

## **Regional Backwardness, Statehood Movement and State Response in Western Odisha**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present paper attempts to analyse the state response towards Koshal movement in western Odisha. It will discuss the non state response as well. Like the other state in India, the state of Odisha has introduced several welfare measures to address the issue of economic underdevelopment and regional disparity. It analyse most of the state response in order to pacify and bridge regional disparity. Its main focus is on the scheme of Kolahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts, backwards regions grant fund, Gopabandhu Grameen Yojna, Western Odisha development council, regional imbalance enquiry commission, perspective plans, etc.. It also analyse the response of the state government in the form of public policy intervention in order to minimise regional disparity and to address the problem of underdevelopment in Odisha. It focus how democratically govern state address to the question

**Key Words :** Odisha, Koshal, Western Odisha development council, Kolahandi, Bolangir and Koraput

### **INTRODUCTION**

Like many other states in India, Odisha has introduced several welfare measures to address the issue of economic underdevelopment and regional disparity. Many argue that it has a historical root. The state of Odisha witnessed acute regional, social and gender disparities which are the outcome of long term neglect of depressed regions and entitlement failures for marginalized sections. Wide variations have been observed in human development and infrastructure developments across the state. There is need for sustainable broad based inclusive growth for Odisha over a long period to deal with multi-dimensional disparities. The depressed regions and the social classes need greater attention. Removal of regional disparities has been one of the important strategies adopted by the state government during successive five year plans. However due to several economic, social and institutional obstacles all regions in Odisha have not shared the gains of development in an equitable manner. Some regions continue to languish in abject poverty.<sup>1</sup> The undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (popularly known as KBK district) form one such region where incidence of poverty is highest in the state.

The underdevelopment of certain regions within the state could give rise to a severe dissentment. Backward region may demand development and adequate intervention of the state government. In most of the cases the demand for raising regional disparity, if not resolved proactively by the state and the problem lingers. People may get alienated from the development process and demand for a separate

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