CHAPTER - I

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The changing atmosphere of the present world has given an added impetus to the studies relating to Political Socialization. Its study has "encompassed stability and change, continuity and discontinuity, national independence movement, demonstrations, protest and rebellion, violence and terrorism [1]." The present research has been taken up to assess the level of political socialization of the Councillors of N.A.C (S.T) and N.A.C (C.T) Rourkela. It includes both theoretical and political dimensions of the problem. It has gained importance due to its link with the question of political stability.

Socialization: -

Socialization is a process of learning. It refers to the developmental process whereby each person acquires the knowledge, skills, beliefs, values, attitudes and dispositions that enable him or her to function as more or less an effective though not an inevitably compliant member of society. It continues on the strength of a willingness on the part of the new members of the group to embrace the ideas and beliefs comprising the culture. This willingness however is not a matter of national choice on the part of the individuals. This learning process involving an internalization of the existing cultural pattern is called

Socialization. It is the process by which the individual learns orientations and dispositions towards social objects. It involves, as Eisentadt Points out “Communication with and learning from other human beings with whom individual gradually enters into some sort of generalized relationship.” [2]

**Political Socialization:**

The process by which Political Culture is shaped at the individual level and the community level is passed on from generation to generation is called Political Socialization.

According to Pye, it is the “process......... through which the individual develops his awareness of his political world and gains his appreciation, judgement, understanding of political events,” [3] through this process the individual “is socialized to his political culture and realizes his political identity.”[4] It denotes the process of political learning wherein individual learns political as well as politically relevant non-political orientations and dispositions and his political self is formed. It is “the process where by political attitudes and values are inculcated as children become adults and as adults are recruited into roles.”[5]

Political Socialization shapes and transmits a nation’s political culture, or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that it maintains, transforms and sometimes creates the political culture of people. It maintains a political culture by successfully transmitting it from an old generation to a new one. The task of this maintenance naturally receives much importance under stable conditions. But stable conditions are rather an infrequent phenomenon in the modern world where many nations are often found to be struggling for transforming the old order and erecting new political structures with new social arrangements. And this is where we come across the transforming role of political socialization. According to Hyman, it is "(the individual’s) learning of social patterns corresponding to his social position as mediated through various agencies of Society." [6]

Socialization and Political Socialization are fully concerned with those activities, which have a social and political connotation and are socially and politically relevant or determine the patterns of socio-political behaviour; therefore all sorts of learning are not contributory to Political Socialization. Even those non-political activities which are socially relevant and which directly and indirectly affected political behaviour and culture may be taken to be a part of the process of political socialization.

The process of political socialization is a continuous process.

It does not stop with the extinction of any group or generation. Attitudes, values, beliefs and knowledge are transmitted from generation to generation, Political Socialization is a continuous process operative at all stages of the individual's life cycle. It is inter-generational and intragenerational. It is not limited to a particular part of man's life rather it envelops his entire life. Political Socialization that begins in the childhood may encounter many challenges. The attitudes formed during the childhood days may seem to be inconsistent when an individual reaches adulthood. Hence there is need for adult socialization.

**Adult Socialization:**

Adult Socialization is minimally changed with emotion and it maintains affective neutrality, when a socialized by his parent, he is likely to make a far more open and central use of power so that it is the weaker party in the situation Political values, attitudes and beliefs implanted in childhood can change radically through experience. Thus political socialization is never complete in childhood. Political Socialization is not a process confined to the impressionable years of childhood, but one that continues throughout adult life. Donald D. Searing and others observed, “Political socialization research seeks to enrich our explanations of political outcome. Thus, it does by investigating attitudes, which determine demands and supports in the political system. Obviously, these attitudes are those of adults; attitudes communicated to political elites, why then we wonder has socialization
research focused almost entirely upon young children?"[7] The answer is that, "Political Orientations are learned in childhood and persist into the adult years and they thereupon structure the learning of specific issue beliefs, the immediate determinants of demand supports,"[8] But these have remained untested assumptions; untested in part due to the absence of longitudinal data on childhood orientation. This, however, does not dilute the significance of adult socialization, which is a very important aspect of the study of political socialization. Political learning of the individual tends to determine and shape their political orientations, dispositions and behaviour that in turn, may considerably in the modern age because it is characterized as the age of the participatory democracy. It provides the basis on which democracy can flourish, as it is the political consciousness of the people, which determines the standard of democracy.

Aims And Objectives: -

Rourkela is the steel town of Orissa. The demographic composition indicates that a small industrial town like Rourkela has its own councillors who take important decisions in their own by affecting the lives of the people living here. Therefore it will not only be interesting but also instructive to investigate their process of political socialization.


[8]. Ibid.
As such, a few of the basic objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the socio-economic, political background of the councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela in the context of the extent of the urbanization in Rourkela.

2. To find out as to how far the values of Indian Political system have been internalized by the councillors of N.A.C (S.T) and N.A.C (C.T), Rourkela and how far their behaviour adopts itself to the functioning of the political system.

3. To understand the political socialization process of the councillors of N.A.C (S.T) and N.A.C (C.T), Rourkela by enquiring in to the role of different agents of political socialization.

4. To assess the extent of their socialization to democratic orientation, especially their sense of political efficacy, tolerance of minority dissent, support for competitive party system and the institution of election and especially campaign.

5. To assess the level of their exposure to mass media of communication, how it enables them to form attitudes and hold opinions so as to the diverse aspects of the political system.

6. To find out their attitudes and reactions to the issues facing India, their level of political knowledge and participation.

7. To assess as to how they visualize their role in the political system of the country and their attitudes towards the functioning of different institutions in the system.
**Hypothesis of the study:**

Some of the main hypothesis, which are sought to be tested in this study, are:

1. The higher the level of education, the greater the political cognition of the councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela.

2. The higher the education, age, income, the more the support for competitive party system at the abstract level though not at the operational level.

3. The higher the education, the better is the level of exposure to the political climate, the more capable they are to hold opinions on diverse issues of the political system.

4. The more the education, the more positive evaluation of the role of self in the political system.

5. Political competence is directly linked with higher education, higher occupational status, and higher level of income.

6. The business councillors tend to be more politically efficacious than others. Higher education, age and income are positively and directly linked with democratic orientation.

**Methods of study:**

Adoption of a proper method of study is the main concern of a researcher. In the present study the researcher has adopted historical, critical, analysis, case study, content analysis, empirical and comparative methods. The methods adopted can be outlined under the
following heads: - (a) Sampling, (b) Questionnaire, (c) Collection of data, (d) Rating scheme, (e) Technique of analysis.

(a) Sampling: -

According to Hagood, "the sample must represent the Universe (that is, it must be unbiased); the sample must be of adequate size to produce reliable results (that is, as measured in terms of specific range of errors): the sample must be designed in such a way as to be efficient (that is, in comparison with alternate design)" [9] The sample of the study is composed of the councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela. The councillors are those persons who have some impact or the other on the lives of the people of Rourkela either by their words or by their deeds. They are the decision makers of their constituted areas. The councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T) Rourkela include the following personalities, viz: A.D.M, S.P, Sub-Collector, Reputed Teachers, Doctors, Lawyers, Journalists, Social Workers, Eminent personalities, Leaders of voluntary organizations, Govt. Service holders, Business holders, House wives, the persons those who are serving in Rourkela Steel Plant in the rank of Superintendent, Senior Managers, Deputy General Managers, Engineers, Diploma holders etc. The total numbers of the councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela and relevant data have been collected mostly through survey, interview and

participant observations and also by consulting authoritative works and documents.

(b) **Questionnaire:**

The research questionnaire is primarily designed to assess the level of political socialization of the councillors in the role of different agencies in the process and secondly to investigate their level of political participation, communication and democratic orientation. The questionnaire contained questions related to the structure of their family and the atmosphere prevailing in it, their level of education, membership and participation in different organizations. There are questions to find out their political knowledge and exposure to mass media. Some questions also have been designed to test their political competence, level of political participation, sense of political efficacy, sense of tolerance of minority dissent and their support for the institution of competitive party system and election. In short the questionnaire has been deliberately made comprehensive to obtain a clear cut picture of the extent of socialization to politics of the councillors and to find out as to how well they have adjusted themselves to the functioning of the political system.

(c) **Collection of data:**

The method of interview is employed to collect data for this present study. Interviews were conducted with the councillors in their places of work and residence by asking them questions from the questionnaire and recording their responses. Before conducting the interview,
prior consent was taken either by post or telephone or personal meeting.

(d) **Rating Scheme:**

Rating scheme have been adopted to assess the democratic orientation of the councillors. More specifically it was employed to measure their sense of political efficacy and level of tolerance of minority dissent.

(e) **Technique of analysis:**

After the data were collected, they were subjected to statistical analysis. While analysing the sense of political efficacy and the level of tolerance of minority dissent of the councillors, percentages were derived for analysis. This technique is also true and same while interpreting the data.

**Significance of study:**

It is the significance to study political socialization that one can easily gather the idea how the systems are changing from time to time. It is important to know how one generation is accepting the political values and political behaviour of the existing society. In this study not only the level of political socialization but also their orientation to the democratic system of India; their level of political participation, their attitude to specific policies and issues are among other things considered in order to get a comprehensive view about them. This will help to determine their extent of socialization to the political culture of India.
Framework study: -

The study of political socialization of councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela includes the concept of political socialization. Political participation, political communication and political culture have been considered for getting a broad theoretical framework.

This study has been divided into seven chapters. Chapter-I deals with the aims and objectives of the study, its universe, the hypothesis, the methodology and its significance.

In Chapter-II, the political geography of steel city of Rourkela, its geographical location and characteristics, political pattern, industrial pattern, the cultural pattern and the factors of unity have been presented.

Chapter-III is concerned with the concept of the urbanization, its characteristics the process, urbanism and industrialism etc.

Chapter-IV deals with the meaning of political socialization, its study, process, form and the agents etc.

In Chapter-V the meaning of political participation, its dimension and modes, forms and bases have been mentioned.

Chapter-VI presents the meaning, scope and functions of political culture, its content, types and subjects etc.

Chapter-VII brings out all these chapters and based upon which conclusions have been drawn. This is followed by an exhaustive bibliography, which includes a list of books. Besides these the names of
some books have also been incorporated, which the scholar has gone through but has not made explicit use of them in this study. Ultimately the questionnaire has been given in the form of an appendix for clarity.

**Universe of the study:**

No study can be properly made and appreciated without taking into consideration the situational setting in which it has been conducted. In this chapter, an attempt has been made to present the geographic, economic, social, historical background of Rourkela i.e. the place of the present study.

Rourkela is the second biggest town in Orissa. Rourkela standard urban area is formed embracing three urban components viz: N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T), Rourkela and Jaldapara census Town and Rural Components having 39 villages. According to the 1981 census report of the Govt. of India the total area of the RSUA is 221.08 sq. kmts of which urban components area of 139.04 sq. kmts and the rest 82.04 sq. kmts belong to the rural components of the standard urban area. The scholar intends to make a comparative study of the political socialization of councillors of N.A.C. (S.T) and N.A.C. (C.T) of Rourkela.

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