

Ph.d Notification: F.No. COE/Ph.D/(Notification)507/2022

**Religious Mobilisation and Sarna Identity: The Predicament and Assertion of Tribals in
Jharkhand**

*Purnima Kumari Oraon
Ph.D Scholar*

*Supervisor: Dr.Arvind Kumar
Assistant Professor*

*Centre for the study of social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy
Jamia Millia Islamia*

Key words: *Tribe, Religion, Sarna, Adivasi, Assertion, Identity*

Key findings:

This thesis explores different layers of the predicament and assertion of Sarna religious identity among tribals of Jharkhand. The main core question came forward in this thesis is , Why are tribals assertive for their identity ? specifically in context of ‘Sarna mobilisation’, and, what are the existing predicaments. There are several fronts where society feels ‘insecure’ in terms of vanishing its cultural identity. Sarna is competing largely with institutionalised religion whether its Hinduism or Christianity. It becomes easy to merge under Hinduism because of the blurred boundaries of Sarna. The mobilisation and assertion of *Sarna* reveal the diverse narrative of resistance and predicament with their identity. Certainly, complex melange with different dominant religious cultures also exists as a coping strategy with other society and cultures. To protect their indigenous faith and its identity a pattern of institutionalisation such as community educational institution or religious organisations is also taking shape. Different political groups and activists demanding to recognise ‘Sarna’ as a separate religion and under proper category in the census or not to reduce under ORP. Predicament exists in terms of “who they are actually, a deep sense of tension exists within- how to identify themselves as simply ‘ Tribals with having no religion’ -where they do not feel easy to articulate their religious belief or simply to reduce themselves under Hindu religious identity.