

***Tribal Perspectives in India: Critical Responses* by Dipak Giri, Booksclinic**

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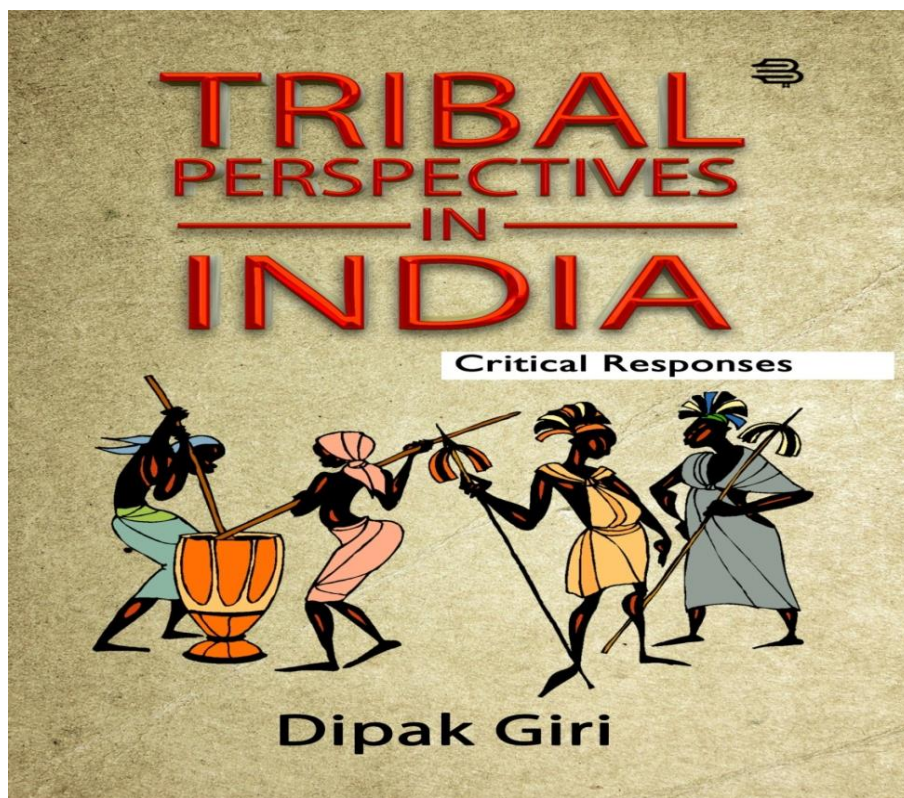
Reviewed by Antara Biswas

Senior Research Fellow

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India

Email id: a_biswas@hs.iitr.ac.in



Tribal Perspectives in India: Critical Responses | Anthology | Dipak Giri

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Tribal Perspectives in India: Critical Responses is an insightful anthology edited by Dipak Giri is a felicitous work on tribal perspectives in India which critically assesses tribal art, culture and literature. This comprehensive collection of eighteen thought-provoking essays delves into a rich and diverse tapestry of tribal life, providing critical responses and analyses that shed light on various aspects of tribal existence, ranging from literature and culture to health and socio-economic challenges. This book is spawned as part of a collective effort to contribute to an insightful, multifaceted exploration of tribal cultures, issues and narratives within the Indian context.

This anthology collectively addresses several common themes related to the tribal community of India. These themes reinforce the unique cultural, social and political aspects of tribal life including 'Cultural Heritage and Identity', 'Marginalization and Discrimination', 'Health and Livelihood', 'Literary Representation', 'Acculturation and Ethos', 'Historical and Political Struggles', 'Indigenous Knowledge and Practices', 'Development and Policy', 'Healing and Rituals'. Attending these topics certainly resonate with the voices of marginalized tribal communities in India, which specialize in conceptualizing and unveiling invisible realities and truths that are often overlooked and potentially politicized in several contexts.

The anthology adopts an interdisciplinary approach, integrating insights from literature, sociology, anthropology, health studies and political science. This approach allows for a holistic analysis of tribal communities, addressing their unique identities and experiences in cultural, social, economic and political dimensions. Several essays in this anthology elicit detailed literary analyses of works about tribal communities to recount the tribal archive with a refreshing eye. By examining the depiction of tribal life in literature and beyond, the book foregrounds the power of storytelling in preserving and conveying tribal histories, struggles and identities by using a realistic spectacle.

Dipak Giri and contributors assemble a wide range of scholarly essays representing various aspects of tribal life, culture and issues in India that do not fall under the mainstream narratives. The book brings a much-needed critical lens to address the systematic marginalization and discrimination faced by tribal communities of India as well as their resilience and resistance. This focus also unveils the socio-economic and political challenges that continue to impact tribal populations which go against the convictions of mainstream culture and scripture. It is important to note that the anthology amplifies the voices of tribal communities, providing them with a platform to share their stories, challenges and perspectives. Key chapters of the book provide significant insights into where Indigenous voices are often marginalized or overlooked. By exploring the cultural heritage, rituals and traditions of the various Indian tribes, the book showcases the richness and diversity of tribal cultures. This cultural documentation is valuable for the worldwide reach of readers interested in understanding and appreciating the indigenous cultures of India. By underscoring the importance of indigenous knowledge systems, the book advocates the recognition and integration of traditional practices in global health and environmental strategies. Some of the significant essays in the book celebrate the rich cultural heritage and distinct identities of various tribal communities. For example, Dr. S. Mahalakshmi's analysis of Kodava culture and Meera Prasannan's exploration of the Malayarayar tribe's ethos emphasize the preservation of cultural traditions and practices. Priyanka Borah's study on

the indigenous health practices of the Galo tribe, underscores the disparities in healthcare and the pressing need for improved healthcare services and economic opportunities. This research addresses a critical and emerging area within the broader context of tribal community health and development. Chinmayee Nanda's essay on the Domb tribe and Biswajit Maity's examination of the hardships faced by beavering tribes, illuminating the socio-economic challenges and injustices experienced by these groups. Subhasish Barua's and Debasis Samaddar's essays on works by Laxman Gaikwad and Narayan respectively, discuss how literature portrays the tribal struggles, identity formation, and culture in literature, and how narratives represent tribal life in literature. Meera Prasannan's work on the Malayarayar tribe and Ishita Haldar's exploration of ecological awareness and sensitization in tribal poetry reflect on how tribal communities adapt to changing environments while upfronting their cultural values. Another applauding factor that subsumes a less explored area is the historical and political struggles of tribal communities. Saptarshi Sengupta's essay on the Santhals' rebellion and Dipak Giri's study of polyandry in the Monpa community illustrate the resistance and resilience of tribal groups in the face of external pressures. The need for effective development policies that address the unique needs of tribal communities is a theme examined by Arup Ghosh who discusses the problems and policies related to the tribal development in India. Dr. Sapna Dogra explores the role of healing rituals and traditional practices in tribal communities, highlighting the spiritual and cultural dimensions of health and recovery in tribal literature.

In summation, the book offers valuable insights into Indian tribal cultural heritage, socio-economic challenges and the impact of marginalization. This advocacy supports the preservation and utilization of indigenous wisdom in addressing contemporary global challenges and contributing to the global platform by providing a detailed and nuanced exploration of Indian tribal communities. In addition to this, the book's interdisciplinary approach and diverse perspectives enrich the global understanding of indigenous issues and promote greater appreciation and respect for tribal communities. By doing so, it also fosters cross-cultural dialogue, encourages comparative studies and supports the global movement for indigenous rights and recognition. The book is also a substantial guide as it gives us a peek at the promise of what the future holds for the tribal communities in the landscape of Indian indigenous culture and beyond. The contributors' analysis of tribal issues in India in the anthology can also offer comparative insights for scholars and activists working with indigenous communities worldwide. The similarities and differences in the experiences of tribal communities across different regions mutter global outreach on indigenous rights and development. Therefore, the anthology holds immense potential to serve as an essential resource for researchers venturing into the domain of Indian indigenous culture and any enthusiast of Indian culture and literature.

While *Tribal Perspectives in India: Critical Responses* is a treasured anthology that allows trespassing beyond the academic orientations, the absence of visual aids such as maps, photographs or charts might make it trickier for readers to visualize the tribal areas and grasp the comprehension of the information. The book offers a diverse range of perspectives, though it does not aim to cover all the significant tribal communities in India. Nevertheless, the anthology succeeds in capturing the country's tribal diversity in its entirety, providing authentic and original insights that enhance its depth, accessibility and overall contribution to the field of tribal studies in India and beyond. The book also secures a prescience for gratifying reading and even-handed study, which constantly interrogates the diversity of records and tries to skim exaggerations in one by holding it up against divergent views in

another. Giri's previously published works also show his craftsmanship in different genres of Indian indigenous culture and heritage. His mastery of Indian culture and literature orchestrates a virtuosity that fills a significant gap in an enviable manner, making this work a tour de force that takes a step towards a more inclusive India. As the introduction promises, the book eventually fructifies the unearthing of unexplored facets of Indian tribal communities, delineating their cultural beauty and contemporary challenges in sustaining their art, culture and literature, making it a trove of insights.