



ASECA CHANNEL

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WELCOME NEW YEAR 2010

ASECA CHANNEL & ALL INDIA ASECA WISH HAPPINESS, PEACE, PROSPERITY AND QUALITY LIFE ON THE EVE OF NEW YEAR TO SUBSCRIBERS, WELL WISHERS, CONTRIBUTORS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

Editorial

Micro level different approaches have a bearing on macro identity in the Santal Society. It is being increasingly observed that people have begun to forget their pan-Santal identity and unknowingly are pursuing what are not conducive towards making a unique Society having unified characteristics. More often it is seen that people resort to an alibi that "it is a local practice". In every sphere of social interaction, there are elements of disturbance and chaos and every occasion is subject to practices which are different in content and usages. Quite often, in every occasion new chapter or new things emerge which cannot be accepted in its existing form by the other party. It is not that such events take place at places where illiteracy is common or people with no contact with outside world. Social customs and practices have become such a cost intensive affair that only able and well to do family can afford to organize social events. Others who cannot afford, however, do not have a comparative easy, low cost alternative solution for such events. For them they continue to remain in their present state without solemnizing social customs or practices. It is disturbing though; common experience is that social occasions are in vogue in the households where people are handsomely educated and relatively prosperous. Ironically, social events in such households are also not free from some drawbacks and mismanagement. Such situation arises due to the fact that in actual practice social issues are being handled by the people who have limited exposure and are not able to take some decisions which have a far reaching positive impact on the general public. Due to limited exposure, knowledge and broad based outlook they actually adhere to what they have learnt from another person through oral form. The social affairs in fact are being bestowed on the people who are

least educated and perennially poor. The smart lots are in search of greener pasture and the immediate opportunity is to pursue political career. The Society in general is deprived of the services of educated and financially sound section.

People who show least interest in social practices are in fact in practical life are the persons who implement, supervise and monitor Quality Management System in an Organisation where they work. By virtue of their profession in an Organisation it comes as part of their roles and responsibilities. It is naturally expected that people with such exposure would carry forward some qualities and policies for the development of a system, betterment of a system for the common welfare of every members of that particular community. But in actual life such things do not happen. The more the person is equipped with such modern tools, the more distance he maintains from the social matters. In the process, common people who should have been benefitted out of such implementation of modern practices, is perpetually being deprived of acquiring knowledge or having a feel of such practices. It can be argued that common people at the village level may not be in a position to appreciate and therefore adopt modern practices. So there is no requirement in even trying to educate them with a pre conceived notion that these would not be accepted by them and they should be left to their natural and limited knowledge base. By doing this our educated mass who could be the harbingers of fresh thinking and valuable agents of change are shying away from their pivotal duty in rendering their efforts towards making the society a forward looking, pragmatic, proactive and progressive entity.

Proposed programme of the 22nd Annual Conference of All India Santali Writers' Association to be held at Sido – Kanhu Indoor Stadium, Dumka, Jharkhand on 30th & 31st January 2010.

Date: 30.1.2010 (Inaugural Session) 10 am to 1 pm

1. Reception of the Guests, 2. Inauguration of the Conference, 3. Welcome Songs, 4. Welcome address 5. Release of Souvenir & new books, 6. Felicitation to (a) **Sri Madan Mohan Tudu** with Majhi Ramdas Tudu Award, (b) **Sri Shikar Kisku** with Sadhu Ram Chand Murmu Award, (c) **Sri Narendra Nath Soren** with Pandit Raghunath Murmu Award, (d) **Sri Chandi Charan Kisku** as short story writer of the year 2008, (e) **Sri Khelaram Murmu** as Poet of the year 2008 and (f) **Sri Badal Hembram** as Sahitya Akademi Award winner 2008.

Chief Guest: Sri Debidhan Besra, Hon'ble M.P.

Chief Speaker: Prof. Victor Tigga, Vice Chancellor, S.K.M. University

Guests of Honour:

1. Shaikh Naimuddin, IRS, New Delhi
2. Sri Upendra Narayan Oraon, DDC, Dumka
3. Mrs. Amita Rakshit, Chairperson, Dumka Municipality

President: Sri Rupchand Hansda

Lunch - 1 pm to 2 pm

First Session: 2pm to 4pm

Topic: Critics and Language Environment in Santali

President: Sri Somai Kisku

Guests:

1. Dr. Vidya Nath Jha, 'Vidit'
2. Dr. Naku Hansdah
3. Sri Gomasta Prasad Soren
4. Sri Purna Chandra Hembram

Tea - 4pm to 4.20pm

Second Session – 4.20 pm to 6.20 pm

Topic: Poet Convention

President: Sri Chunda Soren, Sipahi

Guests:

1. Sri Tez Narayan Murmu
2. Sri L. N. Murmu, 'Panirpiya'
3. Sri Gupi Nath Santal

Cultural Programme – 6.20pm to 8pm then Dinner

Date: 31.1.2010 3rd Session 10 am to 1 pm

Topic: Trends of Santali Fiction and Women Characteristics

President: Prof. Promodini Hansdah

Guests:

1. Dr. Damayanti Beshra
2. Sri Badal Hembram
3. Dr. Dhaneswar Majhi
4. Sri A. K. Singh, IAS

Lunch - 1 pm to 2 pm

Fourth Session 2 pm to 5 pm

Topic: Participation of Youth in Santali Literature

President: Prof. Iswar Soren

Guests:

1. Sri Hemant Soren, Hon'ble M.P.
2. Dr. P. C. Hembram
3. Sri Bhaiya Hansdah
4. Mrs. Dikumani Soren

Tea - 5 pm to 5.20 pm

Fifth Session 5.20 pm to 6.20 pm

Annual General Body Meeting of AISWA

President: Sri Rupchand Hansda

Guest: Dr. Nikodimos Tudu

- a) Annual Report, b) Annual Accounts, c) Further Activities, d) Resolutions, e) Declaration of venue of 23rd conference, 6. Vote of thanks by Sri Shyam Besra

Cultural Programme – 6.20 pm to 8pm then Dinner

For further details please contact:

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General Secretary: Sri Jadumani Besra :
09474893880

Scheduled Communities: A social Development profile of SC/STs (Bihar, Jharkhand & W.B)

(Source: Planning Commission)

{Continued from December 2009 issue}

The gender-disparity at the primary/incomplete primary, secondary/sr. secondary and at the highest level are: 0.959, 0.568, 0.731 respectively.

- As for the Dom only 4 male persons have completed secondary education and none higher than this level. The gender disparity at the lowest levels 0.781 There are no females attending classes beyond the middle school.

Table 6.7: Levels of education among the Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand (Not reproduced)

West Bengal

The situation of the Scheduled Castes in West Bengal at the incomplete primary/primary level of education is decidedly the best among the three States, with as many as 55.0 percent male and 44.1 percent female with an overall percentage of 49.8 having attained this level. The gender disparity score at this level is quite low at 0.802. The percentage of females at this level of literacy far exceeds those of the other three states.

However, from the middle level of school education onwards there is a drastic drop, with only 7.8 percent male and 3.0 percent female (overall 4.0%) having completed middle school; 4.5 percent male and 1.4 percent female having done secondary/sr.secondary; and at the higher level at tapers down to 1.0 percent for male and 0.1 percent for female.

The gender disparity increases to 0.503 at the middle level of education, increases further to 0.319 at the high school levels and improves at the highest level to 0.547. But as we have noted, the base from which gender disparity is measured is very small at these levels.

- With respect to individual castes, the most conspicuous performance is that of the Dhobi. They are exceptional in having decisively more female literates at the primary and incomplete primary level. Out of the total 12 graduates/postgraduates from 443 households of West Bengal, 10 are from 34 Dhobi

households. Six of these are males and four are females. Only other two in this category are males – one each from Mal and Bhuiyan. Once again, we find among the Dhobi there is trend towards gender equity. The gender disparity figures for the Dhobi is 1.31 at the primary/incomplete primary level, 0.485 at the secondary/sr. secondary level, and 0.600 at the highest level.

- As for secondary/sr. secondary level of education, out of 62 persons in West Bengal, 20 are from the Dhobi caste and 7 each from Bagdi and Patni.

- The Dom, Kami and Konai do not have a single person with education level beyond the middle.

- There is generally high concentration of almost all castes in the category of incomplete primary education with good participation of females.

Table 6.8: Levels of education among the Scheduled Castes in West Bengal (Not produced)

Scheduled Tribes

Jharkhand

At the initial level of education in Jharkhand, as many as 37.5 percent male and 28.4 percent female with an overall percentage 32.9 have either completed primary school or could not complete. The gender disparity at this level is 0.758.

At the next level of middle school, 12.7 percent male and 7.6 percent female have attained this level of education. The gender disparity increases to 0.595.

As for secondary/sr. secondary level of education with 9.9 percent male and 6.5 percent female attaining this level of education, the gender disparity reduces a little to 0.656.

At the highest level, the gender disparity further reduces to 0.707 with percent male and 3.2 percent female figure in this category.

{To be continued...}

ISSUE OF ADOPTION, SUCCESSION AND INHERITANCE IN SANTAL SOCIETY

Source: Jharkhand High Court

{Santal Society is continue to be managed and governed by the laws, rules, customs, precedents which are unwritten nor properly documented. Due to absence of properly documentation of accepted laws, traditional / customary judgement on similar cases differs from place to place. Here is a judgement from Jharkhand High Court on adoption, succession and inheritance which is of immense interest to the members of the Santal Society in particular. The same is being reproduced for the common knowledge and benefit of all.}

{Continued from December 2009 issue}

The joint family system of the Santal has undergone a great change. E.G. Man in his book "Santhalia and the Sonthals" (1867) had mentioned that a Santal is "blessed with large families..... nine olive branches being a common number to one man's quiver.....". But from investigation it was found that the joint family system has become now a rarity. Hardly a son after marriage lives jointly with his father. The marriage ipso facto creates a separation and a Santal family now consists of the married couples and their unmarried children. Poverty due to small holding of the Santal cultivators seems to be the main cause of breaking the joint family tie. Joint family system envisages property, particularly landed property to create a co-partnership. The spread of literacy and education, especially among the Christian Santals seems to be also a factor for separation. There is a tendency among the educated service-holders to live separately. Sometimes the father is himself responsible for separation in case of re-marriage."

16. From the aforesaid discussions, it is evidently clear that custom prevailing in the Santhal community has undergone a great change. The rules against female succession among santhals whether christen or nonchristens are changing owing to the force of public opinion. The change which is

occurring is in the direction of uplifting the condition of women and giving them right in the family as also in the property. From the books of the great scholars who are the authors of many books including the books in **Survey and Settlement** quoted herein before, it is manifestly clear that there are instances where a sonless male or female have taken in adoption a grandson or any of the agnates of the family.

{To be continued...}

CONGRATULATIONS

ASECA CHANNEL congratulates **Dr. Damayanti Beshra** for being selected by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi to receive the Award for the year 2009 for her outstanding contribution in Santali literature and for the development of Santali Language.

ASECA CHANNEL WISHES HER ALL THE BEST.

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