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Editorial

Human tendency is to live independent so far as most of the requirements of life are being fulfilled. They tend to come together when they come across some complex as well as difficult situation which are beyond their power to encounter or face. In such scenario they come together as a group to overcome emerging challenges, bring fortunes, wellbeing and tide over the difficulties. It has been seen that the camaraderie and belongingness has undergone change over a period of time as the civilization progressed and people moved forward. The need and requirement also are changing as per the prevailing situation and predominant occupation. The pattern of change in occupation gives rise to a separate identity and outlook which is quite different from the aspiration and expectations of people at grassroots level. There may be marked difference in thinking and attitude but one identity binds them together in the midst of many layered sub identification. Santals today are sharing a unique identity but at the same time are growing at different pace, outlook and environment. Due to this mismatch they have developed a layered identity which is natural keeping in view the development level and living standard. However, in such situation where collectively or individually they are confronted with outside pressures which are beyond their capacity, at that point of time and situation they are immediately try to resurrect the neglected bonding and endeavour to project the problem as a group problem. In such scenario, the original identity is invoked but on several other occasions it is not promoted through proper care, due intensity and positivity.

With winter setting in, all across the country where Santals are settled, the places become active with activities like organizing cultural events, family get together etc. apart from observing the traditional festivals. In a way the harvest season is synonymous with the joyous activities and energetic manifestation. The urban areas do not remain as

exception to such activities. In all metro cities, there are some kind of activities that are being organized to demonstrate solidarity and oneness. This limited way of expression, however, though not materializing into a great force but at least manage to keep some people together with a feeling of commonness and belongingness. If seen in other communities' context, the same kind of fraternity is being translated into a major level of bonding leading to personal as well as community development.

It is nice to come across some professionals from Santal community who are coming together to form an association for promoting themselves as well as to do some good work for the larger interest of the entire population. The Santali Writers' association is such an example which is going to celebrate its Silver Jubilee this year on 15th, 16th and 17th December 2012. There are other associations of Engineers, Doctors, Bankers, Officers, Non Gazetted Officers etc. These associations are spread across length and breadth of the country and are doing as per their ability to do something at least for themselves. It is a good practice and approach to have concern at least for the people belonging to same profession. The noble idea of bridging the gap through collective wisdom and approach in an effort to demonstrate emancipation is definitely a welcome step and it should be strengthened from time to time with goodwill and spirit of care and share.

One pertinent expectation from such groups who are definitely better in terms of wealth and formal education is that they should direct some of their goodwill towards the benefits of the people at grassroots level. The expectations are genuine and they deserve to be guided and supported where they do not find any avenue and become helpless and hopeless. The interaction should be maintained with the common people so that they also feel a sense of empowerment through their association with the elite groups.

Unraveling Indian Census Data on Santals (Education)

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The detailed age wise and education level wise break up of Santals in Jharkhand is depicted as per below table. Out of total 24,10,509 Santals in Jharkhand, only 658,261 (27.31%) are educated and balance 17,52,248 (72.69%) Santals in Jharkhand are illiterate. Among the literates, 13,000 are graduates or above, 87,350 people are above Matric but below graduate and 5,57,908 are having below Matric level education.

EDUCATION STATUS OF SANTALS IN JHARKHAND as per 2001 Census																
Sl. No.	Age Group (Years)	Total population			Illiterate			Literate & their EDUCATION LEVEL								
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Sl. No.	Educational Level	%age of Literate Total	Total	%age of Male Total	Males	%age of Female Total	Females	
									Check		2,410,509					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
					72.69%				%age of Total Population							
0	All ages	2,410,509	1,214,485	1,196,024	1,752,248	746,516	1,005,732	0	Total	100.00%	658,261	100.00%	467,969	100.00%	190,292	
1	0 - 6	441,094	222,820	218,274	441,094	222,820	218,274	1	Without Level	3.47%	22,840	0.16%	743	3.76%	7,155	
	Age 0 to 6				18%	9%	9%									
2	7	58,084	29,167	28,917	39,211	18,296	20,915	2	Below Primary Level	34.31%	225,849	31.63%	148,009	40.91%	77,840	
3	8	92,838	48,341	44,497	57,090	26,816	30,274	3	Primary	29.97%	197,305	30.21%	141,373	29.39%	55,932	
4	9	47,927	24,286	23,641	24,634	10,636	13,998	4	Middle	17.00%	111,914	17.98%	84,152	14.59%	27,762	
5	10	92,869	49,283	43,586	49,329	22,176	27,153	5	Triculation / Secondary	10.05%	66,155	11.06%	51,768	7.56%	14,387	
6	11	30,435	15,459	14,976	12,893	5,089	7,804	6	Higher Secondary	3.15%	20,753	3.46%	16,176	2.41%	4,577	
7	12	86,557	45,596	40,961	42,903	18,297	24,606	7	Non-technical diploma or Certificate not equal to degree	0.01%	74	0.01%	63	0.01%	11	
8	13	36,628	18,275	18,353	16,177	6,043	10,134	8	Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree	0.06%	368	0.07%	318	0.03%	50	
	Age 7 to 14	493,539	255,661	237,878	264,728	116,130	148,598									
	15 & above	1,473,600	734,710	738,890	1,045,058	406,914	638,144									
					43%	17%	26%									
10	15-19	207,186	107,491	99,695	110,200	41,659	68,541									
11	20-24	188,068	88,375	99,693	116,822	38,122	78,700	9	Graduate degree other than technical degree	1.97%	13,000	2.23%	10,422	1.35%	2,578	
12	25-29	193,851	95,069	98,782	129,097	46,021	83,076									
13	30-34	184,243	90,469	93,774	132,399	49,535	82,864									
14	35-39	171,074	88,985	82,089	126,644	52,407	74,237									
15	40-44	136,092	71,431	64,661	104,884	45,229	59,655									
16	45-49	116,272	60,616	55,656	90,984	38,903	52,081									
17	50-54	86,270	45,593	40,677	70,042	31,316	38,726									
18	55-59	63,161	29,857	33,304	52,684	20,652	32,032									
19	60-64	57,700	26,185	31,515	50,383	19,813	30,570									
20	65-69	32,171	13,753	18,418	28,354	10,471	17,883									
21	70-74	21,052	9,372	11,680	18,551	7,265	11,286									
22	75-79	7,453	3,200	4,253	6,407	2,342	4,065									
23	80+	9,007	4,314	4,693	7,607	3,179	4,428									
24	Age not stated	2,276	1,294	982	1,368	652	716									

Let us assume the best case theoretical scenario that all children aged between 0 to 14 are either going or likely to go to school for education and will be literate in coming days and years. There are still balance remaining whopping 10,45,058 (43%) illiterate Santals, aged between 15 to 80+ years are living in the state of Jharkhand.

The government in centre, state and other interested group like NGOs need to frame suitable policy for these 43% adult Santals' education in order to substantially improve the education profile of Santals in Jharkhand and India.

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Supreme Court Judgment on atrocities to a Bhil woman in Maharashtra

(The Text of the judgment is reproduced below for the readers)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. ___ 11 ___/2011
(Arising out of Special Leave Petition (Crl) No. 10367 of 2010)
Kailas & Others .. Appellant (s)
-versus-
State of Maharashtra TR. .. Respondent (s)
Taluka P.S.

J U D G M E N T

1. Leave granted.
2. This appeal has been filed against the final judgment and order dated 10.03.2010 in Criminal Appeal No. 62 of 1998 passed by the Aurangabad Bench of Bombay High Court.
3. Heard learned counsel for the appellants.
4. This appeal furnishes a typical instance of how many of our people in India have been treating the tribal people (Scheduled Tribes or Adivasis), who are probably the descendants of the original inhabitants of India, but now constitute only about 8% of our total population, and as a group are one of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in India characterized by high level of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, disease, and landlessness.
5. The victim in the present case is a young woman Nandabai 25 years of age belonging to the Bhil tribe which is a Scheduled Tribe (ST) in Maharashtra, who was beaten with fists and kicks and stripped naked by the accused persons after tearing her blouse and brassieres and then got paraded in naked condition on the road of a village while being

beaten and abused by the accused herein.

6. The four accused were convicted by the Additional Sessions Judge, Ahmednagar on 05.02.1998 under Sections 452, 354, 323, 506(2) read with Section 34 IPC and sentenced to suffer RI for six months and to pay a fine of Rs. 100/-. They were also sentenced to suffer RI for one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 100/- for the offence punishable under Sections 354/34 IPC.

They were also sentenced under Section 323/34 IPC and sentenced to three months RI and to pay a fine of Rs. 100/-. The appellants were further convicted under Section 3 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and sentenced to suffer RI for one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 100/-.

7. In appeal before the High Court the appellants were acquitted of the offence under Section 3 of the SC/ST Act, but the conviction under the provisions of the IPC were confirmed. However, that part of the order regarding fine was set aside and each of the appellant was directed to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- only to the victim Nandabai.
8. The prosecution case is that the victim Nandabai who belongs to the Bhil community was residing with her father, handicapped brother, and lunatic sister. She had illicit relations with PW9 Vikram and had given birth to his daughter and was also pregnant through him for a second time. Vikram belongs to a higher caste and his marriage was being

arranged by his family with a woman of his own caste. On 13.5.1994 at about 5.00 P.M. when the victim Nandabai was at her house the four accused went to her house and asked why she had illicit relations with Vikram and started beating her with fists and kicks. At that time the accused Kailas and Balu held her hands while accused Subabai @ Subhadra removed her sari. The accused Subhash then removed her petticoat and accused Subabai tore the blouse and brassiere of the victim Nandabai. Thereafter the accused Subabai and Balu paraded the victim Nandabai on the road of the village and at that time the four accused herein were beating and abusing the victim Nandabai.

9. At about 8.40 p.m. an FIR was lodged at Taluka Police Station and after investigation a charge-sheet was filed. After taking evidence the learned

Additional Sessions Judge convicted the accused.

10. As already mentioned above, the conviction under the provisions of the IPC have been upheld but that under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been set aside.
11. We are surprised that the conviction of the accused under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was set aside on hyper technical grounds that the Caste Certificate was not produced and investigation by a Police Officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police was not done. These appear to be only technicalities and hardly a ground for acquittal, but since no appeal has been filed against that part of the High Court judgment, we are now not going into it.

(To be continued...)

Learning Teaching Problem of Tribal Children

(Source: Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority)

{Continued from November 2012 issue...}

Strategic planning and intervention category are:

- Inappropriate planning for satisfying learning needs of tribal children
- Inappropriate planning in the location of schools to provide necessary access to tribal children for schooling

- Inappropriate planning for providing suitable TLM to tribal children
- Inappropriate implementation of school level policies in tribal areas

(Concluded)

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