

LAND INHERITANCE RIGHTS OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN JHARKHAND – A STUDY OF THE MUNDA TRIBE IN THE LIGHT OF CUSTOMARY LAWS

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Abstract—The changing socio-economic scenario has brought its negative repercussions on the tribal women. They are being denied land rights. This is happening in a scenario where we are witnessing rising incidences of violence against women from the tribal community. They are mostly widows, single and separated women. This concern was first raised at Beijing + 10 Review at meetings in Bangkok and New York. At a meeting in New York the indigenous women stated that their fight of retaining land is at par with what the male leaders strategize and the desire is to retain land for the community. Yet within community managements if the women face issues of discrimination, it is dealt from within their own customary practices. However, the leaders of tribal community denied that tribal women as such face any violation of their rights. The research paper by focusing on Munda tribe in Jharkhand attempts to study the customary practices of land inheritance among the Munda women and how the present statutes are contradicting to customary practices. It also delineates the legal and social impediments faced by Munda women when it comes to the issue of land inheritance. Above all, the paper discusses the issues related to land inheritance of Munda women.

Keywords: Customary Law, Tribal Land Rights, Mundas, Inheritance, patrilineal.