



Tribes and Cultural Ecology in Central India

By J. Vadakumchery

Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2003. N.A. Book Condition: New. Xvi+247pp Ecological Anthropology is comparatively a new branch of Anthropology. It deals with the complex and reciprocal relations that exist between people and their environment, leading to theoretical and practical applications of adaptive mechanisms. Humans perceive and act on their environments on the basis of culturally conditioned world-views, beliefs and practices. In recent years the ecological approach is gaining more currency in Anthropology. The present book is a pioneering study. After Grigson's work on the Maria Gonds of Bastar, this is the first comprehensive study on the Maria Gonds residing on the other side of Bastar, namely, Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. Secondly the author has developed an innovative research approach that takes advantage of a fortuitous natural experiment resulting from a single tribe having split into two groups living in two distinctive habitats. It is a genuine contribution to cultural ecology as it goes beyond the Stewardian assumptions on cultural ecology. Thirdly the investigator has stayed with the people for a longer period and at different seasons in an inaccessible and remote area cut off from the mainland for several months and the accounts give an inside-view of the Maria Gond society....

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