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Editorial

In one of the episodes of "Satyamev Jayate" hosted by Amir Khan, the theme of deliberations was alcoholism. Various aspects discussed during the whole time were about the problems, genesis of problems, possible solutions, and the presence of voluntary organizations in dealing with such cases. The issue highlighted was "Alcohol is a problem all over India, in practically all strata of society. Because of alcohol addiction, families have become fractured, children suffer, money that should be used for their education and the family expenses is wasted on alcohol, and medical expenses mount because of the toll it takes on the drinker's health".

The reach of such voluntary organizations are indeed limited to the urban areas and may be the services are rendered to and availed by the middle class and above strata of the society. The remaining strata of the people remains untouched by such initiatives or the services do not reach them for their peculiar positions, influence and precarious existence. From the episode, the natural reaction is whether such services are also needed by the marginalised section of the society. The cognoscenti on affairs of the weaker sections of the society in general and tribal people in particular would agree on the requirement of such efforts in these societies. The people in these societies generally consume alcohol and the consumption has become a trend in their social milieu. The usage has brought them perennial poverty, alienation, illiteracy and health problems.

One of the prominent problems Adivasi society has to deal with is the consumption of alcohol. In the earlier period, there was initiative from the Government side to impose prohibition in the tribal areas albeit with permission to produce country liquor, rice beer during the festivals and social functions. The time is changing and with that the situation has also changed. The Government has not found any reason to stop flow of liquor in the

country side and mainly in the tribal populated places. It is generally perceived as a business opportunity at micro level. But the ever increasing problems with the people make one think about and feel on the gravity of the situation. The pattern of consumption has reached such a point that people have become addicted and the majority people are found in that bracket. The development programme by whatever names the government may propose, with the tendency to spend lavishly on alcohol, the expected results remain far from realised. The amount of money these people earn cannot make them self sufficient to both look after the needs of the family and their hobby (addiction).

To overcome the problems, one need to tackle the problem from the social perspective with the involvement of people from the society. Always there is a chance of communication gap and it is desirable to break that gap. In order to reach such cross section of people, there is a requirement of concerted efforts and intense involvement. The result would be better if members from within the respective communities form such institutions or become part of any other such initiatives through establishing the communication channel and its credibility in addressing such issues.

There are some initiatives from within the communities, but with some religious and spiritual bend of mind. The good works remain confined to a limited people as the people who associate themselves in such religious or spiritual realisation do not need further discourse and their influence also remain limited to that particular strata in their respective societies. The actual initiatives should have to be from within the respective society and with a desired bang and burgeoning confidence. The need is urgent and special to address a gloomy reality so as to motivate people from maintaining and managing their habit in a better way and save many societies from breaking further down.

Unraveling Indian Census Data on Santals (Education)

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The overall Santal population in West Bengal is presented as per Table below. This is the second largest state in India apart from Jharkhand, where large number of Santals live. The 1st Radio station and regional T.V. channel of Doordarshan started airing Santali programs from Kolkata the state capital of West Bengal. The Literacy level of

District wise Education profile of Santals in West Bengal as per Census 2001

Sl. No.	District	Total Population			Illiterate					
		Total	Male	Female	Total	g=f/c	Male	i=h/d	Female	j
a	b	c	d	e	f	g=f/c	h	i=h/d	j	k=j/e
1	Medinipur	503,899	254,520	249,379	300,738	59.7%	117,032	46.0%	183,706	73.7%
2	Bardhaman	349,276	175,050	174,226	229,054	65.6%	94,790	54.2%	134,264	77.1%
3	Puruliya	303,321	153,728	149,593	194,547	64.1%	74,534	48.5%	120,013	80.2%
4	Bankura	269,477	135,688	133,789	153,829	57.1%	56,417	41.6%	97,412	72.8%
5	Birbhum	176,789	88,541	88,248	133,693	75.6%	57,735	65.2%	75,958	86.1%
6	Dakshin Dinajpur	153,634	77,454	76,180	105,067	68.4%	45,035	58.1%	60,032	78.8%
7	Hugli	149,199	73,974	75,225	89,615	60.1%	35,579	48.1%	54,036	71.8%
8	Maldah	146,723	72,710	74,013	113,527	77.4%	49,369	67.9%	64,158	86.7%
9	Uttar Dinajpur	94,304	47,577	46,727	74,382	78.9%	33,574	70.6%	40,808	87.3%
10	Murshidabad	45,562	23,157	22,405	32,060	70.4%	14,272	61.6%	17,788	79.4%
11	Jalpaiguri	33,312	16,929	16,383	21,589	64.8%	9,416	55.6%	12,173	74.3%
12	Nadia	15,578	7,914	7,664	9,259	59.4%	3,883	49.1%	5,376	70.1%
13	Darjiling	14,709	7,387	7,322	10,838	73.7%	4,693	63.5%	6,145	83.9%
14	North Twenty Four Pargana	11,825	6,048	5,777	5,963	50.4%	2,484	41.1%	3,479	60.2%
15	Haora	5,765	2,995	2,770	3,043	52.8%	1,336	44.6%	1,707	61.6%
16	South Twenty Four Pargana	4,201	2,209	1,992	2,551	60.7%	1,167	52.8%	1,384	69.5%
17	Kolkata	1,967	1,245	722	490	24.9%	229	18.4%	261	36.1%
18	Koch Bihar	999	529	470	515	51.6%	226	42.7%	289	61.5%
TOTAL		2,280,540	1,147,655	1,132,885	1,480,760		601,771		878,989	
987 Female per 1000 Male				Percentage		64.9%		52.4%		77.6%

Santals in West Bengal is 35.07% which is more than other states i.e. Jharkhand (27.31%) & Orissa (33.05%) but it is observed that the percentage of higher educated people are less and to the best of the author's knowledge there is no Santal from West Bengal representing the coveted jobs like I.A.S.

Recently the Trinamool Congress government under the chief minister Didi Mamata Banerjee has announced many schemes for Santals in West Bengal to pursue education in Santali, but only time will tell how much it is benefiting the large numbers (64.9%) of uneducated Santals in West Bengal.

CELEBRATION OF 107TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER OF OLCHIKI OLGURU Pt. RAGHUNATH MURMU IN MALKANGIRI

The 107th anniversary of Pandit Raghunath Murmu the father of Olchiki alphabet was celebrated with great joy and patriotic fervor on 6th May, 2012 in the premises of Marangburu Adivasi Cultural Association MV-2, Madhapur, Malkangiri, Odisha. Santali is the language being used and spoken by one of the largest tribal groups of India the "**Santal community**" who lives in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Chhatisgarh, Nepal, Bangladesh and Odisha. This function is termed as **Gurukunami** and celebrated on the **Baisakhipurnima day as Pandit Raghunath Murmu was born on 5-5-1905 on this day**. At the outset floral tribute was paid to the statue of Olguru Pt. Raghunath Murmu by Sri Thakurdas Hansdah, Executive Officer, Notified Area Council, Malkangiri along with Sri Thakur Murmu, Branch Manager (I/C), SBI, Kalimela, Sri Pitha Soren, Jr. Engineer, RWSS, Kalimela, Sri Sakila Baskey, DPO, Malkangiri, Sri Naran Hansda, PEO, Mr. Lakhiram Hansda, President Marangburu Adivasi Cultural Association & Councillor ward No.-16, Sri Babulal Hansdah, Secretary M.A.C.A. and Presidents of Maa Syamala Self Help Group (SHG), Maa Jaher Ayo SHG, Marangburu SHG of Santal villages. The function was started with flag hoisting, patriotic song and traditional Santal dances with great pleasure and amusement. A valuable speech was delivered by the Chief Guest Sri Thakurdas Hansdah wherein he emphasized for learning and using "Ol chiki" along with other languages in the district. Sri T. Hansdah, Executive Officer, NAC, Malkangiri declared that construction of crematorium for Santals of Malkangiri will be under taken by NAC, Malkangiri next year out of 13th Finance Commission Award which will be the exclusive work of NAC, for development of Santal culture and holy place like **Jilini Dahar**. The construction of 64-single dwelling unit **under IHSDP scheme** of Rs.1.20 lakhs each for Santal people in this Madhapur village are under progress by NAC, Malkangiri. The slogan for upliftment of **Olchiki** was spoken by guest of honour Sri Thakur Murmu. A seminar and discussion was also made among the SHG, members of association and the village leaders of five Santal villages for restoration of religious place **Jaher gal**, development of social & economic condition of Santal community, language, culture through various awareness programmes, on health education and elimination of superstitions, eradication of drugs and blind faiths from the society. The discussions were followed by Archery competitions for both men and women. It is noteworthy that Malkangiri has already produced some national & international archers like Rajesh Hansda and Loban Soren who took part in Asiad and Olympic games for India.

By- Thakurdas Hansdah, Advisor, Marangburu Adivasi Cultural Association, MV-2, Malkangiri, Odisha.

Learning Teaching Problem of Tribal Children

(Source: Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority)

{Continued from June 2012 issue...}

SUMMING UP

It was inferred that:

- The Bonda and Saora tribe have significantly poor performances in Language than Mathematics. When we look at achievement in Class – V in all 4 cases of tribal groups differential achievement mean is significant ($t = -3.83, 13.06, 2.80, -3.30$), but in case of Juanga and Santal Mathematics learning is superior to Language learning. In case of Bonda and Saora the position is just reverse. It is also reverse when we compare the similar situation prevailing in Class – II, where Language learning was inferior to Mathematics learning. The state of affairs need for the research The comparison reveals that Juanga boys are inferior in Language achievement to Juanga girls both at Class – II and Class – V, while there is no difference between boys and girls in achievement in Mathematics in Class – II, the girls are superior than boys in Class – V in Mathematics achievement.
- In case of Santal, there is no such difference between boys and girls neither in Oriya nor in Mathematics in Class – II, whereas in Oriya the boys and girls belonging to Santal tribe have a different picture, while girls are superior to boys in Language achievement, the boys are superior to girls in Mathematics achievement.
- So far as the Saora children are concerned the achievement of girls in language is superior to that of boys in Class – II and Class – V. Only in case of Class – V Mathematics achievement the boys are superior to girls.
- The next in order comes the Bonda tribe. Two conclusion emerge from the comparison that, the girls in

Class – II have better achievement in Language than the boys, but the reverse is true for Class – V children in Mathematics. In Mathematics at both levels boys are superior to girls.

- An observation indicates that for Class – II children the Oriya achievement of Juanga children are superior to that of Bonda and Saora, but Santal children are better than Juanga.
- In Mathematics, Juanga are inferior to Saora and Santal children (0.28, -3.68, -7.97).
- As regards Class – V there is a clear-cut difference present among Juanga children with reference to all three other tribal groups in achievement Oriya (-12.06, -5.25, -9.02). As regards to Mathematics achievement Juanga children are superior to Bonda children but inferior to Santal, whereas the difference between Juanga and Saora children is not established. An observation indicates that the Bonda children are superior to Saora children in Class – II Oriya, but inferior to Santal children. While in Mathematics the Bonda children are inferior to Saora children.
- In Class – V Oriya the Bonda children are superior to Saora children. In Class – V Mathematics there is a clear-cut difference between Bonda and Santal children. The Santal children are superior to Bonda children.
- An observation indicates that the Saora children of Class – II are inferior from Santal children in Oriya language. It is the same for all the variables.

(To be continued...)

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