



# The Vanguard Role of Education in Annihilation of Witchcraft Persecution in Indigenous Spheres

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## ABSTRACT

*Belief in witchcraft, is considered to be around, since the beginning of human social existence. Often characterized to be spiritual, divinatory and mystic in nature, witchcraft infers to the practice of, and belief in, magical skills and abilities which are believed to influence the mind, body, or property-of others, in a malicious manner. Mostly connoted negatively, it is prominently visible in societies whose religio-cultural framework incorporates reverence towards mysterious super-natural realms. It has been well depicted, documented and believed that witchcraft has 'mainly' been a feminine affair and had been (and is still being) practiced mostly by females. Alleged of causing detrimental influences, such women are trialled, branded as 'witches' and thereafter hounded, banished, flogged, raped, burnt alive and in most of the cases, ruthlessly murdered. These 'trials' and 'hunting' have existed as socially acceptable tools for weeding out the anti-social, mala fide intention driven 'witches' from the society. Witchcraft, in some form or the other, has been a predominant cultural phenomenon in almost all existent communities of the globe, including India, especially those residing in the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Resting on ethnographic data (collected from the state of Jharkhand) and theoretical conceptualizations, the current paper attempts to pragmatically put forth the vanguard role of education in annihilation of witchcraft persecution and hunting among the tribal / indigenous people(s) of Jharkhand.*

**Keywords:** *Daain, Jharkhand, Education, Social Exclusion, Witchcraft, Witch-Hunting.*