PREFACE
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Political Socialization plays a vital role in maintaining the continuity of political life in a Society. By providing for the transmission of acceptable patterns of perception, expectation and behaviour from one generation to the next, from the institutions of a society to its citizens or from one group of citizens to another, the socialization process in effect lubricates the gears and wheels of the political machine. It is said that socialization preserves the essential character of the political process. Political Socialization thus refers to the learning through which members of a political system learn both explicitly political orientations and politically relevant non-political orientation and through which their political self is formed. Political Socialization helps each such individual to understand and adjust to the political realities of the environment. The transmission of established values and orientations comes to the individual as a revelation of the mysteries of political life through various 'socializers': for instance the family, school, peer group, mass media, voluntary organizations and political party. Political Socialization, the process of teaching and learning about politics gives rise to individual political attitude. It is through the process of political socialization that an individual acquires the values and beliefs of the political culture.

The reason behind the selection of councillors to constitute the sample of this study lies in the fact that they are much more interested, involved and influential in public affairs. They have some impact or the other on the lives of the people of Rourkela either by their words or by their deeds. Rourkela Steel City in Orissa has been selected as the universe of this study because it is one of the leading industrial cities in India. Rourkela is a planned city with the Steel Plant on one side and the Steel Town ship on the other. It has the distinction of having two N.A.C.s- one covering the Steel Township known as N.A.C.(S.T). and the other covering the Civil Township known as N.A.C.(C.T.) respectively.
Rourkela was created as a separate general constituency in 1967. The active political parties in Rourkela are Congress(I), CPI(M), SUCI, Janata Dal, BJP, BJD and Jharkhand.

The major objectives of this research are to find out the political background of the councillors of N.A.C.(S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela in context of the extent of the urbanization in this city and to assess the extent of their socialization to democratic orientation, especially their sense of political efficacy, tolerance of minority dissent and support for competitive party system with the democratic structural arrangement of the Indian policy. This empirical work, relevant data have been collected by pursuing a number of authoritative works, official records and documents, through surveys and interviews of a selected sample of the councillors.

The present empirical study has been made to outline the aims and objectives of the study, its universe, the hypothesis and methodology. The study also reveals the theoretical discussion on the meaning, nature and significance of the concept of political socialization. The concluding chapter highlights the findings obtained. This is followed by an exhaustive bibliography, which includes a list of books and reports based on which the entire study has been conducted. The questionnaire schedules used in the study are appended towards the end.

This humble work is offered to the discipline of political science for understanding the political behaviour of the councillors of N.A.C.(S.T) and N.A.C.(C.T), Rourkela and their level of socialization in a democratic political system. The researcher hopes that the present work may enrich the discipline and contribute towards furtherance of research in political socialization.

Rourkela,

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Chittaranjan Rout.