

**RELIGIO-CULTURAL PROFILE OF THE GANJHUS-BHOGTAS:  
THE LESSER KNOWN DALIT COMMUNITY OF JHARKHAND**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This article is intended to bring to focus the religion and cultural life of a less-known and less-studied dalit community in India-the Ganjhus-Bhogtas. The review of the literature and my field studies revealed that culturally the Ganjhus, although declared to be the scheduled castes, are very close to the tribals. Their life style indicates a tribal origin. The very locations and layouts of their villages, their rhythm of cultivation and use of forest resources are identical to those of other tribes. To understand the cultural and religious sphere of the Ganjhus it is important to study their religious practices and rites and rituals. Therefore, this paper brings forth a comprehensive view of religiosity, way of worship, world-view, belief-systems, feasts, and rites of passage of the Ganjhu-Bhogtas of central India.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Ganjhu-Bhogtas, Belief-Systems, Religious Practices*