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Land Alienation and Ecology in the Perunchani Hill with Special Reference to Kani Tribe

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ABSTRACT This study highlights the Kani tribe's awareness of ecology and their land alienation in the Perunchani hill. The land alienation creates the landlords and traders who occupy the commanding position in the whole system of agricultural production and distribution. Ecology includes number of issues pertaining to culture, attitude, belief of the people towards forest and health, awareness of environment, breeding of animals and the advantage of staying in the forest and communication with outsiders. This paper makes an attempt to understand the ecological problems and conditions of the Perunchani hill and the land alienation among the tribal people by understanding the tribal institution of the hill. The tribal people of the hill are depending upon the forest mainly for their economy and for their basic needs. They cut down trees to build their huts and also in order to extend their cultivable lands they set fire to the hick forest and make them fertile. In this study it is found that the people of the hill are not maintaining the ecological conditions of the hill and are unaware of the ecological problems, at the same time they have been exploited by the outsiders in all the ways and in certain cases the Kani's lands are also encroached by the outsiders. This paper analyses the way of life of the Kani tribe of Perunchani hill and suggests probable remedial measures for the ecological problems prevailing there.