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Website: www.allindiaaseca.org

E-mail: contact@allindiaaseca.org

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WELCOME NEW YEAR 2013

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

The Supreme Court judgment on atrocity on a Bhil woman, which is currently published serially, is an initiative to spread the awareness through dissemination of information. This kind of atrocities with severe degree of inhumanity are inflicted on such hapless people from time to time with impunity and without fear of establishment and other social institutions. Continuously, the sensitive people of this country have been engaged vociferously to bring in some changes, improvements in the legislation, executive and judicial system to give women of India a space to live with dignity, self respect and without fear. The demand is burgeoning over the years and has reached a new height and proportion after a gang rape in Delhi in the month of December 2012 where after few days the girl had succumbed to her grievous injuries. There is a large scale outcry to contain and root out the culture of attacking women in some form or the other so that they could feel secured and as such the society at large also co-exist in a peaceful environment.

It is unfortunate to note that there are a number of unreported cases of atrocities on women. The news become public or grab the public attention whenever the atrocities inflicted on the victim lead to loss of life due to grotesque nature of injury. The conscience of the people do not approve such atrocities and spontaneously reactions erupt against such practice or attack. Mostly, it is seen that the women belonging to downtrodden section of the society, generally bear the brunt of atrocities in the form of sexual attack or exploitation. However, they

are not much affected with other forms of atrocities such as dowry, inequality, gender bias etc. Usually, tribal community safeguards their women folk with the highest level of dignity, equality, independence and self respect. The community provides them protection, and it reacts immediately whenever modesty of a woman is outraged by a person within the community and the reaction can be dangerous, out of control whenever the perpetrator belongs to a person from outside community. This tendency has become a factor of deterrence where inter community people do not venture to hurt the sentiments by attacking the women of each others' community. The incident like parading a woman naked without fear of public outrage is something unbelievable but the Supreme Court case makes us to believe that such incident too occurs. There is something seriously amiss in the Bhil community where they are not able to protect the dignity and modesty of a woman. It may not be out of context to mention that Santal community does not close its eyes to such inhuman treatment to its own women as well as women of the neighbourhood communities.

The lessons are learned from the experiences and good behaviour is exchanged for the betterment and welfare of the society. Any form of atrocities on humankind should not be overlooked and everyone as per one's abilities should contribute towards ameliorating the situation to bring in peace, prosperity and happiness in the society in general and some deprived, weaker sections of the society in particular.

Unraveling Indian Census Data on Santals (Education)

Sanatan Marandi
ABU DHABI, U.A.E.
Sanatan.Marandi@gmail.com

More than 80% peoples in India live in villages and profession of majority is cultivation. The table below depicts the education profiles of Santals living in the villages of Jharkhand state. The overall level of Santal literacy in Jharkhand villages is 32.16% where as female is 18.27% and male is 45.90% (more than double of female). There are only 9820 Santals in villages of Jharkhand state whose education level is graduation or above.

EDUCATION STATUS OF SANTALS IN THE VILLAGES OF 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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
									%age of Total Population			32.16%		45.90%	18.27%
0	All ages	2,302,830	1,158,706	1,144,124	1,698,801	725,295	973,506	0	Total	100.00%	604,029	100.00%	433,411	100.00%	170,618
1	0 - 6	424,614	214,461	210,153	424,614	214,461	210,153	1	Without Level	3.59%	21,714	3.45%	14,942	3.97%	6,772
	Age 0 to 6				25%	30%	22%								
2	7	55,382	27,817	27,565	38,287	17,887	20,400	2	Below Primary Level	35.24%	212,845	32.42%	140,512	42.39%	72,333
3	8	89,216	46,462	42,754	55,959	26,303	29,656	3	Primary	30.54%	184,485	30.85%	133,712	29.76%	50,773
4	9	45,721	23,204	22,517	24,107	10,423	13,684	4	Middle	16.77%	101,308	17.84%	77,315	14.06%	23,993
5	10	89,027	47,271	41,756	48,368	21,785	26,583	5	Matriculation / Secondary	9.39%	56,703	10.39%	45,048	6.83%	11,655
6	11	28,571	14,558	14,013	12,571	4,966	7,605	6	Higher Secondary	2.79%	16,824	3.11%	13,480	1.96%	3,344
7	12	82,714	43,648	39,066	42,037	17,963	24,074	7	Non-technical diploma or Certificate not equal to degree	0.01%	47	0.01%	38	0.01%	9
8	13	34,323	17,171	17,152	15,755	5,911	9,844								
9	14	45,349	23,813	21,536	21,893	8,586	13,307	8	Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree	0.05%	280	0.06%	243	0.02%	37
	Age 7 to 14	470,303	243,944	228,359	258,977	113,824	145,153								
	15 & above	1,405,789	699,103	706,686	1,013,922	396,402	617,520								
					60%	55%	63%								
10	15-19	195,186	100,862	94,324	107,449	40,659	66,790								
11	20-24	178,599	83,355	95,244	113,764	37,234	76,530	9	Graduate degree other than technical	1.63%	9,820	1.87%	8,118	1.00%	1,702
12	25-29	185,221	90,686	94,535	125,485	44,944	80,541								
13	30-34	176,513	86,608	89,905	128,572	48,376	80,196								
14	35-39	163,244	84,995	78,249	122,425	50,978	71,447								
15	40-44	129,776	68,116	61,660	101,259	43,943	57,316								
16	45-49	110,577	57,481	53,096	87,770	37,752	50,018								
17	50-54	82,600	43,486	39,114	67,809	30,424	37,385								
18	55-59	60,697	28,510	32,187	51,123	20,078	31,045								
19	60-64	55,908	25,382	30,526	49,004	19,345	29,659								
20	65-69	31,203	13,315	17,888	27,599	10,203	17,396								
21	70-74	20,400	9,073	11,327	18,062	7,093	10,969								
22	75-79	7,222	3,094	4,128	6,247	2,283	3,964								
23	80+	8,643	4,140	4,503	7,354	3,090	4,264						0		0
24	Age not stated	2,124	1,198	926	1,288	608	680								

It may be noted that Jharkhand is the State where population of Santals is the largest amongst the tribes in the state. The more than one million (60%) uneducated village Santals are having age profile from 15 years and above. So this group of Santals has to be educated in order to change substantially the literacy profile of overall Santals in India.

Supreme Court Judgment on atrocities to a Bhil woman in Maharashtra

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

{Continued from December 2012 issue...}

12. There is the evidence of the victim Nandabai PW4 herself and we see no reason to disbelieve the same. Although many of the witnesses have turned hostile, we see no reason to disbelieve the statement of the victim Nandabai. In fact, PW9 Vikram supported the prosecution case to some extent. He has accepted his illicit relations with victim Nandabai and admitted that he had a daughter from her and she was pregnant for a second time through him. Even though he did not support the actual incident, we are of the opinion that Vikram's evidence at least on the points admitted by him corroborates the evidence of victim Nandabai.

13. PW2 Narendra Kalamkar has proved the spot panchanama Exh. 12. He stated that the panchanama was drawn in front of the house of PW4, the victim Nandabai. At the time of the panchanama, Nandabai was accompanied by the police and she had shown the entire area from her house to the place in front of the shop of PW3 Shankar Pawar. The police seized the clothes in torn condition, produced by PW4 Nandabai. There were pieces of bangles lying in front of

the house. Hence there is no reason to disbelieve PW2 Narendra Kalamkar.

14. It appears that the accused are powerful persons in the village inasmuch as that all the eye-witnesses have turned hostile out of fear or some inducement. However, PW8 Dr. Ashok Ingale proved the medical certificate Exh. 26 and stated that there were two contusions on the person of the victim.

15. The parade of a tribal woman on the village road in broad day light is shameful, shocking and outrageous. The dishonor of the victim Nandabai called for harsher punishment, and we are surprised that the State Government did not file any appeal for enhancement of the punishment awarded by the Additional Sessions Judge.

16. It is alleged by the appellants that the people belonging to the Bhil community live in torn clothes as they do not have proper clothes to wear. This itself shows the mentality of the accused who regard tribal people as inferior or sub-humans. This is totally unacceptable in modern India.

17. The Bhils are probably the descendants of some of the original inhabitants of India living in various parts of the country particularly southern Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh etc. They are mostly tribal people and have managed to preserve many of their tribal customs despite many oppressions and atrocities from other communities.

18. It is stated in the Article 'World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples – India: Advasis', that in Maharashtra Bhils were mercilessly persecuted in the 17th century. If a criminal was caught and found to be a Bhil, he or she was often killed on the spot. Historical accounts tell us of entire Bhil communities being killed and wiped out. Hence, Bhils retreated to the strongholds of the hills and forests.

19. Thus Bhils are probably the descendants of some of the original inhabitants of India known as the 'aborigines' or Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis), who presently comprise of only about 8% of the population of India. The rest 92 % of the population of India consists of descendants of immigrants. Thus India is broadly a country of immigrants like North America. We may consider this in some detail. **India is broadly a country of immigrants**

20. While North America (USA and Canada) is a country of new immigrants, who came

mainly from Europe over the last four or five centuries, India is a country of old immigrants in which people have been coming in over the last ten thousand years or so. Probably about 92% people living in India today are descendants of immigrants, who came mainly from the North-West, and to a lesser extent from the North-East. Since this is a point of great importance for the understanding of our country, it is necessary to go into it in some detail.

21. People migrate from uncomfortable areas to comfortable areas. This is natural because everyone wants to live in comfort. Before the coming of modern industry there were agricultural societies everywhere, and India was a paradise for these because agriculture requires level land, fertile soil, plenty of water for irrigation etc. which was in abundance in India. Why should anybody living in India migrate to, say, Afghanistan which has a harsh terrain, rocky and mountainous and covered with snow for several months in a year when one cannot grow any crop? Hence, almost all immigrations and invasions came from outside into India (except those Indians who were sent out during British rule as indentured labour, and the recent migration of a few million Indians to the developed countries for job opportunities). There is perhaps not a single instance of an invasion from India to outside India.

(To be continued...)

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