

## CHANGING SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL LIFE OF THE TRIBAL WOMEN OF TERAI REGION OF DARJEELING DISTRICT (WEST BENGAL)

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Tribes belonging to various ethnic groups are living in the Terai region of Darjeeling district. Some of them are living in this part of the country long before the establishment of British rule but most of the tribes of this region are living here after the establishment of Colonial rule. The tribes mainly belonging to Oraon, santhal, Munda, Ho, Paharia, Mal-paharia, Kisan, Nagesia community came here as the tea garden labourers with the introduction of the tea plantation by British in this region. They came here with their family. When they came they brought their culture and customs with them. The tribal women of Oraon, Santhal, Munda, Mal-Paharia. Paharia community initially performed lots of rituals and customs, but with the passage of time number of changes had taken place in their social life. Though a number of changes have occurred in their life-style by coming in contact with the modern world but in terms of education they are still lagging behind. Though a steady growth in tribal women education has been noticed in this region from Census 1991 to 2011, but it is not as good as compared to their total population. A lot of changes now have been noticed in the mind set of the women who had got educated and their presence is remarkable in various political gatherings and rallies organized for demanding their various right.*

**KEYWORDS:** Tribes, Terai Region, Women, Rituals, Customs, Life-Style, Education