

## ABSTRACT

### ROLE OF NGO'S IN SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

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The fundamental right to life which is the most precision human right and which forms the ark of all other rights must, therefore , be interpreted in a broad and expansion spirit so as to invest it with significance and vitality which may endure for years to come and enhance the dignity of the individual and the worth of the human person. World over, the territories of indigenous people overlap with the rich bio-diverse areas. Their identity traditional practices, customary laws and livelihood are tightly inter-linked to their land and natural resources. Protection and management of natural resources ensure their survival, physically as well as culturally. These forest and nature-dependent communities are increasingly coming in conflict with their respective governments and powerful corporations due to the rise in urbanization, changing economic factors, and push for mega projects across the globe, thereby making it more difficult for them to secure their basic rights and access to land and natural resources. Similar to the global trend, the rights of tribal and other forest dwelling communities in India are also being expropriated leaving them further marginalized. India has invested in industrial projects, dams, roads, mines, power plants and new cities to achieve rapid economic growth. This has been made possible through massive acquisition of land and subsequent displacement of Scheduled Tribes. This paper focuses on the role of the NGO's in safeguarding the rights of Scheduled Tribes and what are the procedure followed by the Indian government in safeguarding their interest.

**Key Words: Scheduled Tribes, NGO, Basic Rights of the Tribes, Nistar, Zamindari.**

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