

CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIGENOUS FUTURES IN EASTERN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today. It is changing the way people think about forests, land, natural resources, and development. Its effects are not experienced equally. Many communities that have contributed very little to global emissions are among those facing the greatest environmental risks. Eastern India reflects this reality. The region is rich in forests, rivers, hills, biodiversity, and mineral resources, yet these landscapes are increasingly affected by industrial expansion and ecological stress. The movements in Kashipur, Niyamgiri, Kalinganagar, and the POSCO project area are usually discussed as struggles against displacement and industrial projects. However, they also represent efforts to protect forests, water sources, coastal ecosystems, and traditional livelihoods. This paper argues that these movements offer important lessons for climate resilience and environmental sustainability. They show how indigenous communities use long-standing ecological knowledge to protect natural systems that are essential for a more sustainable future.

KEYWORDS: *Climate Change.*

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