Studies on tribal peoples of India are legion. Anthropologists and sociologists alike have taken pains to make in-depth studies on their social structure, social organisation, belief systems and so on, in tradition and modernity. Many tribal groups have, in fact, been modernised to some extent, through missionary and other efforts during the last half of the preceding century. Apart from the incipient social changes, induced social changes were also brought in with the erection of dams, installation of large scale steel plants and others in the Post-Independence India. That is, industrialisation of the country had some impact on the life and living of these people, who till independence did not have much chance of being exposed to the currents of the mainstream of society. In pre-independence days, they were mostly dubbed as 'criminal tribes' and they used to eke out their living somehow. After
independence, the policy of the Government of India was changed in respect of these peoples. They, too, began to take part in all possible activities in the society. The Durgapur region used to be inhabited by a sizeable number of tribal peoples before the erection of steel plant there. Many of these tribal peoples were employed in the establishment there. In the course of the installation of the Steel Plant, a huge number of tribal peoples had, of course, to be displaced from their own habitat. This dual process of ejection and employment has brought about a lot of changes in the life pattern of these peoples.

The primary changes are clearly noted mainly in their occupational sphere, but these changes are concurrently followed by changes in the field of social relations, customs, values and beliefs.
In this transition, the educated and converted Christian tribals have accepted the challenges of urbanization through industrial progress and assimilated the new spirit of life, while the non-converted tribals have been trying to maintain a link between urban style of life and tribal life.

It is conspicuously noticed that they are passing through a phase of transformation from ancient tribal life to the urban life of the present day.

The influence of the new industrial city of Durgapur with the erection of Durgapur Steel Plant, one of the biggest steel complexes of India, with its ancillary factories around it, on every aspect of the life of tribal people living in the villages lying adjacent to it, has been very distinct and significant.

The present investigation devotes itself-
the problem of social change that has come over the life of the tribal peoples who are employed in the Steel Plant and also those who are outside it.

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