

Summary

This research work is an attempt to establish Verrier Elwin as a pioneer of re-discovering the indigenous identity of the tribal people of India. This work discusses in depth that Elwin is the sole defender of the Indian indigenous people who have not received even a cursory mention by the nationalist leaders, academicians, anthropologists or the social workers upto 1940s. This thesis concentrates on the three major registers of indigeneity i.e. nature, role of women and community solidarity through which Elwin uniquely represents the core indigenous identity of the Indian tribal people. To place Elwin's argument in proper context, this dissertation has taken some select works or monographs of Verrier Elwin like *The Tribal World of Verrier Elwin* (1964), *The Agaria* (1942), *The Baiga* (1939), *The Phulmat of the Hills* (1937), *The Muria and their Ghotu I* (1947), *Songs of the Forest* (1935), *The Kingdom of the Young* (1968), *Folk-Songs of Chhattisgarh* (1946), *Maria Murder and Suicide* (1943), *The Tribal Art of Middle India* (1951), *Leaves from the Jungle* (1958) etc.. Giving emphasis on Elwin's representation of indigenous identity in literary texts, I have incorporated theoretical insights of Third World Feminism, Dalit feminism and others for the sake of clarify. This thesis is divided into six chapters including the introduction and the conclusion.

The first chapter focuses on the origin of the thesis and a literature review of the considerable volume of critical works and books on Elwin. It also includes with his works also critical views and judgements on his policies. The second chapter engages with the theorization of the representation of indigeneity along with the concept of indigeneity. Chapter Three has dealt with the recent critical approaches to nature, the influences of British Romantic Poets specially Wordsworth upon Elwin

and Elwin's own representation of nature, as an important parameter of indigeneity. Chapter Four highlights women's issues while the communitarian identity has been discussed in Chapter Five. In the Conclusion (Chapter Six) I have suggested the future scope of my research initiatives.

The study aims to highlight Elwin's pioneering attempt to discover the indigenous reality vis-à-vis the mainstream construct of indigenous identity in the Indian context.

While documenting the in-text citation, parenthetical citation and other sources or evidences in this dissertation, I have followed the rules and regulations of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Eighth Edition, 2016.