



Digitalization of Culture Through Technology

Edited by
Deepanjali Mishra and Sasmita Rani Samanta



ROUTLEDGE



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Chapter 43

Folk Beliefs and Folk Traditions of Kandha Tribe of Kandhamal District of Odisha: An Overview

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Abstract: *Adivasis* are the primeval natives of the soil. Their aboriginal culture, tradition, beliefs, social and religious lives have supplemented and enriched the holistic culture of the nation. The *Kandha* tribe of *Kandhamal* district holds a special mention in this context. They have retained, till date, many of their beliefs, culture and tradition since time immemorial. Folk belief forms the base of their tradition. *Kandhas* speak *Kui* language. They worship many deities. Village deity (*Dharani Penu*), Soil deity (*Tana Penu*), Rock deity (*Badi Penu*), Tree deity (*Mrahandi Penu*), Sun deity (*Bela Penu*), Fire deity (*Nadi Penu*), Water deity (*Siru Penu*), so on and so forth. Since the beginning of their civilisation, such belief in Nature deities prevails without any adulteration. *Duma* is the soul of their departed ancestors who are believed to be their ruling deity. They consider the fact that everything happens as per the will of the *Duma*. The contentment of *Duma* is of utmost importance to them and they offer goat, sheep, hen, pigeon, wine, etc. for its gratification.

Keywords: Mainstreaming, Unadulterated, *Duma*, *Dharani Penu*, *Lamba* and *Tattooing*

I. Objective

- To bring forth the folk culture, tradition and beliefs of the *Kandha* tribe
- To discuss their popular beliefs and its relevance in the present context
- To analyse and study the background of fostering such beliefs

II. Methodology

The study involves both primary and secondary methodologies. The primary sources include interview and group discussion with the people of *Kandha* tribe of *Baliguda* block of *Kandhamal* district. The secondary sources include the study and review of related literature from different libraries and online resources.

III. Tribals of Odisha

Odisha is inhabited by 62 different tribal communities. The *Kandhas* hold a special

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