



RELOCATING, RECONSTRUCTING AND REDEFINING THE PEOPLE BEYOND MARGIN: A CASE STUDY OF THE TRIBAL WRITINGS OF THE SELECT AUTHORS

**THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
ENGLISH**

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INTRODUCTION

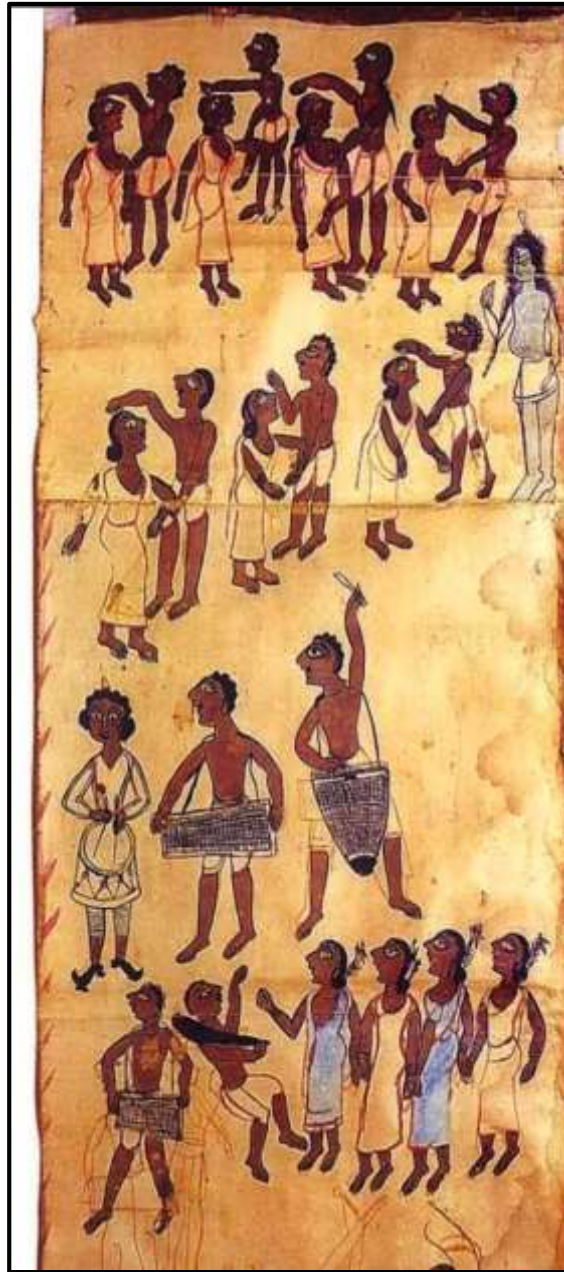
- **Origin of the Tribal :** The origin of the term 'tribal' comes from the Latin word 'tribus', which referred to the division of group within ancient Roman society. Over the time, it evolved describe social groups or communities organized by kinship, culture and shared ancestry.
- **Suffering of the tribal :** The Adivasi people, India's indigenous communities have faced long- standing suffering due to displacement, poverty and marginalization. Their lands have been often taken for mining, dams and developmental projects forcing them to lose their homes and livelihoods.
- **Reconstruction of their existence :** protect their land and forest rights, preserve and promote their culture, ensure access to education and healthcare , strengthen their political voice and legal protection and empowerment, respect and inclusion are key.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

- **A Philosophy for NEFA** - Verrier Elwin
- **Island in Flux: The Andaman and Nicobar Story** - Pankaj Sekhsaria
- **Branching Out: Joint Forest Management in Four Indian States** - Nandini Sundar and Roger Jeffery
- **Material Culture of Orissan Tribals: An Illustrated Study of Kutia, Dongaria and Malia Kondhs** - Nityananda Pattnaik
- **Development and Discontent in Tribal India:** ed. Yatindra Singh Sisodia and Tapas Kumar Dalapati

THE TRIBAL IN THE MIRROR OF HISTORY

- **Meaning** : The term Adivasi is a Sanskrit word which means Adi- beginning and Vasi- dweller.
- **Definition** : "A Tribe consists of a group of families who are bound together by kinship, usually descending from the common mythical or legendary ancestors and who live in a common region, speak a common dialect and have a common history." - Dr. B. H Mehta
- **Tribal History through Ages**: Vedic Era, Middle era, modern era
- **Nature and Culture of Tribe**: Language, Division of labour, Types of marriage, Food, Family, property Rights, Religion, Dance forms, superstitious practice



IN THE NAME OF CIVILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Exploitation of the innocent souls - This includes how the tribal people are being exploited by the people of power from ancient to the modern era.
- Factors leading Exploitation - land grabbing for mining and development, low wages and forced labor, loss of forest rights and resources, cultural discrimination and neglect, manipulation by outsiders for political or economic gain
- Types of Assimilation:
 - Integration
 - Forced Assimilation
- Types of Migration:
 - Pushed out Factors
 - Pulled into Factors



They took our farming land, they left some houses,
they took the cremation ground,
temple, well and pound.
How will we survive?



-Gobindha Maran



NO MORE DANCING TO YOUR TUNE

- **Tribal History Prior to Independence:** This encompasses how tribal people are revolting and showing their resistance to the exploitation
- **Imposition of Restrictions:** It shows how people of power are imposing restrictions on their culture, tradition, land forest etc
- **Tribal Revolution Post Independence:** This includes how tribal people are revolting against the exploitation in the modern era.

NO MORE DANCING TO YOUR TUNE(cont...)

- Condition of the tribal people in the post-modern era - continued marginalization and loss of land, struggles with identity amid rapid modernization, limited access to quality education and healthcare, cultural erosion due to mainstream influence.
- Infrastructural development and tribal Conflict - Displacement, loss of livelihood, lack of consent and compensation
- Condition of tribal woman- poverty, illiteracy and limited healthcare, displacement, migration, sexual exploitation
- Tribal policies...a failure ?



.....it is women who are most directly affected by the corporate exploitation of their traditional lands.



FOUCAULDIAN CONCEPT OF POWER AND KNOWLEDGE

- **Origin of the concept:** the concept of power structure by Michel Foucault originates from his idea that power is everywhere, not just held by institutions, but present in everyday relationships and knowledge systems.
- **Tribal Exploitation vs Power structure:** By using Michel Foucault 's theory of power, tribal exploitation can be understood as a result of systemic control through institutions, knowledge and discourse rather than just physical force.
- **Louis Althusser' s Interpellation:**
 - Ideological State Apparatus
 - Repressive State Apparatus

INTERVIEW: UNFOLDING THE HEART OF THE TRIBALS

- **Purpose:** Six interviews were conducted on these different tribal people of different communities to know how far they resemble with the fictional characters present in the text.
- **Reality Vs Fiction:** The kind of persona we came across in the book is very similar to the characters that I came across when they met them on personal level.
- **Tribal Desire for the socio:** -economic empowerment - They need a balance life which consist of both modern and traditional attitude and lifestyle. They want to accepted and respected the way they are.

MUNDA TRIBE



SANTHAL TRIBE



GOND TRIBE



KOYA TRIBE



CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research is to scrutinize the sufferings of the tribal people which have been experienced by them for ages. The primary texts are critically analysed from the perspective of the writers. The characters might be fictional but the content is undoubtedly real. Their suffering and resistance both are certain. The tribal authors in the course of the time have emerged to express their own concern in their own language. The cunning people have come forward to help them with vested interests. As the result they hover around the indigenous identity and modern identity. Through resistance, these people have come up not to be swayed away in the name of modernity and have located themselves where they should be. They have reconstructed their identity and have redefined themselves in term of their happiness, sorrows, language, culture and tradition.



“Poison us, finish us off right here, but do not uproot us.”

- Anonymous

THANK YOU