

Ph.D. Notification No. - F.NO.COE/Ph.D./(Notification)/571/2024

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Topic-The Role of Christian Missionaries in Redefining the Identity among the Tribe of Jharkhand;1850-1950.

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FINDINGS

This research work is set against the backdrop of the existing perspectives on the study of the religious conversion to Christianity among the tribes of Jharkhand state. It is primarily interested in exploring how the formation of the identity of a distinctive group of tribals, i.e. the Oraons, takes place over a period of time and how there are continuous negotiations by the various religious groups particularly Christianity, leading to the restructuring of the identity of converted tribals. Here are some of the important findings of the Thesis-

- The event of conversion of tribals into Christianity in this region is demonstrated here not as a rupture, which is generally perceived in every process of religious conversions. Here it is perceived as an extension of relationships between two distinct religious communities which has its own dynamics in everyday life.
- When the tribals underwent conversions under the leadership of Christian Missionaries, a part from the tribal life was removed and replaced. But it did not mean that other parts of the tribal culture were left undisturbed, and functioning in a similar way as they were before the replacement, and that, the part which was replaced, completely disappeared from the scene or was rooted out of its original cultural matrix.
- Many of the tribal indigenous rituals and traditions are still followed by the Christian tribals also. These re-adopted sarna practices in due course might get combined with

Christian elements, or some modifications might still take place and the Christian elements get indigenised in the framework of the particular Sarna beliefs or practices.

- When the tribes were converted to Christianity, various kinds of transformations took place in the social, religious, political and economic structures of the Oraon Tribe. Many of the indigenous structures, and beliefs were replaced with the new beliefs and structures of Christianity. However, few of the indigenous beliefs and structures are followed now also among the Christian tribals but with some changes. This also led to redefinition of the tribal identity of the Oraon Tribes.