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Contents

Section-A

1. Challenges and opportunities of Spanish tourism in India: perspectives from the Tribal Regions of the North East 1-12
Dr. Gaurav Kumar/Nishant Saumya
2. Phoolan Devi and the Politics of Iconography in India 13-24
Dr. Shailesh Kumar Diwakar/ Tanvir Aeijaz/Dr. Kumar Rahul
3. India-Korea Relationship from Historical Relation to Netizens Perspective 25-37
Kaushal Kumar
4. Management of E-waste: legal framework 38-58
Shashikesh Raj
5. The Formal Schools in India: What do Adivasi Learners say? 59-80
Dr. Ajay Samir Kujur

Section-B

6. भारत में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सेवाओं को बेहतर बनाने में प्रधानमंत्री भारतीय जन औषधि परियोजना का योगदान (छत्तीसगढ़ तथा झारखंड का अध्ययन) 81-99
डॉ. अमरनाथ पासवान
7. भारतीय स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में महिलाओं की भूमिका एक सभीक्षात्मक अध्ययन 100-106
राम मिलन कुम्हार

The Formal Schools in India: What do Adivasi Learners say?

* Dr. Ajay Samir Kujur

Abstract: This article is the report of the experiences of discrimination and denial, physical punishment and verbal abuses, cultural lose and otherness of Adivasi students at formal school sites. The report has tried to show that their experiences emanate from the connotative meaning of the term tribe, the preconceived ideas & image people of so-called mainstream hold about them and the modern concept of civilization. Their knowledge and culture is branded as primitive, undeveloped thus not worth knowing and clinging to it. Thus, Adivasi students suffer discrimination and denial; punishment and abuses due to their Adivasi identity.

Key Words: Adivasi, Formal School, Cultural Alienation, Discrimination

Introduction

At the time of independence Adivasis stood as most underdeveloped and discriminated communities of the country. Thus, education was introduced as an essential and potent instrument to improve their self-esteem and capabilities to empower them socially, economically and politically. Yet, they are the communities of the country lagging behind in the road of educational progress. High gross enrolment ratio (110.74 in

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