

Witchcraft Beliefs and Practices among Oraons

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ABSTRACT Belief in witchcraft has been widely associated with tribal societies in India, Latin America, and Africa (Marwick, 1870; Evans-Pritchard, 1937; Douglas, 1970). In central India, it has been frequently reported to be a social problem under which women, especially old and infirm, are accused and killed as witches. It is generally believed that lack of education and awareness is chiefly responsible for prevalence of witchcraft but, beliefs and practices associated with witchcraft are firmly integrated into the social and cultural life of people and mere awareness creation will never solve this problem.