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Topic of the Study- Human Rights and Transnational Corporations: A Study of Social Movements against Hazardous Projects of Shell in Nigeria and POSCO in India.

Abstract

Oppression, exploitation and human sufferings have always been an important part of the history. Since the time of hunter and gatherers human being have tried to evolve a system of cohesive and organized society based on rule of law. The evolution of the state as a political entity is full of wars and peace in the every epoch of history. Several kinds of developments took place in evolving a democratically cohesive society which is free from any tyranny rule. Resistance and movement played an essential role in gaining justice and freedom from any tyranny rule.

The idea of neo-liberal started floating in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Consequently the conditions of globalization have started spreading across the world. A world without borders was imagined and conceptualized. Development for all was promised. It was thought of as a new chapter in the history of human emancipation. The norms and ideas of neo-liberal economy soon spread to most of the state into its reach. Since then, many changes are taking place. Apart from the changes in economics and politics, there is also emergence of discontent against these changes. Soon it become increasingly evident that resistance movements against the adversity of the globalisation in the contemporary world. As a main component of globalisation, Transnational Corporations (TNCs) emerged as dominating development in the global economics. It has great impact on economic, social and political influence on developing state. After 1990 as the free market policy became principle for national economies which has been influencing every aspect of life. After rapid economic transformations, the developing world seems weak in providing basic welfare agenda of state under the conditions of neo-liberal economy.

It led to the emergence of global governance and restructuring of the role of international financial institutions such as International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade organization, where neoliberal ideas dominate the system. The states in the developing world are torn apart between global settings of neo-liberal ideas and hope and aspirations of the

masses. In the absence of industrial development due to the resource constraints the state in the developing world had to open its market for the foreign investments. The profit motive of the Transnational Corporations soon exposed its dark consequences. As result resistance and movements start taking place to oppose them.

Historically the state is seen as a sole protectors and upholders of the human rights. But in the absence of such protection from the state, people are forced to rise against injustice inflicted by big corporations. The discourse on human rights has produced many new understandings for its smooth realization globally. In the wake of new social movements the major stakeholders of human rights are in the course of developing ways to meet the challenges which violates human rights. Among all the issues of labour laws occupies and important place as the business community is seen as less sensitive about it.

The social movements which are going on against POSCO in Orissa and Shell in Nigeria, has become a challenge for states and international community to protect and promote human rights for which such movements are continue. These Human Rights violations not only take place in one country but its effects worldwide. It has more impacted on third world countries because of lack of effective legal mechanism and weak in terms of economic and political condition.

However, the study attempts to focus on the existing provisions of corporate responsibilities in UN Norms and International law. It tries to understand and explore the difficulties to implement these provisions with respect to hazardous project in developing world. Further, the studies analyse the two case studies in terms of the environmental impact of operations of Shell in Nigeria and POSCO in India. This study intends to advance by linking social movement and the projects on the basis of co-relations. Finally, the study tries to sum up with the analyses of social movement's impact on human rights, development and states.