

Impact of Deforestation on the Life of the Plain-Bhuiyans (A Case Study of Two Villages of Northern Orissa)

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ABSTRACT The present paper attempts to understand the changes manifested in the dependence relation of the Plain-Bhuiyans with the forest over a period of thirty years. Two Plain-Bhuiyan villages of Koirā block of Sundergarh district were studied for this purpose. It was found out that in the past the Plain-Bhuiyans had constructive dependence on forest that kept a balance between their own needs and environmental imperatives. Industrialization and commercialization of the economic frontier along with the enactment of various legislative measures are responsible for a gradual replacement of this constructive dependence by a destructive dependence.