

The Socio-Psychological Study of Santhal Tribes of West Bengal and the Effect of Smoking and Drinking on their Daily Living

Soumen Acharya^{1*}

¹National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, India

ABSTRACT

A survey of 100 households was conducted on Santhals of Ranibandh block of Bankura district of West Bengal, India. To gather information on the socioeconomic aspects, all the members of each household were interviewed. In addition, 100 randomly selected ever-married women were interviewed to collect information on their reproductive profile. Data were collected from 18 villages of Ranibandh block of Bankura district, West Bengal, using multistage random cluster sampling method. Household survey consist information about Primary occupation, Pattern of house, position of kitchen and sources of fuel. Subjects were interviewed to obtain information regarding their dietary intake, smoking and drinking habits and morbidity pattern. Interview technique was used to gather information from selected ever married women concerning their reproductive profile, consisting age at menarche, age at menopause (where applicable), age at first child, age at marriage, status of their children and number of total children. The drinking habits and smoking habits were seen in man and women. In statistical analysis, mean and standard deviation were estimated for age of drinking and smoking, age at menopause, age at first child and age at marriage using computerized statistical software, SPSS and MS Excel. Additionally, frequency distribution of primary occupation, various housing characteristics, dietary habits, smoking and drinking habits, morbidity pattern, age at first child, status of children and number of total children were calculated. The number of men and women who were having smoking and drinking problems were seen and the result will be presented at the time of conference.

INTRODUCTION

In the World context after Asia, India is being the second largest tribal-dominated country. According to the Anthropological point of view, India is one of the most fascinating nation in the world. As many as 427 tribal communities are residing in India, of whom 75 are declared as particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), who are spread across the country. Earlier they were known as primitive tribal groups (PTGs) after 2006 Govt. of India redesignated them as PVTGs for the purpose of giving special attention for their allround development. Generally, the term "tribe" has originated around the time of Greek and the early formation of the Roman Empire. The Latin term, "tribus" has since been transformed to identify a group of persons forming a community and claiming descent from a common ancestor. In India, the tribal communities are mainly concentrated in Central India region and North-East India region. Originally a tribe was simply a territorially defined social group. On the basis of numerical strength Bhill, Gond and Santhal are the major tribes of India, while Onge, Andamanese, Chenchu, and Mankirdia are the minor tribes of India.

The Santhals are the 3rd largest tribal communities of India after the Gond and the Bhils respectively, with a population over 4.26 million. Due to the characteristic behaviour; like simplicity in nature, living in remote and dense forest with less easily accessible areas.

According to 2011 census, Odisha is the largest tribal populous state in the country. There are 21, 63,110 households are meant for the tribal groups in the state. Total tribal population in the state is 95, 90,756 of which Males and Females are 47, 27,732 and 48, 63,024 respectively.

The decadal growth rate of the tribal population during 2001-2011 is 17.7% which is higher than the states decadal growth rate i.e. 14%. Odisha is the tribal dominated State where 62 tribes with 22.21% of the total population are habituating. Among them, 13 are considered as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Due to lack of developmental facilities, lack of adequate primary health facilities, common socio-economic and demographic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, etc. the tribal societies in India are considered as the weakest section of the population.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on exploratory research design. The study is confined to the Santhal tribe of Bijatola Block of Mayurbhanj District. For this study, anthropological techniques and methods such as participant observation, group discussions, interview Scheduled and informal conversations were taken place. The "Holistic Approach" was used to understand the livelihood of Santhal people in detail.

The research protocol includes different types of data covering socio-cultural and demographical traits. During the time of collection of information, basic data pertaining to ethnography and general aspects of the people and area were gathered. In short, for quantitative data, fully structured questionnaire was used and for qualitative data, in-depth interviews and observation were carried out. However, the secondary data have collected from various books, journals and Govt. records.

The sample subjects were drawn randomly from 131 households from different four small hamlets, located at Bantali Rakhasahi. Out of which 43 households located at Bantalitolla, 31 in Bagmatolla, 47 in Marangtolla and 10 are in Dollantolla respectively.

Disposal, is a mechanism in which Alusista no longer meets operational requirements. Some of the options for Disposal include deletion from the state inventory list or offered to other parties who require an agreed sale and purchase scheme. The agreement between the two parties has implications for the

criteria of price, delivery and technology transfer. Disposal aspects of this study are not part of the research criteria, this is because the defense equipment referred to in this study is a new procurement with a very long lifetime.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Racially the Santhals are an Austro-Asiatic tribe with dark brown to black coloured skin, grey to brown coloured hair, medium to flat nasal form and medium height. They are very conscious about their identity and culture. They developed their own script Olchiki and have been continuing language movement in Eastern India. The universe comprises of 175 households of the village Bantali Rakhasahi in Bijatola block, where the tribals are residing. Table-I depicts the total ethnic distribution of the research area.

The total population of the studied area is 904 consisting of 475 (52.54%) male and 429 (47.45%) female. The most dominating tribe among them is Santhal which is our main concentration here. The Santhal occupy 131 households which is 74.85% of the total number of households of the village having 687 (75.99%) members out of which 373 (54.29%) male and 314 (45.70 %) female members reside followed by Kamila (Goldsmith)- 118 (13.05%) , Komar (Blacksmith)- 41 (4.53%), Munda – 25 (2.76%), Kolha- 15 (1.65%) and Ghasi- 13 (1.43%). Whereas only (0.55%) were consisted of Gouda (Milk Man). The sex ratio of the total universe is 903 (lower than the national Sex Ratio i.e. 940 as per the 2011 census) where as it is 841 among the Santhal.