

Bir Pal Singh & Srishti Chaturvedi (Eds.), Empowerment of Tribal Women in India: Issues and Perspectives, Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2023, pp. XVIII+292, Rs.995.

Professor Bir Pal Singh & Ms Srishti Chaturvedi have edited the book 'Empowerment of Tribal Women in India: Issues and Perspectives' related to the empowerment of tribal women in India while focusing on issues and perspectives. It is the compilation of literary work authored by aspiring lawyers and social scientists.

The book has been divided into four parts. Education, Health and Malnutrition in Tribal India is the sub-theme of Part I having nine chapters on different aspects of tribal women's development. Part II on Gender Injustice and Human Rights of Tribal Women consists of three chapters. Customary Laws and Tribal Women is the sub-theme of Part III which has included four chapters, whereas Part IV entitled Multiculturalism and Tribal Women has three chapters. Thus, in all, there are nineteen chapters. The themes are quite relevant presenting contemporary issues relating to the empowerment of tribal women and are interesting dealing with breaking the tribal cocoon of victimisation to ensure the metamorphosis of women; empowering tribal women through open learning; exploratory survey on female faculty of higher education; analysis of the scheme of hostel for ST girls and boys; review of health and nutrition practices; health deficient empowerment of tribal women; reality of family planning among tribal women; tribal women and their reproductive choices; health and malnutrition in tribal India; fostering gender parity among tribals; tribulation of tribal women; human trafficking; tribal disputes resolution mechanisms; impact of Jamatia customary law and status of women; rights of married tribal women; empowerment through legislative and social reforms; effect of multiculturalism on tribal women; vanquishing invisibility; and protection of plant varieties- a perspective device for empowerment of tribal women.

The sub-themes have been studied and discussed from the perspectives of tribal women empowerment angle. It has been aptly observed that women who are treated as bonded labour work mostly for the upper class and bureaucrats also fall prey to sexual harassment and rape by them. Mishra & Lodha, in their paper, mentioned that it was shocking to note that none of the victims of witch-hunting dared to approach the police the reason being, family and community pressure and fear of boycott. Upadhyay & Nayak, in their study, attempted to explore how skill attainments through ODL can complement the ongoing empowerment of tribal women in the community development blocks of Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh. Kharbuli's exploratory survey on female faculty of higher education in North-East India found that educational background showed a significant association with academic publication. Empirical research by Srivastava and Jaya discussed how the poor health conditions of women can be attributed to dismal medical infrastructure and lack of awareness despite provisions permitting medical infrastructure facilities arranged for the tribals.

Vyas and Dhakad in their article have highlighted bridal trafficking among tribal women. They have examined increasing sexual crime rates against women. Apart from other issues, they have tried to unravel the flesh trade having a social sanction in M.P. and Chhattisgarh states. In another article on seducing tribal women into human trafficking, Madhumutha & Prajeish have analysed several reasons. Gender violence and human rights violations took place because of the lack of proper policies and enforcement of laws barring human trafficking.

Gupta and Sonkar discussed malnutrition in tribal areas and listed the problems including poverty, illiteracy, lack of safe drinking water, poor hygiene and sanitary living status and less coverage of services. Tripathi and Soni, in their article, covered women hailing from weaker sections of society and the constitutional and other rights conferred to them, the right to protect their

culture and forest lands. In the paper titled, 'Empowerment of tribal women through Legislative and Customary Laws,' Tiwari and Shrimal have examined the positive and negative impacts thereof followed by appropriate suggestions to protect tribal rights. The remaining articles/papers are related to the empowerment of tribal women, concerns in different cultures, elimination of obstacles, etc. On the whole, the contributors' writings should be read

by social scientists and budding scholars apart from masters and research students in humanities and law faculties.

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