



# ASECA CHANNEL

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## Editorial

On the occasion of Annual General Body Meeting of All India Santali Writers' Association, opportunity is availed by many to express their views, suggestions, thoughts on Santali language and literature. The issues are many. Sometimes, the issues appear to be too gigantic to be handled. Under the prevailing circumstances, this forum is available to exchange views and to know the latest development on Santali literature. Though organizing this kind of event is not simple, this Association deserves to be appreciated for maintaining the tradition of annual meet on a continuous basis.

Recently this Association had organized its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference at Zilla Parishad Hall, Midnapore in West Bengal on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The topics of different sessions were: **Publication and Marketing of Santali Books & Magazine, Santali Trans Literature, Santali Children Literature and Crisis of Santali Culture & role of Santali Writers on it** along with traditional **Inaugural Session & Poet Convention**.

In the inaugural session, following persons were conferred with various awards. These are: a) Sadhu Ramchand Murmu Award to Shri Rabilal Mardi b) Majhi Ramdas Tudu Award to Shri Nityananda Hembram c) Pandit Raghunath Murmu Award to Shri Shivilal Kisku d) Poet of the Year 2007 Award to Shri Nuhum Hembram and e) Achievement Award to Shri Kherwal Soren (Sahitya Akademi Award winner 2007). It becomes necessary to write on these aspects mainly for the people who have less or no knowledge about the organisation or Conference. Santali literature has evolved from the resolve of some very sensible persons of the society or persons having a passion for this language. As a matter of fact, people with passion for the language contributed positively for the

development of literature though in a limited way. Their contribution and involvement for promotion of Santali literature was the outcome of sheer joy to preserve and promote the language and literature. But they were able to lay the foundation of Santali literature for ever. The seed sown in that period later on has produced a tree of recognizable size. The initial awards were only the good words from the peer groups or appreciation or recognition available locally. The organized way of felicitating some one for his literary work is a very recent and decent development. Over a period of time, Santali writers are being considered for conferment of Awards following inclusion of Santali Language in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution of India. Apart from the government channel, the writers are not being compensated through monetary considerations/benefits from other channel. However, many a times discussion is held on the possibility of giving remuneration also along with the recognition. In the real world, material support is required for further promotion and encouragement. The enthusiasm dies down if the passion of people is not suitably supported through alternate approach i.e. through public intervention and association. The publication of books is experienced to be increasing and on enquiry it is learnt that publishers or writers are not being able to get back their printing cost due to lack of patronage. There is a need to form Publishers/Writers guild to take care of the production and marketing aspects. Individual initiative is required to be replaced with a collective and co-operative model.

The patronage should emerge and evolve for possible healthy growth of the Santali literature. The publishers and writers should at least modestly be supported and encouraged. Otherwise, the spirit of social service will not be able to sustain desired growth of literature and consequently will be a subject matter of discussion in the four walls of the Conference Hall or meeting room.

# Tribal Scheduled and Areas in Orissa

*(Continued from November 2008 issue)*

(m) while endowing Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government, a State Legislature shall ensure that the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed specifically with-

- (i) the power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant;
  - (ii) the ownership of minor forest produce;
  - (iii) the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe;
  - (iv) the power to manage village markets by whatever name called;
  - (v) the power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes;
  - (vi) the power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors;
  - (vii) the power to control over local plans and resources for such plans including tribal sub-plans.
- (n) the State Legislations that may endow Panchayats with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government shall contain safeguards to ensure that Panchayats at the higher

level do not assume the powers and authority of any Panchayat at the lower level or of the Gram Sabha;

(o) the State Legislature shall endeavour to follow the pattern of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution while designing the administrative arrangements in the Panchayats at district levels in the Scheduled Areas.

## **Continuance of existing laws on panchayats:**

5. Notwithstanding anything in Part IX of the Constitution with exceptions and modifications made by this Act, any provision of any law relating to Panchayats in force in the Scheduled Areas, immediately before the date on which this Act receives the assent of the President, which is inconsistent with the provisions of Part IX with such exceptions and modifications shall continue to be in force until amended or repealed by a competent Legislature or other competent authority or until the expiration of one year from the date on which this Act receives the assent of the President;

Provided that all the Panchayats existing immediately before such date shall continue till the expiration of their duration unless sooner dissolved by a resolution passed to that effect by the Legislative Assembly of that State or, in the case of a State having Legislative Council, by each House of the Legislature of that State.

**(The End)**

## **ANNUAL GET TOGETHER OF SANTAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MUMBAI**

Santal Welfare Association of Mumbai is organising the annual get together, with a colourful dance & musical evening, on Saturday, 13th December 2008.

The program is designed with an objective to preserve the rich cultural heritage and also to meet each other who are living miles away from native place. The efforts are being made to keep the society people in touch with their culture in the backdrop of cosmopolitan threat for eroding their culture.

**Venue : Community Hall, RBI Colony, Sector-7, Rain Tree Marg, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400614.**

**Time : 10 AM to 10.00 PM, Food : Lunch, Afternoon tea & Dinner.**

A 13 member professional troupe “**KOYEL ORCHESTRA**” of Mayurbhanj, Orissa headed by Mr Mangal Hansda (ମଙ୍ଗଳ ହଂସଦା) will entertain with Live Band on 13th December – 2008. The organizers hope that the troupe will get the participants stuck to the dance floor like never before. The band will be able to lure the participants to the “**ଝୁଲଝୁଲ ଝିଲଝିଲ**” so that they can exhibit their inherent dancing skills to the rhythmic tunes of traditional Santal dances e.g. Danta, Dahar, Dong etc. all in one day/evening.

An array of food and snacks counters with mouth watering dishes will be laid out including **ଫୁଲିଆ**, to meet the different tastes of the members.

Organising committee may be contacted for further information and clarification: Mr. Salkhu Majhi-09820531178, Mr. Innocent Soren- 09969003787, Mr. Parau Murmu- 09969018440, Mr. Chaturam Hembram- 09892839408.

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

(Source: Planning Commission)

{Continued from November 2008 issue}

### *West Bengal*

As we move over to West Bengal, we find that the average annual per capita expenditure of Scheduled Castes at Rs. 3209 is somewhat lower than in Bihar. The average size of household is the lowest at 5.39. Correspondingly, the average annual household expenditure is the lowest among the three States at Rs. 17,296.

#### **Table 4.45 : Annual expenditure of Scheduled Caste households in West Bengal (Not reproduced)**

Those castes that have a per capita annual expenditure higher than the State average (upper category), are the Dhobi (Rs. 4622), Bhuiyan (Rs. 3739), Patni (Rs. 3680), Kami (Rs. 3666), Sarki (Rs. 3513), and Mal (Rs. 3378).

- In contrast, the per capita expenditure of the Dom (Rs. 2734), Bauri (Rs. 2692), Chamar (Rs. 2194) and Konai (Rs. 2105) are lower than the State average (lower category). It may be noted that the Bagdi approximate the average per capita expenditure (Rs. 3198).
- The per capita expenditure is the highest among the Dhobi and the lowest among the Konai.
- The following SCs are in the descending order of average annual household expenditure of those above the State average (upper category), are : the Dhobi (Rs. 24,865), Kami (Rs. 19,248), Bagdi (Rs. 18,738), Patni (Rs. 18,144), Sarki (Rs. 17,916) and Bhuiyan (Rs. 17,568).
- The SCs that have per household annual expenditure below the State average (lower category) are : Mal (Rs. 16,561), Chamar (Rs. 15,076), Dom (Rs. 14,383), Bauri (Rs. 13,404) and Konai (Rs. 13,116).

The relative differences between average per capita and per household expenditure, as we have noted, is a function of household size. For example, the Bhuiyan ranks second in average annual per capita expenditure within the upper category, but ranks lower in the per household average expenditure, in the same upper category. This is because they have a small household size (4.70).

### **Scheduled Tribes**

#### *Jharkhand*

In Jharkhand, the per capita annual expenditure of Scheduled Tribes at Rs. 4377 is the highest, compared to all Scheduled Castes and Tribes in West Bengal and Bihar, and higher than the SCs in its own State. The average household size is 5.22. The annual average expenditure per household for all 544 households is Rs. 23,113.

#### **Table 4.46 : Annual expenditure of Scheduled Tribe households in Jharkhand (Not reproduced)**

The per capita expenditure is highest among the Mahali with Rs. 6240, followed by that of Oraon at Rs. 4930, Munda with Rs. 4296 and Santhal with Rs. 4368.

- That of the Ho is substantially low at Rs. 3214 and it is lowest among the Lohara (Rs. 3040).
- The average annual per household expenditure, for the Mahali is Rs. 29,140; for Oraon, Rs. 26,820; for Munda, Rs. 23,196; for Santhal, Rs. 21,228; for Ho, Rs.18,060; and for the Lohara it is Rs. 16,232.
- The near correspondence between annual per capita and household expenditure of the Scheduled Tribes is on account of very little variability in their household size.

#### *West Bengal*

In West Bengal the per capita expenditure of Scheduled Tribes at Rs. 3679, is higher than that of Scheduled Castes in West Bengal but nearly the same as the Scheduled Castes of Bihar. The average household size is 5.22, which is the smallest amongst the SCs and STs in all the three States. The average annual per household expenditure is Rs. 19,202.

#### **Table 4.47 : Annual expenditure of Scheduled Tribe households in West Bengal (Not reproduced)**

The per capita annual expenditure is highest among the Bhumij with Rs. 4225, followed by Lodha with Rs. 3999, Santhal with Rs. 3597, Munda with Rs. 3581, Oraon with Rs. 3489 and Mahali with Rs. 3428. The per capita expenditure, though slightly lower than

the State average among the Mahali, Munda, Oraon and Santhal, they are more or less in the same range.

- The average annual household expenditure is highest among the Bhumij (Rs. 25,812), followed by Oraon (Rs. 19,188), Santhal (Rs. 18,596), Lodha (Rs. 17,077), Mahali (Rs. 16,968) and Munda (Rs. 16,115).
- It may be noted that the Lodha have a relatively high per capita expenditure but incommensurately low per household expenditure. This pattern is a counterpart of the Musahar caste in Bihar, with the Lodha having the smallest household size of 4.27.
- In conclusion, a few observations can be highlighted.
- Among the Scheduled Castes in all three States, the position of Chamar with respect to per capita expenditure is best in Jharkhand. Although, the position of Chamar in Bihar is not so good, it is better than in West Bengal. In fact the Chamar in West Bengal occupies one of the lowest positions in the expenditure group.
- The position of Dusadh in Bihar is better than the Chamar.
- The position of Dhobi is the best amongst all the castes and tribes in the three States.
- The position of Konai is not only the lowest among all the Scheduled Castes in West Bengal, but overall it is the lowest for all.
- The overall position of Scheduled Tribes with respect to per capita and per household expenditure is better in Jharkhand than in West Bengal. However, the position of Ho and Lohara are quite low, even lower than the lowest tribes in West Bengal.
- The urban factor of Ranchi, clearly demonstrates a better position for SCs and STs as compared to their rural counterparts. The only exceptions are the Lohara in Ranchi and the Mahali and Santhal in the rural area of Dumka district. It is possible that the market of Dumka district headquarter has

influenced the livelihood of the Mahali and Santhal.

### **Expenditure pattern on food and non-food items**

We have analysed the expenditure pattern on food and non-food items. The food items include cereals and non-cereal items such as milk, ghee, animal protein, cooking oil, spices, fruits and vegetables. Non-food items include, expenditure on education, health, clothes, fuel, electricity, liquor, festivals, rent, transport, footwear, paan-tobacco, etc.

### **Scheduled Castes**

#### ***Bihar***

The significance of the analysis of expenditure on food and non- food items lies in the ratio between the two. It can be argued that at low levels of living the expenditure on food items assumes greater importance. Therefore, the expenditure on non- food items is likely to maintain a certain low level balance in terms of expenditure on food items. The question that arises is, at what threshold level of well-being does the expenditure on nonfood items begin to cliimb?

When we examine the Scheduled Castes in Bihar, their average monthly expenditure on food items is 63.7 percent. Only 36.3 percent is spent on non- food items.

**Table 4.48 : Food and non-food expenditure among the Scheduled Castes in Bihar (Monthly household expenditure in Rupees) –Not reproduced**

- The expenditure on food items varies consistently between 61 and 67 percent for all caste groups, with the exception of the Dhobi.
- The Dhobi with per capita and per household expenditure far exceeding the other groups, spend only 40 percent on food items.

**(To be continued...)**

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