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Negotiating Space: Ethnographic Insights to Land Alienation in India

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Abstract

Land, as a base of tribal culture and their identity, has always been inextricably linked with the question of dispute. The alienation of land posits the question of convergence of beliefs of a society and in what ways the trust factor plays its role in that process. This study tries to evaluate the role of social network and consensus building that makes the whole alienation process possible for the privileged section. Everyday experience in the process of losing one's own slot of land gives us a way to think in what ways the alienation process is possible. This paper tries to explore the continuous exercise of consensus building and change in opinion in a given period of time. The dynamics of convergence of opinion mostly lead to massive uncertainty and extreme social precarity in various forms in the course of development. Instead of looking at the end result of the total change, this paper is suggestive to explore how the idea of space in a tribal society gets changed over time and how this change is directed through social influence and composite social network.

Keywords: alienation; consensus; convergence; opinion; social precarity