DISPOSSESSION AND VIOLENCE: A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF STATE REPRESSION OF
INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN CENTRAL INDIA

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Abstract

The thesis is an exploration of the relationship between institutional violence against women in Central India and the agenda of land dispossession. The study explores the coalition of the public entities and the private companies across the Indian region of Chhattisgarh. I focus on these connections within the state while paying attention to the social relations between the neoliberal-capitalist class in order to understand the political economy of the state that enacts the land acquisition and the subsequent land dispossession of its indigenous inhabitants. I further examine the gendered impact of this process and how the state apparatus reproduces the patriarchal structures to create a system of oppression of the indigenous women. Further, I argue that the social relations of neoliberalism, capitalism and patriarchy are carefully masked by the state in the garb of ‘development’. I explain that a necessary strategy of such expansion of the state is violence against women in Chhattisgarh, especially poor Adivasi women. Building on several case studies of violence against women in Chhattisgarh, I explore how the state normalizes and legitimizes this violence and also masks the intensification as a measure of security and progress of women in the region. The study is a combination of textual analysis and document analysis. In order to gather the material for the research, I have primarily examined reports by governmental institutions and human rights organizations that directly disseminate policy reports, advocacy and announcements.
for bills and laws. The study adopts a Marxist feminist framework of analysis to study the complex relationship of state repression through sexual violence against women. I intend to inform activist agendas as well as academic scholarship that studies violence against women.

*Keywords*: dispossession, sexual violence, neoliberalism, capitalist patriarchy, state repression