



Displacement, Identity and Existence: An Ecofeminist Study of the Socio-ethnic Conflicts in *The Primal Land*

Kumkum Sharma & Dr Shivangi Bhatt

Abstract

This paper is an ecofeminist exploration of Pratibha Ray's (2001) one of the most imperative works *The Primal Land*, translated from Oriya text into English. The article presents grave issues on the themes of the exploitation of women within the community as well as the exploitation of the indigenous people at large, where nature becomes a spiritual and cultural symbol. The physical forces lurk upon tribal communities for the encroachment of land and the exploitation of natural reservoirs of resources and fracture the bond between nature and culture. Unrestrained hunger for modernization and urbanization leads to dissolving age-old bonds with nature and culture. Representation of internal and external conflicts where women are seen to work with a lot of burdens and face typical stringent traditional practices whereas external conflicts to preserve cultural identity and existence of ethnic community against the exploitative local government takes shape in this paper. Exploration of the life of the Bonda Tribe in the midst of the natural environment, their unique traditional practices, and their close affinity with nature as a spiritual being is presented through the ecofeminist holistic notion. This paper excavates the socio-ethnic tensions between the ethnic community and the politics of Development on one hand and the internal conflicts based on gender bias on the other.

Keywords: Tribal Identity, Indigenous People, Ethnicity, Cultural Distortion, Gender Discrimination, Political Development, Anthropology, Ecofeminism.