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Title of Research: Socio-Political Movements and Mass Media: A Study of Gaya District in Bihar (1990-2005)

Key Words: Naxalite Movements, Mass Media, Discourse, Gaya, Bihar

Major Findings of the Study

The study found that one of the primary reasons for the Naxalite movement in central Bihar is that the excluded and marginalised community could not find democratic means to address their grievances.

A second important finding of this study is that the importance of manufacturing consent does not lie solely within the state power. News media had become a site of political contestation between state and non-state actors in Bihar.

Furthermore, the press's localisation in 90s also led to its' democratisation and news from villages found their space into the newspapers. The Naxalite movement benefited from these radical changes in the press because it enjoyed more influence in the remote interior villages.

A third important finding is that Naxalites were also media crazy, and they need maximum publicity through their actions. They needed media and state attention to stay relevant.

A fourth important finding is that the media discourse of the movement in Bihar is shaped by political regimes, nature of media houses and strength of the movement at grassroot levels. In the 90s, the Naxalite movement had voice in press, but it gradually decreased with change in the political regime and weakening of the movement at the ground.