

## **Trapped in the Development Wrap: The Case of the Project Affected Parjas of the Indravati River Valley in Orissa, India**

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**ABSTRACT** The paper presents some of the preliminary findings of the researchers' study on the impact of a mega dam project on the indigenous parjas of Kalahandi district of Orissa, India. The Upper Indravati Hydro-Electricity Project (UIHEP) is a multipurpose river dam project in tribal Orissa. Admittedly the researchers' data is sparse, however, it certainly give us indication about the impact of a dam project on the indigenous people. The paper raises a few basic issues concerning the indigenous parjas - a major tribal group affected by the said project. 1. How far the parjas can thrive in the changing environment? 2. To what extent they enjoy their basic human rights? 3. How has the said project affected the quality of life of the parjas? 4. What is the impact of the project on their traditional economy? Based upon the researchers' analysis, it is concluded that the indigenous people should have fundamental and inalienable rights and access over their environment and natural resources.