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# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

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CTD: 17GS - GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN  
SUB-DOMAIN: GENERAL TRACK

## PANEL TITLE: TRIBAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT: CONTRADICTIONS AND CONTESTATIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Developmentalists try to argue that since most of the tribal communities are matriarchal, women have a better social status. Feminists argue that patriarchy is also a feature of tribal societies and women experience domestic violence and sexual harassment in their families. This is reflected in women's access to the 'political space' in different tribal-dominated regions of the world. Participation of women in the unorganized sector indicates that workers are either unskilled or reluctant to work as a full-time worker. Tribals in India have access to minor forest produce under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Viewed in this context, it is important to interrogate the question women's access to resources under this legislation. Further, many research studies have indicated that Self-Help Group Movement has developed group activities in women. This in turn, has empowered women economically by using their social networks. It is time to explore the contradictions and contestations around women in Tribal communities.

**Keywords:** Tribal women, Political space, work participation, Self-Help Group Movement

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