

National Seminar on

Development, Dispossession and Resistance (DDR 2016)

(14th and 15th November, 2016)

Organised by

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, odisha

In recent years, resource extraction for industrial development is gaining an unprecedented intensity in India. Expropriations of land, forest and mineral resources, privatisation of commons, reallocations of water and the attendant socio-economic and ecological disruptions and displacements of people by large-scale projects are currently reshaping rural and tribal India. Nothing illustrates the role of structural inequalities and power dynamics better than development-induced displacement and dispossession, wherein the poor including tribal and subaltern groups living in resource rich areas, are specified and intervened upon for resource extraction from their land. Paradoxically, the incidence of dispossession and displacement is one of the highest in resource rich areas, with the major parts being in the endemically deprived and backward tribal-dominated areas.

The entry of private companies both domestic and multinational in 1990s into the industrial and mining sectors has changed the tone and tenor of the dispossession and displacement debate. Protest movements against dispossession have become a part of the socio-political reality in the country. The perception of a state trying to acquire and extract natural resources in the name of 'public interest', has intensified protests. Also, the active involvement of civil society groups in those protests has widened the scope of debate on development and dispossession. In consequence, the protest movements provide an anti-thesis to the stereotype of 'the powerless' project-affected people, who failed to counteract top-down and unilateral state development-interventions and succumb to impoverishment risks. While State is trying to accommodate diversity of concerns, movements both violent and non-violent against dispossession are gaining ground, which affects both people and the process of development. In this context, the conference seeks to explore the new modes of extractive development with a particular focus on the collective practices that they have set in motion in rural and tribal areas. The conception that neo-liberalism incites and creates as much as it constrains and destroys is being debated here. At the institutional level, the deprivation of rural and tribal communities does not merely hinge on the hollowing out of

public institutions by private institutions both national and transnational, but also involves, the entanglement of public and private players serving strategic goals. At the political level, collective actions are hardly limited to protest and contestation. They also often involve or evolve into negotiation and even accommodation. At the spatial level, the very material, ecological and social contours of the rural and tribal areas are being transformed.

The conference will particularly address the following questions:

- What are the mechanisms and dynamics facilitating current extractions and commercialisations in domains of land, mineral, water, agriculture and forests? Who are the actors (state / non-state, rural/urban, tribal/non-tribal etc.) driving these new forms of dispossession of subaltern resources on local, national as well as international levels?
- What forms of collective practices emerge out of these transformations in rural and tribal areas? What are the resources, repertoires, and reference frames used in this context? And how do they relate to recent protest movements in the affected regions?
- What do these collective actions tell us about the relevance of the rural/tribal and urban/industrial divide in contemporary India? To what extent is this divide of any use in a context of intensified resource extraction? And how are rural/tribal actions connected to urban/industrial ones, and local practices to international and global ones?
- Finally, and in more theoretical terms, what do these dispossessions and collective actions tell us about the kind of neoliberal restructuring we are currently faced with?

The conference intends to bring together social scientists, administrators, activists and corporate managers to address these questions within the contexts of the current model of extractive development strategy.

The conference will be dwelling on the following sub themes:

- Contextualising Development and Dispossession
- Commodification of Natural Resources
- Politics of Development and its Discontents
- Debating Exclusion: Adivasis, Dalits and Women.
- Emergence of New Actors and Collective Movements

Important Dates:

- Last date for receipt of Abstracts – 15th August, 2016
- Date of intimation for acceptance of Abstracts- 25th August, 2016
- Last date for receipt of full length paper –30th September, 2016
- Date of intimation for selection of paper – 15th October, 2016

Travel support:

Depending on the availability of funds, reimbursement of travel charges will be considered to those whose papers are accepted for presentation. However, the Organizing Committee will appreciate if individuals can manage funds for their travel.

Local hospitality:

The Organizing Committee will be pleased to provide local hospitality (breakfast, lunch and dinner on all days of conference for the outstation delegates and lunch on all two days of conference to the local delegates) to every registered delegate.

Accommodation:

Modest accommodation (double occupancy) will be provided to all the out station participants from the evening of 13th Nov, 2016 to the morning of 16th Nov., 2016. Accommodation for the accompanying persons (aged above 5 years) will be provided on payment of Rs. 600 per day.

Registration fees:

- Category 1 Academicians/Faculties (Non-Local) Rs. 1200
- Category 2 Academicians/Faculties (local) Rs. 800
- Category 3 NGO professionals Rs. 600
- Category 4 Corporate Delegates Rs. 2000
- Category 5 Students Rs. 600
- Category 6 Persons from outside India US \$. 100
- Category 7 Accompanying person Rs. 1000

Registration form can be downloaded from the NIT website (www.nitrkl.ac.in). Filled in forms should be mailed either to niharhcu@gmail.com or

nithscon@gmail.com. Registration amount can be paid online. It can be paid to account number- , SBI, NIT campus.

Sponsorship:

Industries, R&D organizations, Govet & Non-Government Organizations are requested to sponsor the conference and depute delegates free of registration fee. The conference proceedings will feature the name and the details of sponsoring agencies and will be given wide circulation.

Sponsoring/Co-sponsoring rates are as under:

Category	Contribution	Free registration
Principle sponsor	Rs. 50000	4 Delegates
Principle co-sponsor	Rs. 40000	3 delegates
co-sponsor	Rs. 25000	2 delegates

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**NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
DEVELOPMENT, DISPOSSESSION
AND RESISTANCE
(DDR 2016)**

November 14-15, 2016

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

(Please fill in capital letter)

Name: Mr. /Ms. /Dr. /Prof.
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.....
(Middle Name) (Last Name)

Organisation:

Designation:

Mailing Address:

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Phone: (Office):

(Residence):Mob:

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Date:

Signature:

Encl: DD No:

Date:On..... (Bank)

Participant can do the online registration available in our website nitrkl.ac.in or they can mail the filled registration form to niharchu@gmail.com.

All payment should be made by Demand Draft of any Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of DDR-2016, payable at State bank of India, NIT Campus Branch, Rourkela (Code:2109)