Digitalization of Culture Through Technology

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Folk Literature and Ecological Sustainability in Tribal Odisha: An Overview

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Abstract: From the evolution of mankind, tribes exist in different eco-cultural and in all biodiverse zones of India. The dealings of tribes and ecology have been entwined with frequent issues like loss of soil, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, scarcity of water, inadequate health care, etc. To confront this threat, folk practices have played a significant place in solving socio-ecological troubles in human society. Many tribal communities in Odisha still hold on to their myths and culture. In Odisha, traditional environmental knowledge is very much helpful in developing location-specific strategies for the protection of biodiversities and also useful in coming up with innovative plans for coping with climate change and sustaining their livelihoods. They are having culture-specific prescriptions and taboos for the better utilization of natural and sustainable products. In this context, folk practices should be preserved to maintain ecological restoration and sustainability. The present study focuses on how indigenous knowledge can be used to respond to contemporary environmental matters and how they preserve the environment through their folkloric approach.

Keywords: Folklore, tribes, indigenous knowledge, biodiversity, environment, sustainability

I. Introduction

With the advancement of modern technology, the activities of humans are triggered by rapidly changing socio-economic patterns which mostly cause environmental deterioration. The close relations of humans and ecology have been entwined with several issues like pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, scarcity of water, soil erosion along with acid rain, ozone layer depletion, etc. Hence the need of the hour is to implant environmental ethics in the human mind for which folklore is an important weapon to meet these emerging challenges. Folk practices should be preserved for maintaining ecological sustainability and restoration. From time immemorial, folk practices have been playing a remarkable position in mitigating many socio-ecological