such as improved sanitation, better medical care, and increase in the production and supply of food for the huge population [11].

**Population of the world**



Source: population division of the department of economic and social affairs of the united nations secretariat (2013). World population prospects: the 2012 revision, new youk: united nations. <http://www.unfpa.org/pds/trends.htm>

**Fig 1:** Population of the world, 1950-2100, according to different projections and variants

Secondly, the rising demand for the natural resources such as Iron, Gold, Silver, bronze etc., has led to a complex situation. The natural resources play a very crucial role in the development of any country. Without advanced and sophisticated technology it is very difficult for any country to extract the natural resources from the ground. So, most of the countries rely on the private companies who have the latest and sophisticated technology to extract these resources. Many problems arise while exploiting these natural resources from the ground. The private companies always extract these resources on a profit motive rather than public interest. In many instances these private firms involved in mining activity are found to be over exploiting the resources by extracting more than government set guidelines. The royalty paid by these private firms to the government is very less and does not justify the cost of resources. This has resulted in increase in the profit of these firms and the exploitation of the nation's wealth (for example: Bellary mining scams). Unregulated mining by the private firms and continuous exploitation of the natural resources have resulted into only in the denial of livelihood of the tribal people and forced rehabilitation<sup>[12]</sup>. Consequently, the tribal people organise themselves under the banner of naxalism to protest against the government and the mineral hungry heavy industries<sup>[13]</sup>.

In India, the rich mineral resources are available in the naxal affected areas. The Indian government is unable to extract these mineral resources fully due to naxal agitation. Many scholars say that the main reason for the government's interest in naxal affected areas is not to develop the area but because of corporate pressure, the government wants to make the way clear so that big corporate such as Vedanta Group, POSCO, TATA, Jindal's etc.<sup>[14]</sup>, can and extract these natural resources and make profit<sup>[15]</sup>. The government gives many kinds of concession to these corporates in order to attract them to invest their money<sup>[16]</sup>. A few steps taken by the government to attract these corporates are, forming Special Economic Zones in fertile lands, giving tax holidays to the corporates, giving away the land for low price, allowing the corporates to have their own labour law instead of following that of the state, etc<sup>[17]</sup>. For instance, recently Comptroller of Auditor General of India released a report on SEZ in which he has emphasised that the companies established in SEZ have made thousands of crores by not paying taxes and using the land acquired for other purposes which are not stated there in SEZ rules<sup>[18]</sup>. These steps are taken at the cost of the livelihood of tribals and other backward people. Once the corporates are ready to invest in any state, the government would vacate all the people by giving them meagre amount of compensation as rehabilitation. While rehabilitating these people from their land, the government some time does not take serious concern of their compensation and resettlement<sup>[19]</sup>. So these steps of the government to please the corporates show, how far government has leaned towards the corporates than taking care of the welfare of the people. The growing influence of these corporates on the government shows that, the government has started compromising the welfare of the people for the sake of satisfying the corporates. If it continues to be like this, in future no government can contain any kind of violence which follows the attributes of naxalism, which has been emerged out of socio economic problem<sup>[20]</sup>.

### **Poor health facility**

Mahatma Gandhi said that India lives in villages and that's why he strongly advocated the importance of strengthening local self-government. However, Nehruvian mixed economy and public enterprises policies ignored the importance of Panchayat raj and therefore thousands and thousands Indian rural and tribal villages are not yet provided with transport facilities. Especially in the naxalite controlled areas like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Orissa the situation is very pitiable<sup>[21]</sup>. Many villagers have not been provided electricity, drinking water, Primary Health Centres or primary schools<sup>[22]</sup>. At one side India is proud of achieving so many milestones in science, space and military technology. However, the tribal and rural people in many parts of India are suffering with so many diseases and malnutrition.

The reality reveals the plight of the tribal people as well as the reasons for their frustration. They have lost their hope not only on their future but also on the democratic government of India. However, they are longing for solution or an alternative. Other than the non-delivering present system, the options before the sinking people of tribal India are only a few. The first option is silently suffering and dying with the available limited resources and the second option is supporting and joining the naxalite movement which is opposing the present political system. Consequently, the naxalite leaders are not ready to accept any development project from the government of India as they consider it as a trap to divert tribals from their support base. The ultimate sufferers are poor innocent tribal people.

### **Denial of land rights**

Indian History is known for its notorious castes and Zamindars which systematically justified the denial of so many benefits – social, political, cultural and education etc., to the weaker section and continue to justify the practice of discrimination and untouchability. Land is not only a source of ownership but also identity and strength. The Zamindari system did not allow the poor people to own the land but forced them to work in their lands to earn their livelihood. Consequently, majority tribal and rural population continued to live in distant make shift or thatched roof huts with minimum facilities. However India's independence, the Fabian model of socialism, the Bhoodhan movement initiated and advocated by Vinoba Bhave<sup>[23]</sup> and his socialist disciple created a ray of hope among the landless people. Vinoba Bhave and his disciples partially succeeded in convincing the landlords from Telengana to donate thousands of acres of land to the poor<sup>[24]</sup>. Simultaneously, the Land Ceiling Act initiated by the Union government further created some hope among the landless people. However, the Telengana movement of 1946-51 against the large land owners<sup>[25]</sup> created awakening and the beginning of Communist movement in India. Consequently, the landless people approached the judiciary for justice in vain. Moreover, the tribals were displaced from the area without proper rehabilitation facilities.

Research findings say that the number of tribals displaced till 1990's is 85.39 lakhs (55.16 % of total displaced) out of which 64.23% are yet to be rehabilitated<sup>[26]</sup>. As per official reports 3.75 lakh cases have been registered on alienation of tribals by non tribals for restoration of the land. This

registered case contains 8.5 lakh acres of land<sup>[27]</sup>.

Moreover, around 1.62 lakh cases were in favor of tribals' claim covering an area of 4.47 lakh acres. Around 1.55 lakh cases covering an area of 3.63 lakh acres have been rejected by the revenue court<sup>[28]</sup>.

The widespread corruption in administration, and the time consuming process of court, requirement of huge money to file case has always added endless agony and despair for the tribals. Even after winning the cases, they face difficulty to restore the land, because of non tribals' appeal in Higher Court. This has always made very difficult for the tribals to possess the land, which fairly takes much time in reaching the final phase. These troubles faced by tribals are not only from non tribals but also from state which is supposed to be the keeper of the tribals according to the 5<sup>th</sup> schedule of the constitution.

The below table shows the comparison between land holding by the ST, SC, OBC and Others. SC and ST people are more in number who do not have lands. Despite living in forest for generation, 40 % of STs are landless and 48% of the people are living in 0-0.4 hectares of the land. Although the condition of SC, ST is much better in possession of land, the condition of tribals remain to be pathetic<sup>[29]</sup>.

#### Land holding of the people from various social groups

Table 1

S. No	Land size	ST	SC	OBC	Others	Total
1.	Land less	40.39	366.4	27.36	17.23	28.62
2.	0-0.4 hectares	48.85	37.28	30.70	21.85	31.44
3.	0.4-1 hectares	47.78	34.18	24.28	15.13	26.42
4.	1-2 hectares	38.84	31.25	21.68	12.52	22.16
5.	2-4 hectares	39.62	25.00	16.28	7.80	16.95
6.	>4 hectares	34.85	17.26	10.74	4.79	10.55
	Total	44.45	35.48	25.74	15.90	26.56

Source: NSS, 55<sup>th</sup> Round, MOSPI

As per the development project report of the government, 40% of the approximately 60 million displaced person between 1947 and 2000 have not received the rehabilitation packages till now<sup>[30]</sup>, where as in the case of tribals, three fourth of tribals have not received any compensation. The government policy of allowing the formation of SEZ (Special Economic Zone) and MNC in tribal areas (such as Vedanta, POSCO) has displaced the tribals in large numbers<sup>[31]</sup>.

The government policy for protecting tribals or rehabilitation has never fully benefitted the tribals. The tribals, who are fully dependent on forest products for their livelihood, after getting displaced, do not have any source of living. The proposed amendments to the law of acquisition and reformulation of the policy of rehabilitation have made no commitment to stop acquisition of the tribal land or even to reduce it. This happens despite the Supreme Court judgment in the Samtha case. In this case, the Supreme court clarified that "the object of the Fifth and Sixth Schedule is not only to prevent acquisition,...but also to ensure that tribals remain in possession and enjoyment of lands in Scheduled Areas for their economic empowerment, social status and dignity of their person: The Constitution intends that the land always

should remain with the tribals. Even the government land should increasingly get allotted to them individually and collectively"<sup>[32]</sup>.

In response to the Supreme Court judgment, the government tries to change the fifth schedule to neutralize the judgment. Unless the sons of the soil – tribals and other oppressed people are guaranteed with the ownership of adequate agricultural land to earn their livelihood it is impossible for the government machinery to win back the people in the democratic streams with offensive means. The need of the hour is reaching the unreached formulating and implementing inclusive policies and being ready to share the cake of development with the poor people.

#### Lack of sanitation, housing and drinking water

Understanding the importance of toilets, the former Union Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh said that India needs more toilets than temples<sup>[33]</sup>, and it created a lot of controversy. The BJP leaders strongly condemned his statement.

However, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi said "build toilet first and temples later", which also created a lot of controversy with in BJP<sup>[34]</sup>. In continuation of that in his first Independence Day message in Red Fort Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated the message that "we need to build toilets before we build more temples" He aims to put an end to the open defecation in India by 2019- 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Birth day.

Moreover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared Mahatma Gandhi's birth day, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct as a day of cleanliness. Obviously his call was enthusiastically welcomed by most of the people in India<sup>[35]</sup>.

This ambitious effort of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a long term vision is a welcome sign. However, the real situation in rural and urban India is very bleak in nature. At present as far as sanitation, i.e., toilet accessibility is concerned, 23.7 % of Dalit households and 17% of the tribal households have toilet facility compared to 42.3% in other community household<sup>[36]</sup>. Similarly, drinking water facility is another crisis the people of India is facing. People are walking miles together for a pot of water. According to the latest data only 15.2% of the tribals and 27% of Dalit's households have access to drinking water when compared to 48% of the household from other community. Likewise 40.1% household of other community has access to tap water compared to tribal household where only 20% has access to tap water and for Dalit household it is 32%<sup>[37]</sup>.

The following table 3.5 gives the details about Sanitation, Housing, Electricity and Drinking water facilities available. According to Dr. Elisha Roma, Diarrhoea diseases are the second leading cause of child death in the world. Every year 85 million children die of diarrhoea, and 88% of this death are caused because of poor sanitation and polluted water. The report says that improved sanitation and hand washing facilities have a particularly positive impact on the educational opportunities of young children, particularly girls who are disproportionately affected by lack of privacy and cleanliness<sup>[38]</sup>.

**Sanitation, housing, electricity and drinking water****Table 2**

S. No	Area	Description	STs	All Social Groups
	Housing	% households having Permanent houses	24.4	51.8
	Drinking water	%households having drinking water sources within premises	15.2	39.0
	Electricity	% households having access to electricity	36.5	55.8
	Sanitation	%households having latrine facility	17.0	36.4
		%households with connectivity for waste-water outlet	21.8	46.4

Source: Census of India, 2001

**Disparities in infrastructure**

The wide disparities in Human Development are also accompanied by a huge gap in the availability of development infrastructure (roads, bridges, transport networks, telecommunication facilities), social infrastructure (schools, health centre's, piped water supply schemes, power distribution lines) and production infrastructure (irrigation, storage go-downs for PDS, cold storage for preservation of marketable produce, outlets for supply of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary centers, banking units – commercial and cooperative) in the naxalite affected areas. Geographical inaccessibility, hilly and undulating terrain, scattered habitations, sparse population with low density have provided convenient alibis for this neglect, such as economic non-viability, high cost, difficulty in operations and maintenance. The infrastructure is not merely inadequate but at a lower level of gradation than the rest of the country. There is a candid admission by the government that this lack of critical infrastructure results in the inability of tribal areas to meaningfully absorb funds, including institutional support. This gap in infrastructure is widening at a faster rate. Besides, even the meagre infrastructure that exists in the region is deteriorating due to poor maintenance and, therefore, becomes increasingly non-functional due to lack of funds. The non-functionality of social infrastructure is even more seriously compromised by the absence of teachers from Schools, Doctors and Paramedics from Health Centres, and service providers in respect of other vital services. These functionaries who largely come from the developed regions of the state and higher social groups are disinclined to work in the tribal areas. This explains why the people in these areas receive poor services.

**Impact of Naxalism in India**

The naxalite movement is known for its well organised execution of its violent agenda. The main aim of the naxalites is to expose the inability of the government and also gain the support of exploited tribal people. Consequently, the tribal areas are beset with so many difficulties. Moreover, the naxalites are very particular about running a parallel government in the so called liberated zones. The prolonged undeclared war in the tribal India results into so many negative impacts. The following section gives a critical account of the economic impacts of naxalism in India.

**Economic Impact of Naxalism in India**

Poverty, scarcity, unemployment and ill health are the natural outcomes of a prolonged conflict. The naxalites are dreaming to form a classless utopian society without exploitation at the

cost of denying all the development facilities of the government. The continuous fighting between the government forces and naxalites have converted the whole red corridors as sick and dark areas of India beset with all types of economic ills as discussed in the previous section. The study suggests that in all the naxal affected states except Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, all the nominal per capita GDP is below \$1000 whereas in all the other unaffected states the per capita GDP is excess of \$1000 for the 2009 fiscal year.

In many areas where there is strong hold of the Naxalites, their own tax system is being applicable. For every economic activity taken place, whether it is laying roads or building bridges, or trucks and trains passing through the Naxalite affected area, some percentage of the goods or money has to be given to the naxalite group. If anybody refuses to give, either they would not be allowed to take or the transportation was barred. The fine examples are incident of Satyawati railway station, abduction of Station Master and taking control of passenger trains in Jharkhand and Rajdhani Express in West Bengal<sup>[39]</sup>.

The development activities such as schools, roads and bridges etc., in naxal affected areas were totally halted because of the restriction imposed by the naxals in that area. It has been very tough for the state and central governments to carry out the welfare programmes for a long time. Often the mistakes committed by security forces by camping in schools and public building has cost the public exchequer. Naxals prefer to destroy the buildings so as to curb the security forces finding any shelter. The significant impact of this 47 years of conflict between the Naxalites and the government security forces had led to the under development of conflict area and low level of human development of the tribals and poor peasants. Untill both the naxals and the government come to the table to reach an amicable settlement it will not be possible to stop Naxalite kind of violence.

The continuous conflict has been forcing so many tribals out of their regions, and to seek asylum in an unfriendly environment. Each tribal group is known for its unique culture in India. However, the displacement the people from one area to the other prevent people from maintaining their cultural identity. As in any other conflict women and children are the main casualties in naxalite zones also. There are so many reports also available of the raping of women by security forces or security sponsor mercenary forces like Salwa Judum<sup>[40]</sup>. Salwa Judum is well known for their notorious human rights violation. Both are competing with each other in torturing innocent people in the name of extracting information and secrecy<sup>[41]</sup>. Fear of naxalites and government forces have driven so many youths out of red corridors and

they are scattered in different parts of India as coolies and daily wage labourers involving in construction related work for minimum salaries. Above all, the lack of education facilities leave millions of children without education for the naxalites are destroying the school buildings and the security forces are misusing the school buildings as their camps denying the children the basic education facilities. It is well said that illiteracy, ignorance, scarcity, lack of development etc., are the asset of the naxalites to continue their struggle.

### Conclusion

The paper discusses the Economic Dimension of Human Rights Violation in Naxal Affected Area of India. As far as the emergence of naxalism, it can be traced back to the formation of Communist Party in India in 1925. Later on the impact of Telengana Uprising in 1948 was also considered as an important factor for the emergence of naxal movement. But in reality, the naxal movement started when the peasant uprising started in Darjeeling district of West Bengal, when a tribal boy named Bimal Kissan who ploughed the land with judicial order without the consent of Zamindar was attacked by the Landlord's goons and killed on March 2, 1967. In response to this incident, the tribals retaliated and started capturing their lands forcefully. Subsequently, later on in May 1967, the dream of Charu Mazumdar was fulfilled when the armed assault was launched against the landlord to loot his granary by 150 members led by Kanu Sanyal. In the following months 200 violent incidents that involved robbery, assault and the stealing of armaments were witnessed. The subsequent events led the movement to spread to other parts of India as well. Since its emergence numerous people have been killed or injured. According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) since 1999, 12,253 people have died till November, 2014. This shows the seriousness of naxalism. The former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has also several times reiterated that naxalism is the biggest security threat to India.

The paper discussed the economic dimension of human rights violation committed by both central and state government over the period of more than six decades. The underperforming and inefficient government has been continuously ignoring the tribal, minority and deprived people in the development process. The government has failed to give the share of economic development to the sidelined and marginalized people living in extremely pathetic condition. By doing so, the government itself has committed gross human rights violation against the people. This paper discussed how marginalized tribal community has been systematically deprived of their share of economic development. Moreover, the other issues such as displaced people and lack of proper rehabilitation, exploitation of natural resources, poor health facility, denial of land rights, lack of sanitation, housing and drinking water, disparities in infrastructure and economic impact of naxalism has also been elaborately discussed.

Although many committees have been formed to investigate the physical human rights violation committed by the government, the outcome of the findings has not been utilized to either give compensation to the victims or to correct the action of the government. This paper highlights the economic aspect of human rights violation committed by the government in order to make government to realize the

mistake it has committed since independence. As long as the government do not make serious attempt to resolve the economic issues of the people in the naxal affected area, it will be difficult for the government to solve the problem.

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