

BAUXITE, HUNGER AND TRIBAL RESISTANCE IN KASHIPUR

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ABSTRACT

Kashipur, a predominantly tribal block in the Rayagada district of Odisha, holds one of India's richest bauxite deposits on the Baphlimali plateau. Yet, through the late 1990s and into the 2000s, the same region was regularly cited in reports of acute hunger, starvation deaths and entrenched poverty. This paper examines this profound contradiction and asks why a mineral-rich region continued to experience severe deprivation even as large industrial investments were being proposed and partly advanced. Drawing on secondary evidence, field-based accounts and existing literature on tribal communities in eastern India, the paper argues that the Kashipur movement was not simply a resistance against bauxite mining. It was, more fundamentally, a response to a development model that extracted resources from tribal landscapes while leaving behind hunger, displacement and broken livelihoods. The paper applies political ecology, resource curse theory and a tribal rights perspective to an eastern Indian context that has received far less scholarly attention than comparable cases in Latin America or Africa. The concept of developmental exclusion is introduced to describe how communities become embedded in large-scale development projects yet remain systematically excluded from their benefits. The paper concludes that Kashipur offers a powerful lens through which to understand the wider failure of extractive development in indigenous India.

KEYWORDS: *bauxite Mining, Tribal Displacement, Resource Curse, Political Ecology, Developmental Exclusion, Odisha, Kashipur, UAIL, PSSP.*

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