

# She is More than a Sex Object: Tribal Women and their Suffering in Reference to Mahasweta Devi's 'D2' (Doulati and Draupadi)

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**Abstract:** *Indian society has many folds in its structure and multiculturalism. Tribal community and their crushed, hidden, and hazy identity were undercover until the 20th century; especially Tribal women became merely a showpiece in paintings of some artist or on the sophisticated high-class wall. Their features, cultures, and oppressed existence are beautifully painted by painters who attract the Indian common mass. Their glossy nakedness and dark complexion serve a beauty to luxurious drawing-room, but no one peeps inside their unvoiced soul to know their suffering and their yearning of getting a particular identity till many writers like Mahasweta Devi, Gita Mehta, Kamala Markandya, Amrita Pritam started depicted them through their literary works. Numerous works in literature unfold the predicament of 'Tribal hero', 'Tribal Folks', 'Tribal family' but a handful of narratives found for 'Tribal heroines'. Tribal women's studies have been remarkably declined that needs to be restored, and literary writers took that flag in their hands to raise voices against these marginalized, socially outcast second gender folks. Their unnoticed plight is well defined in the works of social activist Mahasweta Devi. The present research paper is an earnest attempt to critically analyze the treatment of the ethnic group, their exploitation at the hand of the upper crust with reference to Mahasweta Devi's 'Doulati' and 'Draupadi', that delineate the tribal women's trauma, their suffering, victimization and contrast between these two leading feminine characters is brought forth. The protagonists created by Devi mirror the tribal living standards with one coin on two sides, which means being a tribal feminine figure. They have one common problem, but their dealing with those tantrums has two distinctive sides. It also implicates the need to refiguring the sidelined segments of the social spree to make the readers aware of their culture, social status, trauma, and troubles faced due to their low caste born, forcing them to be marginalized, nameless, unsung and misconstrued.*

**Keywords:** Tribal heroines, Outcast, Hazy identity, Unsung ethnic group, Marginalized

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