

Religion of Warli
A Study from the Perspective of Philosophical Anthropology

Lata Chhatre

Dept. of Philosophy

chhatre@unipune.ernet.in

Illiteracy, Malnutrition and poverty are some of the major problems among the tribal people in Maharashtra. Generally it is advocated that by giving financial support and giving them education it is possible to solve the tribal problems like poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy etc. Accordingly government is also implementing the development programmes amongst the tribals. However it is observed that such tribal problems are not solved. So in order to solve such problems it is necessary to go into the roots of these problems. The roots of these problems can be found in their religion, as religion is the prominent and influential factor in tribal culture. Tribal religion not only affects the tribal culture but it also moulds the personality of man and hence the problem can be solved through religion. For this, it is necessary to study the religion from the perspective of Philosophical Anthropology.

Philosophical Anthological perspective of religion is a perspective, which deals with the religion from anthropological and philosophical point of views. That is while dealing with the religion from anthropological point of view, it tries to understand what is the relation between religion and other aspects of culture like social, economic and environmental aspects of culture and while dealing with the religion from philosophical point of view, it deals with the relation between man and religion. If we study tribal religion from this perspective then it is possible for us to find out the roots of the tribal problems as well as solution to these problems. Keeping this view in mind I have made an attempt to study the religion of Warli tribe from the perspective of philosophical anthropology. To serve this purpose I have selected the Warli tribe in Thane and Nasik districts. I have collected the information by doing field work in these areas regarding their gods, festivals and rituals related to their life cycle.

I have formulated the projected in following chapters:

Tribal culture and its relation with tribal problems.

Nature of Warli Religion.

Cultural Aspect of Warli Religion.

Philosophical – anthropological Aspect of Warli Religion.

Ways of solving problems of Warli through their religion.