

BRITISH FOREST POLICIES AND ITS IMPACT ON COLONIAL SOUTH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A forest is usually an area filled with trees and considered as home land of the tribals and many agricultural peasants are depended on forests from times immemorial. Before the Britishers came into power, the forest dwellers and other population enjoyed freedom to use forest resources. But the British's arrived in India for the mission of trading goods and they saw the immense amount of natural resources and gradually started exploitation of forest resources through their policies. The main object of the paper is to highlight the various British forest policies and its impact on colonial south Indian society in the beginning of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The British forest policies were mainly aimed at supplying of timber and other resources to British forest-based industries and commercial exploitation of forests was encouraged at the cost of the tribal and forest-dwellers in the name of national interest. The forest-dwellers and the tribals are the victims of commercial exploitation of forests.

KEY WORDS: Forest Dwellers, Forest Resources, Forest Policies, timber, Exploitation, Customary Rights etc.