

INTRODUCTION

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The purpose of this thesis is to discuss the Socio-Economic conditions of the aboriginal tribe, the Savaras of Southern Orissa, under the British administration from 1766 to 1900 A.D. The period covered is, infact, the most important & significant period from administrative point of view, as well as from Socio-Economic upliftment points of view of the people of Southern Orissa in general & of the aboriginal Savaras of the region in particular. The study begins with the transfer of Northern-Circars to the East India Company in 1766 A.D. The period from 1766 till the end of 19th Century was a time of conflicts and uncertainties for both the East India Company and the aboriginal Savaras of Southern Orissa. The Modern Southern Orissa consisted of the districts of Ganjam, Khulbani & Koraput.

In 1687 A.D. Aurangzeb, the Moghul Emperor of Delhi conquered Golkunda and annexed the whole kingdom to his own Empire¹. The newly conquered territory was

1. T.J. Maltby; Ganjam District Manual (Madras, 1918) PP-79-80.

placed under the administration of an official called Subadar of Deccan, who was later on designated as Nigam of Hyderabad². The districts of Southern Orissa remained under the Muslim rule till 1755, when Salabat Jung, the Nizam of Hyderabad assigned the Northern Circars to the French General Le Bussy³ as a token of his gratitude to him for his military help to the throne of Hyderabad. The whole Chicacole Circar including Ganjam (present Southern Orissa) was administered by a Muslim Foujdar of Chicacole with assistance of a Deputy at Itchapur⁴.

Anand Raz, the Raja of Vizianagaram, felt des-
perated in not getting any help from the English at
Madras, appealed to Lord Clive in Bengal, for help in
driving out the French from their possession in Northern
Circars. The appeal was warmly responded to by Lord
Clive, who sent an army of five hundred Europeans, two
thousands sepoy & one hundred muscarts or seamen under
the command of Colonel Forde to Vizianagaram⁵. Colonel,
Forde, alongwith his troops reached at Vizagapatnam in
September, 1758 & with combined forces of Anand Razu,
defeated the French at Peddapore in the Godavari district.

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2. W.Francis - Vizagapatnam District Gazetteer
(Madras, 1907) P.38.
 3. Vizagapatnam District Manual (Madras, 1869)-P-173
 4. W.Francis- V.D.G (Madras, 1907). P-30
 5. a) Col. Sir, Charles Wilson - Lord Clive (London, 1911)
P-120.
b) T.J.Maltby, Op.cit. P-84.

Colonel Forde also accomplished his victory over the French by acquiring Masulipatam in 1759. Salabat Jung, the Nizam of Hyderabad was pleased with the English & concluded a peace treaty with them & assigned Musalipatam & Nizampatam as Inam or free-gifts to them, and even he agreed to cede to them the whole of Northern Circars, provided the English would assist him against his brother Nizam Ali.⁶ Nizam Ali succeeded him in the same year & restored the previous peace treaty by granting to the English the whole of Northern Circars. His agreement with Colonel Forde was formally ratified by the Mughal Emperor on the 12th Aug, 1765 A.D. by a Firman (royal proclamation) given the Northern Circars as a free-gift to his ally, the East India Company⁷.

The above Firman of the Emperor was implemented with the signing of another peace treaty between Nizam Ali & the English on the 12th Nov, 1766; according to which letters were issued to all Zamindar Rajas (the land lords) of the Northern Circars asking them to regard the East India Company as their sovereign in future, & pay their tribute (rents) & the respect without causing any trouble^B. As such these three districts (Ganjam & Phulbani

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6. Aitchison, T.A. Collection of treaties, Engagements & Sunnuds relating to India & neighbouring countries (Calcutta, 1864) Vol.V.P-11.
 7. Dr. N.K.Sahu, P.K.Mishra & J. K. Sahu - History of Orissa (Cuttack, 1979) P1-376-77.

in Ganjam Division & Koraput districts in Jeypore Zamindary in Vizagapatam Division) of Southern Orissa remained under the Government of Madras Presidency till 1936 A.D; when a separate Orissa Province was formed. When modern Orissa state formed, the Ganjam Maliah & Jeypore Zamindary were taken from Madras Presidency & merged into Orissa.

Sporadic efforts were, however, made by eminent scholars to carry on research on various aspects of Orissan history & culture, mostly for obtaining Doctorate degree of different Universisites. The then Orissa proper was not the modern Orissa State, but only they meant mainly the districts of Cuttack, Puri & Belasore. Almost all the scholars working for their Ph.Ds till recently worked on the history of those three Northern districts neglecting the history of the districts of western Orissa & Southern Orissa. But recently scholars have come forward to work on the history of these neglected districts & trying their best to fill up the void.

Research on the history of Southern Orissa has just started. Prof. Kanchan Mazumdar, Prof. H.C.Ray, Prof. K.C.Jena Prof. J.K.Samal have been taken keen interest to study the history of Southern Orissa. The research scholars like Dr. T.E.Ramswamy Iyengar on "Resistance to British Rule in Ganjam (1766-1858 A.D.); Dr. D.Behena on "Freedom movement in the state of Ghumsar in Orissa (1836-1866); Dr. P.Ch. Mishra on "History of Ganjam under the British (1767-1900 A.D.)' Dr. B.Ch.Das, on "History

of Mohury Zamindari" Dr. (Miss) N. Patro on "History of Paralakhemundi from 1767 to 1881 A.D. & Dr. Bhaskar Das, on "Socio-Economic History of Southern Orissa during the 19th Century" have worked on the history of Southern Orissa for their Ph.Ds. & high lighting mainly on the British establishment & their administration in Southern Orissa. Dr. D. Behera, Dr. P.Ch. Mishra. Dr. Bhaskar Das have partially high lighted on "Khonds" one of the aboriginal tribes & the largest tribal group of Southern Orissa. Dr. N. Patro has dealt with the aboriginal Savara tribe in her research with limited treatments.

Besides these research works, earlier scholars S.N.Koy, who is believed to be the first Indian scholars to write on the tribes of Orissa. In 1927, he wrote a descriptive paper on the Savara tribe of Orissa, which was published in Man in India, Vol.VII No.4 (1927) Sir, W.W. Hunter have mentioned Savaras in his famous work "Orissa". Vol.II (1872). C.V. Sitapati, on the Savara, T.E.Dalton, Descriptive Ethnology of Bengal (1872), F.D.Taylor edited "Memoir on the Ganjam Malias in the Madras Presidency (Ganjam 1885) where he describes the steps taken by the British Government for the Socio-Economic development of the Savaras of Paralakhemundi. B.C. Majumdar in his work "Aborigines of the High lands of Central India (Calcutta, 1927), & A. Aiyappan wrote a paper on Savara, which is published in Adivasi, where they describe about the location of Savara settlement. The scholars specially worked on differ-

"Castes & Tribes of Southern India Vol.VI (1909) Sachin Roy "Aspects of the culture of Lanjia Saoras, Published in March of India. (Vol.VI No.2 1953); K.F. Chattopadhyaya, "Some materials for social education of tribal in Eastern India"; T.J.Maltby, Ganjam District. Manual (Madras,1918), N. Senapati, edited, Orissa District Gazetteer, Koraput 1966; H.C.S.Bell, edited Orissa District. Gazetteer Koraput 1945; Dr. V.Elwin, Tribal Myths of Orissa (1954) & Religion of a Tribe (1955), Dr. Vikram Singh, "Glimses of Indian Culture" (Allahabad, 1967); L.N.Sahu, "The Hill Tribes of Jeypore" They have high lighted on the various aspects of the aboriginal Savara tribes but have neglected the Savaras of Southern Oris a. This work is the first of its kind high lighting attention on the hilly-tribal-tracts of Southern region of Orissa, from the British occupation in 1766 A.D. till the end of 19th Century A.D. covering almost one hundred & fifty years of British administration.

A Study of the history of a region reflects the social & economical conditions of a given period of that region in the best possible manner. This work is such a study on a particular tribes, the Savaras in Southern Orissa with the view to bringing them to the lime lights of history.

This research opens a new vista in the history of the aboriginal Savaras of Southern Orissa covering a wide range of time right from earliest times to the begining of the 20th Century. This study is necessary to peep into

the obscured history of Southern Orissa, so as to bring the same to light with adequate focus on the Socio-Economical & cultural conditions in the region mainly pertaining to the aboriginal Savaras.

There are in all five chapters. The First Chapter throws light on the topography, origin population distribution, & division of the aboriginal Savara tribes of Southern Orissa. The history of the Savara tracts in Southern Orissa under different dynasties with varied administrative policies till the British occupation to the region, has been analysed in the Chapter Second.

In the Third Chapter a detail analyses of the native administration of the Zamindar Rajas have been made. The lights have been thrown on the British administration generating new changes & reforms in the tribal atmosphere of the Savara tracts.

The Fourth Chapter deals with the causes & the involvement of the aboriginal Savaras in the resistance movement against the British rule in the Savara tribal-tracts of Southern Orissa; & its effects.

In the fifth Chapter thorough discussion has been made about the aboriginal Savara Society, village, house, food, Dress & Ornaments; life-cycle, ranging from pregnancy to the disposal of dead & ancestor worship, religious beliefs & practices, language; economic organisation, viz.: their main & subsidiary occupations. means & techni-

techniques of production, indebtedness; weekly markets; & trade & commerce etc. This chapter is followed by the "Summary & Conclusion" of the work.