

Aspects of Tribal Culture in the Forest Environment of Bastar

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ABSTRACT The cultural pluralism in Bastar may be understood in terms of individual tribal life and culture with their territorial distribution. Life and culture of this tribal people are nurtured in the cradle of nature chiefly in the forest of *sal*, *sagun*, *mohua* and other forest timbers and plants. Ghotul—the youth dormitory is one of the famous social institutions and very common among the Muria tribe and as per their legend Lingo-pen is the chief deity of ghotul. *Chelik* and *motiyari* of the ghotul perform their assign duty; during *pen-karsna* ritual tallurmutte-the earth goddess is appeased by ghotul inmates. The religiosity of Bastar tribes are manifested through the Danteshwari mata-the tutelary deity of royal family of Bastar, who acts like centripetal nature of religious beliefs, percolates in all section of the society. Along with this traditional wisdom in view of immediate environment is also discussed which clearly reveals the dependence of nature.