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PROBLEM OF LAND ALIENATION IN SCHEDULED AREAS OF TELANGANA

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The State of Telangana had a significant percentage of tribal population, centered on Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, and Mahabubnagar districts. Approximately, the tribal population constituted around Eight percent of the State population. The tribals in Telangana belonged to Gonds, Kolams, Koya, Gotti Koya, Kondareddi, Nayakpoda, Chenchu, Lambadis, and others. This population had been suffering from various problems such as illiteracy, malnutrition, abject poverty, backwardness, inadequate educational and health infrastructure, indebtedness, non-tribal interventions, and seasonal diseases, violence between police and left-wing extremists, and so on.



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LAND ALIENATION PROBLEM IN TELANGANA: HISTORICAL ROOTS AND CONTEMPORARY STRUGGLES

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Introduction

The State of Telangana has been a home to a prominent percentage of the tribal population which is located in different districts of the state like Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, and Mahaboobnagar. The tribal population constitutes around 8% of the state population and consists of tribals belonging to Gonds, Kolams, Koya, Gotti Koya, Kondareddi, Nayakpodu, Chenchu, Lambadis, and other communities. These tribal groupings have been besieged and plagued by very formidable challenges like abject poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, indebtedness, seasonal diseases and non-tribal intervention along with issues pertaining to land alienation. Among all these intimidating and dreadful problems, the issue of land alienation has proved to be quite telling and salient. It has been the case right from the rule of the Nizamas of Hyderabad till the present-day.

While taking cognizance of the tribal port in India, the study of land alienation plays a very conspicuous and noticeable role. The tribal population of the country in general and the tribals of the Telangana region in particular have been victims of this problem of any nation of land not only during the time of the British colonial rule but also during the post-independence period. Successive governments in the country right from the inception of the nation as an independent nation have been leaving no stone unturned for making positive interventions for finding a lasting solution to this protracted problem. However, the callousness of the bureaucracy laced with indifferent attitude has entangled this issue in many controversies and unwanted litigation. The present research study tries to shed light on the historical process that is involved in the process of alienation of the tribal land during the rule of the British colonial masters and the Nizam rulers and its bearing and implications on the present-day policy process.

Since times immemorial, the tribal communities residing South India have been performing the 'podu cultivation' as a means of earning their livelihood. However, the tribal population resorted to permanent land holdings when the government of the day categorically made a policy to minimize "Podu cultivation". It was during the period of Sir Salar Jung (1960) that the survey and settlement operation was initiated in Telangana region which subsequently converted the land into individual ownership.

The issues pertaining to the tribal agricultural land cropped up because of at least two developments which took place in subsequent periods. They are:

i. The deprivation of tribals of the agriculture lands in the name of his forests for exploiting the forest wealth by the non-tribals.

ii Likewise, the advancement of non-tribals into the tribal areas and the subsequent lowering of the tribals by a non-tribals and depriving them of their lands has resulted in the alienation of land to the tribals and which ultimately culminated in pushing them out of their agricultural lands which had resulted in their pauperization.

