

# 'Good Women do not Inherit Land'

## Politics of Land and Gender in India

Nitya Rao

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GENDER STUDIES, SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY

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'GOOD WOMEN should not claim a share in the inheritance, even if they have no brothers....' Notions such as this have, in their own way and over time, given the women in the Santal Parganas the resolve to wrest what is rightfully theirs.

This is a powerful book in the way in which it unfolds the lives and anxieties of Santal women in Dumka district, Jharkhand. Several case studies bring these women alive through the pages of the book. Land for the Santal women stands for security, social position and identity, and in this men have a distinct advantage. The use of personal narrative by the author brings out the similarities between the experiences of a woman brought up in a city and those of the tribal women in Jharkhand.

As the account unfolds, the reader is made aware that the use of a 'community' identity as *adivasi* has also been responsible for denying women rights to land in the context of the movement for political autonomy of Jharkhand.

Based on rich ethnographic material, this sensitive book lays bare the reality of being an *adivasi* and an *adivasi* woman, in all its nuances, in the modern globalized world.

**Nitya Rao** is Senior Lecturer, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

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**Social Science Press**

69, Jorbagh, New Delhi – 110 003  
INDIA

Ph: 91-11-24645159

Email: [beteille.ssp@gmail.com](mailto:beteille.ssp@gmail.com)

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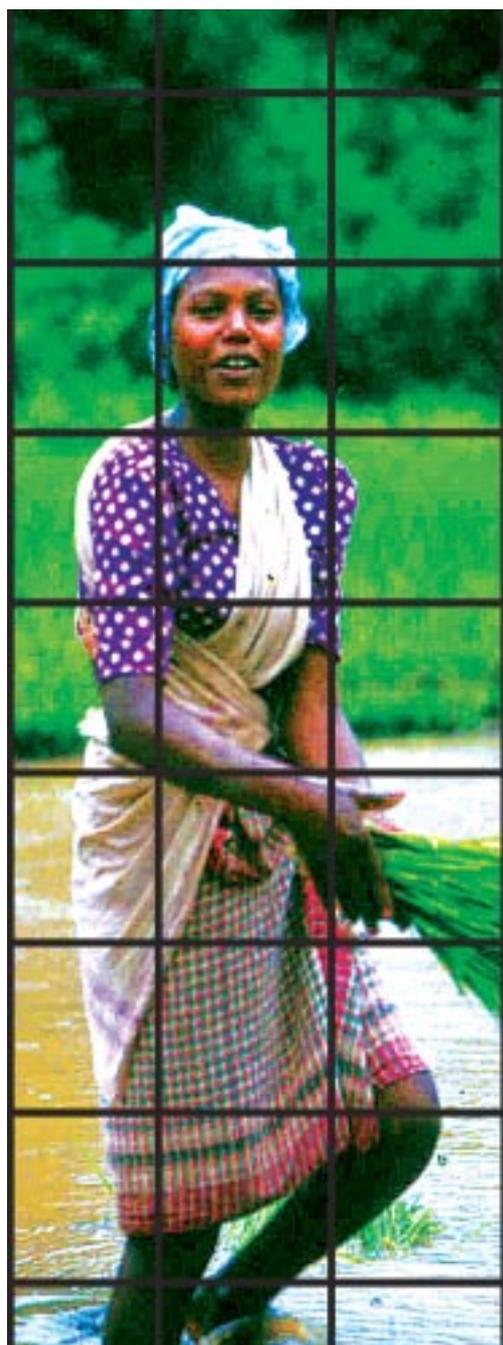
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