

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL

On 15th & 16th June, 2017

Organized by

Cultural Research Institute,
Tribal Development Department,
Government of West Bengal

Sponsored by

Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Government of India

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL
On 15th & 16th June, 2017**

Organized by

**Cultural Research Institute,
Tribal Development Department,
Government of West Bengal**

Sponsored by

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Government of India**

Health and Health Care Issues among the Tribal Communities of West Bengal

B N Sarkar

Anthropological Survey of India

Abstract

Health is an important aspect, determining the overall socio-economic development of any state/country. The dimensions of health can encompass “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO). Thus, public health incorporates the interdisciplinary approaches of many disciplines. It protects and improves the health of individuals, families, communities, and populations, locally and globally. India is passing through a demographic transition. We amply demonstrated our ability to eradicate some deadly communicable diseases (like, small pox, polio etc). Meanwhile some non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac diseases, and cancer are on the increase.

In West Bengal nearly 5.2 million people are *Adivasi* or Scheduled Tribes, they constitute about 5.8 % of West Bengal’s total population (Census 2011). The tribal mosaic of West Bengal reveals a wide spread distribution in various ecological and geo-climatic regions like hilly and mountain terrain, forest, islands, and river banks, and pursuing hunting-gathering, horticulture, and settled agriculture as their livelihood. These complex patterns of bio-cultural diversity among the tribal communities of West Bengal are exposed to many communicable and non-communicable diseases along with some silent killer genetic disorders (like sickle cell disease and Thalassaemia), which represented a major set of challenges in their health and health care issues. However, there is a paucity of comprehensive health research among these tribal communities and most of the studies are isolated and fragmentary in nature. In order to understand and appreciate the quality of life of these diverse tribal communities, it is essential to know the complexity of the systems by which their life is controlled.

In the present paper an attempt is made to examine the health and various health issues among the tribes of West Bengal. Unless locality specific, tribe specific, integrated need-based health care delivery system is evolved which is appropriate, acceptable, accessible, and affordable, the goal of development of health more particularly some of the vulnerable tribal communities would remain a dream!

Strategic Approaches to Community Empowerment for Re Structuring Social Organisation and Bilateral Matching Institution for Integrated Tribal Development

S B Roy, IBRAD

Abstract

While Considerable amount of fund is spent for the tribal development but the Human Development Indices of the Tribal are relatively low, as mentioned in the document shared by the Ministry Of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Degradation of natural resources in Jungal Mahal have negative impact on natural capital for livelihood, health and education, which form the basic components of human development. IBRAD developed field tested strategy and applied in eight Tribal locations in the districts of Purulia and Bankura to employ holistic methods of empowerment of the Tribal for Participatory Integrated Natural Resource Management and launch organic and sustainable Agriculture. The strategy essentially includes application of anthropological theory of participation, ethnographic methods of understanding the Socio-Ecological System of the given landscape at one hand and re-structuring social organization for effective involvement of government functionaries for implementation of government schemes on the other. The steps involved to sensitize the community through Eco-Chain, PANCHATATVA to understand the interdependent relationship among the land, water, livestock forest and human organizations. The members of the Tribal community discussed about the benefits they derive when their own habitat of ecosystem is well conserved and also delineate their immediate loss if not conserved by their own efforts. Once the proactive leaders as SICO (Self Initiated Community Organiser) of the community realizes the value of conservation of the biodiversity and the immediate benefit to them, they formed their own appropriate social group with "Bilateral Matching Institutions", norms and social action. The community developed a forum for continuous learning and built PRASHIKSHAN SIBIR which stands as a symbol of identity and a matter of pride. Strategy for continuous learning and MONITORING as rituals empowers the community with self esteem and builds the capacity to learn new skills for sustainable livelihood. The Tribal members from all the eight locations planned for the corrective action to improve status of their livelihood through integrated natural resource management and now that will have a cascading effect through recent decision of the government for convergence planning and training of the community as well of the government functionaries by IBRAD at various levels.

Tribal Development in West Bengal: A brief discourse on combating childhood communicable diseases

Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay

Professor, Department of Anthropology, University College of Science, Technology & Agriculture, University of Calcutta Kolkata-700019

Abstract

Over the past decade, India has made rapid strides in many fields and experienced unprecedented economic growth. Today, the parents of children are better educated and have better access to information, technology and facilities than in the past two decades. In the last fifteen years, per-capita income has more than doubled. The overall decadal growth (2001 – 2011) of Tribal population in India is 0.41%, while, West Bengal it is 0.3%. However, even with the decrease in the growth rate gains in nutrition, health and caring behaviors for young children under-five years of age have not changed. India has the largest burden of child mortality and under-nutrition in the world. It includes being underweight for one's age, too short for one's age (stunted), dangerously thin for one's height (wasted) and deficient in vitamins and minerals (micronutrient malnutrition). More than a third of the world's 150 million undernourished children live in India, with an alarming overall under-five mortality rate of 74.3 per 1,000 live births. The prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age is one of the indicators of measuring the targets of Goal 1 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Under-nutrition and Malnutrition can be defined as that state of nutrition caused by a diet that is inadequate, imbalanced or not effectively utilized by the body. Many diseases and deaths which appear to be from infections and communicable diseases are actually preconditioned by malnutrition. To prevent severe malnutrition, recognition of the early stages in "at risk" children is important.

The present discourse is an attempt to understand the issues on recognition of the signs and symptoms of malnourished and nutritionally deficient children, possible method of identification of nutritionally "at risk" children, and finally the use and interpretation of anthropometric measures for identification of "at risk" children. In addition to that, the present communication might help for the identification and thereby effectively combating the childhood communicable diseases in West Bengal.

Haria, a rice-based fermented beverage: Ethnic preparation, microbial potential and tribal livelihood

Pradeep Kumar Das Mohapatra

Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Vidyasagar University

Abstract

Haria is prepared from low grade boiled rice by mixing with a traditional starter, called bakhar and fermented within a heat-sterilized earthen pot for 3-4 days. During fermentation pH decreased and titratable acidity increased up to 1.42%. The alcohol content was varied between 2-3% (v/v) in haria. Haria is consumed as staple food and refreshing drink by a vast number of tribal people. During any festival, ceremonious occasion, rituals, social feast, marriage feast, death feast etc. sharing of haria by the tribal community is a traditional culture. The taste, flavor and safety of haria consumption is depends upon microbial consortia and some important nutraceuticals during the preparation. It has been studied that the quantity of molds and yeast were highest at 2nd day but the quantity of Lactic acid bacteria and Bifidobacterium *sp.* increased during the fermentation period. Starch hydrolytic enzymes along with different types of malto-oligosaccharides were accumulated in haria during the course of fermentation. The fermented materials also showed higher free radicals scavenging activity against DPPH radicals. Lactic acid content in haria has several beneficial health effects like immunostimulation, cholesterol reduction, endocrine secretion stimulation, stress remover and brain stimulation and shows protective roles for intestinal mucosa, flora and overall intestinal function. A mild dose of alcohol reportedly reduces the risk of heart disease, gallstone formation, and diabetes etc. Thus, the health promoting effect of lactic acid and mild dose of alcohol, probiotic organisms and bioactive substances from microbes and plant materials likely make haria a healthy nutritive drink.

Tribal women also sale haria in the local market and maintain the livelihood of their family. Basing upon the benefits, values and potential of haria; quality improvement of this indigenous rice based fermented beverage is urgently needed not only to support the tribals but also to serve the society in better way.

Keywords: Haria, Tribal community, Traditional culture, Health effects, Nutritive drink.

**Anthropometry based nutritional profile of adult tribal populations in
West Bengal:
A Comparison with other Indian tribes**

Kaushik Bose

Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal,
India.

Abstract

Indian tribal population comprises 8.6 % of the total population of the country, numbering 104,545,716 (Census, 2011). They cover approximately 15 % of the country's area. According to Article 342 of the Indian Constitution, at present, there exist 697 tribes recognized by the central government. Around 75 (approx) of them are recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

This presentation provides a background of the applications of anthropometry in the evaluation of adult nutritional status. It highlights the different anthropometric methods and parameters used to evaluate the nutritional status of adult tribal populations. It discusses the different cut-off points used and the probable factors responsible for adult undernutrition. It also presents empirical data on the nature and extent of undernutrition prevalent among different tribal populations in West Bengal. These findings are compared with studies on other tribes from different parts of India. Lastly, recommendations are suggested which may reduce the high rates of undernutrition observed among tribal populations in West Bengal.

Keywords: Tribe, Undernutrition, BMI, Anthropometry

Concept of Tribe and Tribal Development: A Reappraisal

Gautam Kumar Bera

Anthropological Survey of India, North East Regional Centre, Mawblei Madanrting,
Shillong – 793 021, Meghalaya

Abstract

The nomenclature of tribe as a category of people has appeared in both anthropological and non-anthropological literatures including Indological references quite frequently over a long passage of time. But nothing was done for them for integrating them to the mainstream of the society until the Constitution of India took cognizance of their affairs for their developmental attributes. The passage of democratic governance over seven decades has witnessed remarkable development in all spheres of Indian life and culture. However, the arena of tribal development with the concept of tribe both in terms of their inclusive and exclusive policies has remained unaltered over this passage of time. Hence, a reappraisal has been attempted through the present deliberation in anticipation of rethinking over the set paradigms.

Indigenous Language Death in West Bengal: A Linguistic Anthropological Study

Arup Majumder

Simulpur, Thakurnagar, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Abstract

Many languages die with the speakers' death, and many languages die when the speakers make it to die. It is when a speaker does not preserve his language and gives chance to flourish other languages, the native language dies its premature death. Linguists claim that every fortnight, a language dies somewhere in West Bengal as well as India. A United Nation agency identified 198 Indian languages in danger. There are many causes behind the death of many languages. The fastest growth of industrialization, occupational change, migration, education has posed a threat to the indigenous languages for their existence. The state of West Bengal which has more tribal population faces this problem to a great extent. The aim of this paper is to highlight the causes of indigenous language death in West Bengal and how do we preserve these languages.

Keywords: Indigenous languages, language death, linguistic anthropology

**Birhors in the Foothills of Ajodhya Hills:
An Anthropological Evaluation of Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)
Plan**

Subhamay Kisku

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta

Abstract

India is a country of diverse cultural variation. In this diversity tribals have been able to maintain their cultural pluralism. However, for maintaining this cultural pluralism they have not yet been equally progressed like rest of other the Indian communities. They have been maintaining their age-old indignity in contact with other non-tribal cultures. Since 1950, the Constitution of India has provided certain safeguards to these tribals. Certain tribal communities have been declared as Scheduled Tribes (STs). Out of these ST communities certain communities have further been declared as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), earlier they were known as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). In West Bengal there are three such PVTGs like Lodha, Toto and Birhor, who are more backward than rest of the other STs in the State. Among these three PVTGs, Birhors are the numerically less dominated PVTG community of West Bengal. Traditionally they are known as hunting and gathering community. But the Government of West Bengal has been trying to bring them forward. As per the Census of India 2011 they are distributed all over West Bengal. However, many of them have been settled at different villages of Purulia district through the initiatives of the Government of West Bengal. This research paper has tried to portray the developmental situation of Birhor tribe of West Bengal as a result of the Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan. The findings of this paper have come out from the study conducted in 2016.

Keywords: Cultural Pluralism, Indignity, Tribal Development, Birhor, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan.

Socio-Economic Conditions of the Tribal People of the Closed Tea Garden in the Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal

Manas Naskar¹ and Purnima Mallick²

1. Assistant Professor of Commerce, Deshbandhu College for Girls, Kolkata
2. Assistant Professor of Geography, Deshbandhu College for Girls, Kolkata

Abstract

Tea industry of West Bengal involves a large scale employment opportunity. This industry plays an important role in the growth of the local economy. Jalpaiguri district is the second largest tea producer of the State. Large number of scheduled tribes engage with this industry since inception of tea gardens in 'Dooars' region. The tribal workers generally stay in the tea garden residential quarters. They got monthly ration from the garden owners at a subsidized rate. Some tea garden offered various facilities like free medical treatment, cresh and fire wood for their workers. The education level, economic conditions and standard of living of the tribal people is very poor. They are mostly backward and exploited by the management.

In the recent years, it is observed that a larger number of tea garden are closed and some of the remaining tea gardens are also going to close. The tribal people who were working in these tea garden are not getting fuel wood, ration or wages from the tea garden at present. They are facing so many difficulties. Under this background, the study is an attempt to analyze the present conditions of this tribal workers. The main aim of the study is to find out the socio-economic status of the tribal people residing in the closed tea garden quarters. Both primary and secondary data have been used for the study. Primary data have been collected through a structured questionnaire. The study results show that the tribal labours are socially, financially and economically deprived. They don't get much benefit from the management as they deserved. Wage rate was so poor that they were unable to save money for their future needs. Some remedial measures should be taken to enhance the socio economic status of the tribes.

Keywords: tea industry, employment opportunity, local economy, standard of living, socio-economic status

Development of Eco-tourism: The Forest niche and the role of tribals.

Sankha Priya Guha

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Govt of West Bengal

Abstract

The concept of Eco-tourism, is of relatively recent origin (1983), lays predominant importance on the ecological niche, of which forest forms a key element.

In Indian sub-continent in general and West Bengal in particular, forest dwelling communities viz. the *tribals* have played a key role in the maintenance of the forest cover from time immemorial. The colonial forest policies curbed the rights of the *tribals* for a considerable length of time but postcolonial Indian government, particularly in recent times, through measures like *Joint Forest management (JFM)* seem to have acquired a renovated form of tradition.

The success of these management programs lie in consideration of the cultural norms and values of these forest dwelling *tribes* which in turn have created a key factor in the subject of Eco-tourism. Government of India in its recent planning years has paved out the target for forest development in the country, which in turn can boost Eco-tourism through increase in its floral and faunal content.

The objective of the present paper is to highlight the development of forest in relation to the prospect of Eco-tourism in India in general and West Bengal in particular. The paper will lay special emphasis on nature of *tribal* involvement in implementation of forest policies framed by the Government. The basis of the presentation will be secondary data.

Changing Pattern of Economy among the Sardars in A Rural Settings of West Bengal

Kundan Ghosh

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Mahishadal Girls' College, Purba Medinipore,

Abstract

Changing pattern of occupation is very important part to understand the economy and the opportunity of dynamic type of occupational availability in any area. People may change their occupation due to different causes like better earning, new occupational opportunity due to technical development, social and physical environmental pressure etc.

The present study was conducted among the Sardars (Munda, Oraon and Bhumij) lived in Mansada village, situated under Sundarpur gram panchayet to the north-east of Bongaon sub-division of North 24 parganas, West Bengal. They are migrated from Chotanagpur plateau, came as seasonal labour in this area and due course of time they settled here permanently. Total population of the village is 433 out of which 237 are male and 196 are female. Previously for subsistence, the villages were totally depended on agriculture or agriculture based jobs. Both the adult male and female worked as agricultural labours. But at present shift to other occupations found among the villagers.

The objectives of the present study are as follows- (1) to understand the intergenerational occupational mobility among the Sardars of studied village (2) to understand the factors which are responsible for this change. The present effort is grounded by the ethnographic approach and methods, which became the principal pathway for collecting, sorting and interpreting the data with an intense dependency on case studies, genealogical method, non-structured, semi structured and indepth interviews.

Their traditional sources of subsistence strategies and socio-economic aspects are being affected and altered due to introduction of education, contacts with Christian missionaries and implementation of various development and welfare programme.

Keywords: Subsistence Strategies, ethnographic approach, mobility, economy.

Development Scenario of Primitive Tribal Groups: The Case of Lodha and Birhor of West Bengal

Santanu Panda

Abstract

Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) earlier called as Primitive tribal group (PTG) is a Government of India classification created for the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development indices. In India, 75 communities are regarded as PVTG and in West Bengal only three communities are regarded as a PVTG viz. Bihor, Lodha and Toto. In this study, we have made an attempt to study the implementation of various types of developmental programmes of the Central and State Governments among the two communities (Birhor and Lodha) of Purulia and Paschim Medinipur District of West Bengal.

In the post-Independence period the main aim of the Government was to put off the stigma of criminal tribe designation of the Lodha-Sabar community. At the same time the Government also wanted to uplift the socio-economic condition of the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) like Lodha-Sabar and Birhor who mainly depended on forest produce and daily labour.

The study revealed that the major constraint of the implementation of the developmental programmes among the Lodhas and Birhors lie in their landlessness and poverty. The study also revealed that how the developmental state failed to implement its stated good policies for these communities. Finally, some recommendations have been made about how a better implementation could be made to bring confidence among the Birhor and Lodha community towards the improvement in their living condition.

Violence, Discrimination and Stigma Against Women Of denotified Tribes in India

Rahul Kumar Singh

Abstract

The social category generally known as the Denotified tribes of India covers a population approximately of 15 crores. Criminal Tribe Act of 1871 notified some tribes as born criminal during British India and after the repeal of criminal tribes act on 31st August 1952 this community is titled administratively as Denotified tribes (*Vimukt Jati*). With the explanation of denotified tribes I will throw light on the vulnerability of women of this community which is very often ignored and neglected. Women of this community have been facing violence, discrimination and stigma after the enactment of this notorious and inhuman act would be also discussed here. Access to infrastructure, like public health facilities, educational institutions, development of communication network like roads and cheap conveyance facility to transport people to place of work, housing, safe drinking water, rights to places of stay, general hygienic and sanitary conditions, are very poor. This study is based on the data and information collected by commission and different NGOs and research projects.

Issues and Challenges of Development Among The Rabha of Dooars: An Anthropological Perspective

Mayank Prakash¹ and Nandita Kumari²

1. Ph.D Research Fellow (UGC-NET/JRF), Dept. Of Anthropology, Ranchi University, RANCHI, Jharkhand,
2. M.Phil. Research Fellow (Ugc-Rgnf), Dept. Of Anthropology, Ranchi University, Ranchi ,Jharkhand,

Abstract

Rabha is one of the little known schedule tribe community of Dooars region comes under Aliporeduar District of North Bengal primarily resides inside the forest bastees of Jaldapara wild life sanctuary forest. Rabhas are the section of Bodo family and belong to Indo- Mongolian morphological stock. Rabhas are forest dweller since time immemorial. Rabhas are known for their matriarchal form of society and now in a transitional stage between matriline and patriline. Rabha speaks "kochkrow" language of Tibbeto-Burman linguistic family. Their economy and livelihood is fully depended on forest and forest resources. Their main source of livelihood is paddy cultivation inside the paddy field of forest. Their other source of livelihood are plantation and labour work inside forest under forest department, collection of minor forest produces, weaving textiles and fishing inside the forests. At present time a drastic change came in their traditional life and culture to a great extent due to forest laws & restrictions, culture contact, Christianity, transport and communication, and globalisation. Present research paper will be an attempt to understand the socio- economic, political, educational and health development and change among the Rabha of Dooars. This paper will also try to find out the issues, factors and challenges of development of rabha tribe. At the same time this paper will highlight how government approach and policies failed to bring desire result as far as their tribal development efforts are concern. This research paper is an outcome of the researcher's field work and empirical study. Secondary sources will also be incorporated to complete this research paper.

Ecotourism: another way of sustainable development

Arghya Santra

Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore – 721102, West Bengal

Abstract

Ecotourism is a subfield of sustainable tourism. It focuses on the enhancement and maintenance of natural system through tourism. In the 21st century travel and tourism are world's fastest growing industries and are the major source of foreign exchange earnings for many developing countries. Ecotourism is a growing niche market within this larger travel industry. For the last two decades, ecotourism has not only substituted mass tourism, but also has converged biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development of local community. Now-a-days, government and non-government agencies promote community based ecotourism into interior regions to develop the livelihood of the tribal people. In practice, ecotourism has often failed to deliver the expected benefits to the tribal community due to the factors, such as including shortages in the endowments of human, financial and social capital within the community, lack of mechanisms for a fair distribution of the economic benefits of ecotourism, and land insecurity. A study was conducted on *Gopegarh Heritage and Nature Ecotourism Centre(GHNEC), Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal* to find out the success and failure stories of ecotourism policy. This research reveals that due to the lack of proper infrastructure, the benefits of ecotourism do not reach to people aimed for.

Keywords: Ecotourism, government, sustainable development, tribals,

**Changing Patterns of Livelihood focusing on Cultural Practices:
A Sociological Enquiry on Munda Tribe**

Subarna Karmakar and Shreya Ganguly

Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani

Abstract

The Munda tribe is originally from Chotonagpur Plateau region of north-east region of India. Presently, they live in Jharkhand, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and in some portions of Bangladesh. The word Munda has an etymological significance. It means headman of a village. Today, the population of Munda Tribe in India is about two million. They speak Mundari language. Earlier, Munda people use to be wood-cutters but gradually they have adopted settled agriculture. Now-a-days, they survive on agriculture for livelihood. They have a rich cultural tradition such as *Nupur* (anklet) dance, worshiping sun god, *Badam* Puja. Their religious belief centred on totem. Totemism is worshipping of stones, animal, tree and any other material objects but their ethnic cultural traits are getting blurred due to the effects of globalization. As a result of globalization, they are leaning towards mainstream culture and losing their own cultural identity. They are getting acculturated with main stream population. The paper tries to analyze the changing patterns of livelihood and cultural practices of Munda tribe. Qualitative method has been adopted here. An empirical study has been done on a Munda village, Tuliachawk in West Midnapore, West Bengal.

Danda Katta: Meaning and Its Value among the Oraons

Sirista Julita Meenz and Mahesh S. Meenz,

Junior Research Fellow (UGC/NET), Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University, Ranchi.

Abstract

Various belief and practises are found to exist in all contemporary societies. Archaeologists have found out signs or symbols of religious beliefs associated with homo sapiens who lived at least 60,000 years ago. Thus the first evidence of religious belief and practises can be traced back to the early man of the middle paleolithic period that is Neanderthal man who deliberately used to bury the dead and may have developed the concept of life after death.

Oraons are the indigenous people of India, The Oraons are also known as Oraons, Orams or Urang in various parts of the country and abroad but they prefer to use the term Kurxhar instead of Oraons when they refer themselves. The Oraon community is the 2nd largest tribal community in terms of population after Santhal which has the largest population in Jharkhand. My study is based on the Oraons residing in Gothgaon village, under Mahuadanr block which is surrounded with hills from all the four sides, and is also known as 'chechari'.

'Danda katta' is a religious ritual which is practised by the Oraons since their emergence and it is so believed that this very rite and ritual has been bestowed upon them by Dharmesh himself for protection and safe guarding them from evil. Thus the 'Danda katta' system exhibits the socio religious fabric of the Oraons.

The paper will highlight the details of 'Danda Katta' such as the technique of the performance and the meaning of the ingredients used in the ritual and the story exhibited in the due course of the performance. Thus this paper will exclusively bring into light the pivotal role of the 'Danda Katta' which is performed at important crises in the life of an individual in the Oraon society, which thus exhibits the very meaning and the value of 'Danda Katta' among the Oraons.

Socio-Economic Life of Snake Charmers in West Bengal

Sanjoy Mura

Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Visva-Bharati University,
West Bengal

Abstract

Economy is the major part of human society. The economic status can change the human society growth and development. The research paper mainly focus on the economic status of snake charmers people in West Bengal. The snake charmers economic base line of snake based occupation. The snake charmer peoples are engaged to the dangerous life and death practices of snake catching, snake charming and snake care etc. For their survival they catch snake, keep them and breed them with love and care. Carrying them in the baskets slinging from their shoulders, they wander from one locality to another to entertain the masses the showing their pet snakes playing to their enchanting tunes, folk song and live out of doles received from their patrons. And with the charming time sell the herbal medicine. The villagers are offered to the snake charmers some rupees, rice and other some foods etc. To their earning several role play to the survival of the household life. Then the other time snake charmers are employed to the agriculture labour, day labour, mason labour and other side labour work etc. for their subsistence family life. Some women are engaged to the snake charming to the remote village and markets. And getting some rupees and rice etc. Another some women are engaged to the leaf mat making and sell the nearest market. And some women groups are employed to the Self Help Group (SHG). The snake charmers have a **Food Security Yojona Card**. The schemes are help for the proper food facility and their nutritional development. The food supply scheme are organized by **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) Government of India**. Many government and Non-government supported schemes are apply for their sustainable development like that education, health, habitation making, communication, sanitation. drinking water resource, ICDS centre, sub-health centre etc, facilities. So, the present time snake charmers are transmit to the upgrade culture.

Keywords: Semi-nomadic culture, economic, NFSA,2013, sustainable development, upgrade culture.

Tribal Literacy Trends and Differences in West Bengal: A Community Level Analysis

Sarnali Dutta and Samiran Bisai

Cultural Research Institute, BCW and TDD, Govt. of West Bengal

Abstract

Literacy is the ability to read, write, view, design, speak and listen in a way that allows you to communicate effectively. The power of literacy lies not just in the ability to read and write, but rather is a person's capacity to apply these skills to effectively connect, interpret and discern the intricacies of the world in which they live. Education is one of the primary agents of transformation towards development. Education is in fact, an input not only for economic development of Scheduled Tribes (ST) but also for inner strength of the tribal communities which helps them in meeting the new challenges of life. Literacy and educational attainment are powerful indicators of social and economic development among the backward groups.

Therefore, in this paper, an attempt has been made to analyse the present literacy trends of ST communities of West Bengal, comparing the data over a decade (2001 – 2011). The difference between male and female has also been focused. A special emphasis has been given to the educational status of tribal women of West Bengal.

The present paper is based entirely on secondary sources of information, mainly drawn from Census 2001 and 2011 of India and West Bengal and various research conducted in this field.

The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census is 10.43 Crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. The tribal population in West Bengal is 5296953 which constitute 5.1% of the total ST population of India. West Bengal with 57.9% Literacy Rate of ST population, stands just after the national average i.e. 58.96% for ST population in Census 2011. The trend of literacy rate of STs in West Bengal from 2001 to 2011 have gone through an increment of 33.48% among which the Birjia community has witnessed maximum growth with an increment of 143.36%. on the other hand, the Chakma community has gone through a reduction of -10.17% over a decade. The male-female literacy gap is also significant. In 2001, it was 28.23% where in 2011 it has affirmatively come down to 20.46%.

Though the development of the tribes is taking place in India, but the pace of development has been rather slow. The fact remains that a large number of tribal women might have missed educational opportunities at different stages and in order to empower them varieties of skill training programmes have to be designed and organised. Implementation of systematic processes like Information Education Communication (IEC) should be done to educate communities.

Keywords: Census data, India, Literacy, Tribal, West Bengal

Extremist Violence at Junglemahal of West Bengal: Challenge before Inclusive Development

Dipak K Midya¹ & Ashim Das²

1. Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal
2. ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal

Abstract

Junglemahal area of West Bengal has been suffering from extremist violence particularly since 2000. Extremist activities have grown out in the area on the question of underdevelopment and deprivation. But there were hidden agenda as found along the entire Red Corridor of India. Interestingly, the very activism itself was spoiling development initiatives in the area. In the present article, we have tried to question the activism on the issue of under-development and deprivation. It appears that the said activism came out to challenge the state initiative of inclusive development. Taking two case studies from Paschim Medinipur and Bankura Districts, the study tries to identify various factors behind success and failure of inclusive development initiative.

Keywords: Junglemahal, Extremist Movement, Inclusive development, Red Corridor, West Bengal

Participation of the Scheduled Tribe Players in Mainstream Sports: A Study in West Bengal

Suchismita Sen Chowdhury¹, Ananya Chanda² and Chandan Bej²

1. Assistant Professor in Anthropology, Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyapith, Birati, Kolkata – 51.
2. Research Assistant, Cultural Research Institute, Kankurgachi, Kolkata-54.

Abstract

Sports and games include both physical and mental activities, skills and techniques. It is an organized and competitive activity involving players. In rural areas of West Bengal a number of folk games are popularly played by the young children. The tribal people also have some traditional games played in the rural Bengal. But the question is how many of the Scheduled Tribe players are really getting chance to participate in mainstream games? Is there any state, national or international level players belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community? Whether the potential good players face any problem for participating in such competitions? To find out the answers a study was done with the aim of finding out tribal sports talents present in West Bengal. Information was collected from different sports associations of West Bengal with the help of a structured questionnaire. Field work was conducted in 7 blocks of 5 districts having more than 40% of Scheduled Tribe population for mapping of tribal sports talents. The players available during study were interviewed for understanding their problems. It was found that the tribal players are mainly participating in football, archery, basket ball, kho kho, hockey, volleyball, kabaddi, karate, gymnastics and athletics. Some of them are getting good training from the renowned institutes of Kolkata. A few successful tribal players were also found. In spite of having problems in the family they have attempted state and national level competitions and succeeded. This trend could be an example for the upcoming tribal players and they can take sports professionally.

Key words: sports, tribal players, participation, training, problems

**Health Status and Healthcare Facilities: Some Issues and Challenges
(A Case of Malda District: West Bengal, India)**

Arpita Ghosh

Department of Human Rights and Human Development, Rabindra Bharati University

Abstract

Right to Health has never been a priority on India's development paradigm. The health situation of the with regard to access to and benefits from the public health system the tribals have always remained at the receiving end of the system. The socially disadvantaged sections of the society have always lagged in this respect and the tribals have remained excluded. Health rights have never been accredited from a rights approach and more so for the tribals. The developmental projects meant for tribal development have not been holistically treated to include health rights.

Even after so many decades of Independence, access to health institutions and civic amenities have had very poor turnouts in the rural areas and especially the tribal dominated belts. The present paper deals with the access of the tribal families in Malda district of West Bengal to healthcare facilities and the challenges faced in getting recognition of basic health rights.

Title: Health Care System & Hygienic Aspect in the village Ballavpur Danga, A case study among Santal community in Birbhum District of West Bengal

Nilanjana Biswas

Student of Visva Bharati University

Abstract

Introduction: Health education plays an important role in the community hygiene. To prevent illness and have positive health attitude, correct and complete knowledge of health is necessary. Health is cleanliness and cleanliness is one of the main defenses against diseases, whether contagious or self-generated. In this lesson we will discuss the actual meaning of health and hygiene, so that the aim of good health can be achieved through sanitary habits and healthy way of living.

Aims & Objective: Main objective of the present study is that health & hygienic aspect of the Santals of Ballavpur Danga village & after started so many national policy now what is their health condition?

Method: The present work was done by using Participant Observation, direct intensive interview, Questioner (open ended) & case study methods. The study is qualitative in nature.

Conclusion: After studying the santals of Ballavpur Danga village, I came to know that their health condition is average. They are still practicing their old believes regarding health and its maintenance. But many of them are now going for a proper modern regular health activity as prescribed by the doctors of health center.

Keywords: Health, Hygiene, Illness, Sanitation, Santal.

Health Culture and Healing System: A Study on the Lodhas of Paschim Medinipur.

Ramesh Ch. Mondal

Assistant Professor in Sociology, Government General Degree College Mohanpur, Paschim Medinipur

Abstract

In primitive society, functioning of body was yet to be known and attributed by beliefs in magic, and the body was smoothly functioning through indigenous healing system. Their healing system was based on their traditional knowledge and beliefs. It was conceived that medicines made of vegetables, tree plants and animal that were invariably used after doing some ritual activities that would eradicate the evil spirit. The health culture was developed by these methods. On the other hands, cultural heritage of health has the system of maintenance of health, protection of health and the method of restoring health. In this context, it is said that the healing system of indigenous people are created to facilitate the health culture in particular region, because beliefs and practices related to health as well as diseases are culturally bound. The present study is about the health culture and the healing system of the Lodhas of Paschim Medinipur.

Persisting Deprivation and Problem of Development of Tribal Workers in Tea Industry of North Bengal

Sourajit Roy

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling.

Abstract

The tribal workers of tea plantations of Terai and Dooars of North Bengal have remained as one of the most deprived sections of the state population. From the very inception of the industry, they have been suffering from extreme form of exploitation. During the colonial period, they were under the supreme control of the planters. They neither had the trade union rights nor were protected under any law of the government. It was only after independence, Government passed a comprehensive act namely Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951 for the welfare of the workers. Under this act, it was made obligatory for management of the plantations to provide different facilities to the workers such as housing, electricity, toilet, safe drinking water, subsidies rations, health care, primary education, canteen facilities, etc. However, till date most of the tea gardens have not implemented all the welfare provisions for workers under PLA which has jeopardized the development of tribal workers. Moreover, since late 1990's the sector has been going through persistence crisis. The planters are curtailing or delaying the payment of wages, rations, Provident Fund, Gratuity etc. on the plea of their losses. In some cases, they are even declaring closure or abandoning the tea gardens. This has led further marginalization of tribal workers and to the emergence of the problems like hunger, malnutrition and consequent starvation deaths, large scale migration of the workers and their family members in other places, human trafficking, indebtedness of the workers, etc. Therefore, in the present circumstances, it has become extremely important to relook our developmental strategy for the tribal workers in tea industry.

Sacred Groves and Traditional Knowledge: A Case Study of Biodiversity Conservation in West Midnapore District, West Bengal

U. K. Sen and R. K. Bhakat

Ecology and Taxonomy Laboratory, Department of Botany & Forestry, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore-721 102, West Bengal, India

Abstract

Nature worship is an integral part of human society down the centuries. One such form of nature worship is the maintenance of sacred groves by indigenous society. These groves are traditionally maintained forest patches dedicated to local deities. Due to cultural significance and presence of social taboos attached with sacred groves, they preserve a large number of flora and fauna including some locally threatened taxa. This paper discusses how social norms, taboos and cultural attachments of tribals of West Midnapore in West Bengal indigenously maintain sacred groves which are sanctuary for a large varieties of biodiversity both plants and animals. The article also highlights the economic importance of sacred groves in tribal life.

Prevalence OF Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) AMONG Female Adult Mahali and Sabar Tribes OF Bankura District, West Bengal

Kaushubhi Sarkar and Kaushik Bose

Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University

Abstract

Background: India is a diversified country with a blend of people living in urban, rural and tribal areas. Many vulnerable tribal groups are found in India with their different lifestyles, occupation and food habits. Malnutrition is a major health problem among tribals. In fact it is a serious health disorder in India.

Objectives: To report the anthropometric characteristics and nutritional status of adult female Sabars and Mahalis, two tribes of Bankura District, West Bengal.

Methods and materials: The present cross-sectional study was done among 233 adult females of two tribes (Mahali, n = 118 and Sabar, n = 115) of Bankura District, West Bengal. All anthropometric measurements were taken following the standard techniques. The public health problem of low BMI in these populations was classified according to the World Health Organization criteria.

Results: Sabar females had significantly higher mean height ($p < 0.001$), weight ($p < 0.01$), MUAC ($p < 0.05$) compared with Mahali females. Both Sabar (56.5%) as well as Mahali (63.5%) females had similar high rates of chronic energy deficiency (CED). The rates of undernutrition were also high in Sabar (41.7%) and Mahali (54.2%) based on MUAC. According to WHO classification of public health problem of low BMI, the prevalence of CED was very high ($\geq 40\%$) in both these groups indicating a serious situation.

Conclusion: since the nutritional status of these two populations was unsatisfactory, immediate health awareness programs should be initiated to reduce the prevalence of CED.

Keywords: Mahali, Sabar, CED, BMI, MUAC.

Prevalence of under-nutrition among adult Mahalis of Bankura District, West Bengal

Mihir Ghosh and Kaushik Bose

Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University

Abstract

Background: Mahali is an indigenous community of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. In India, they mostly reside in Santhal Parganas and central region of Jharkhand and in the adjoining areas of West Bengal. They traditionally earn their livelihood by selling articles made of bamboo.

Aim: The aim of the present study was to investigate the anthropometric characteristics and nutritional status among the adult Mahali tribal population.

Methods and Material: This present cross sectional study was conducted among 220 adult Mahalis (Males =102, Females = 118) of Bankura District, West Bengal. All anthropometric measurements were taken following the standard techniques and calculation was done using standard formulae.

Results: Results indicated that there were significant sex differences in anthropometric measurements: height (cm), weight (kg), MUAC (cm) and BMI (kg/m^2) were higher 157.06 (10.74), 47.90 (7.19), 24.16 (2.50) and 19.97 (8.47) in males than females 145.90 (5.42), 38.19 (5.38), 22.28 (2.33) and 17.92 (2.40) respectively ($p < 0.05$; $p < 0.001$). The prevalence of undernutrition among the study population was 53.6% based on BMI. The rates of undernutrition was higher (63.6%) in females (males = 42.2%, statistically significant difference, chi-square= 10.82, d.f. =2, $p < 0.01$) among them. The overall rates of undernutrition based on MUAC was 46.4%, also higher among females (54.2%) than males (37.3%, chi-square = 6.35, d.f.= 1, $p < 0.05$). The prevalence of undernutrition based on BMI increased with increasing age (chi-square =12.80, d.f. = 6, $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The present study revealed that undernutrition is widely prevalent among the Mahali tribe which is mainly due to inadequate dietary intake. To reduce the prevalence of undernutrition it is essential to improve the economic conditions and simultaneously carry out health awareness among this particular tribal group.

Keywords: Undernutrition, Mahali, BMI, MUAC.

Assessment of Nutritional Status among Adult Sabar Tribal Population of Bankura District, West Bengal.

Shilpita Bhandari and Kaushik Bose

Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University

Abstract

Background: India has a variety of tribal population reflecting its great ethnic diversity. Tribal populations are is recognized as socially and economically vulnerable. Their lifestyles and food habits are different from that of their rural neighbors.

Objectives: To investigate the anthropometric characteristics and nutritional status of adult Sabar

Methods and Materials: The present cross-sectional study was done among adult sabar tribes of Bankura district. Data was collected from 226 adult sabar among them 111 male and 115 female. All the anthropometric measurements were taken following the standard techniques and formula.

Results: Result indicates that, the mean (SD) of the anthropometric measurements height (cm), weight (kg), MUAC (cm) and BMI (kg/m²) were higher in male 159.89 (5.93), 49.69 (7.42), 25.24 (3.89) and 19.43 (2.59) than the female 148.99 (5.04), 40.12 (5.88), 22.86 (2.34) and 18.04 (2.30) respectively. The overall prevalence of undernutrition were (51.8%) based on BMI. The prevalence of undernutrition was higher (56.5%) among female than male (46.8%). On the based on MUAC the Overall undernutrition was (34.5%). The rate of undernutrition was also higher (41.7%) among female than male (27.0%). statistically significant differentiation (chi-square , df <) between sex and nutritional status based on BMI. In low MUAC group the rates undernutrition was higher (79.5%) than the normal MUAC group (37.2%), statistically significant (chi-square 37.15, df=2, p<0.001).

Conclusion: Present study indicates that the prevalence of under nutrition based on BMI & MUAC was higher according to WHO guideline, experiencing critical nutritional stress. To reduce the nutritional stress among the ethnic group, immediate appropriate nutritional intervention programmes be initiated with serious efforts to increase their per-capita income.

Keywords: BMI, MUAC, Sabar, Undernutrition.

Prevalence of Hypertension among Tribal Women of two tribal dominated districts of West Bengal

Sadaruddin Biswas^{1,2}, Binoy Kuiti², Samiran Bisai², Prasenjit Debbarmann²

1. Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia
2. Cultural Research Institute, BCW&TD, Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata

Abstract

Background: Hypertension is found to be public health problems in various ethnic groups in the developing countries like India and prevalence of hypertension has been found to be increasing in epidemic proportions in urban, rural and tribal population of India.

Aims: Present study investigate the prevalence of hypertension and their associating bio-cultural factors among tribal women of two districts in West Bengal.

Methods: A community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Alipurduar and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal, during November 2015 to September 2016. For the present study, a total of 2029 females aged 17 to 47 years old were included. Data on anthropometric and socio-demographic variables, i.e. age, monthly family income, educational status, family size and occupational status, were collected using a pre-tested questionnaire. Height, Weight and Blood Pressure were measured using standard procedures.

Results: The mean (SD) of age, weight, height, SBP, DBP and BMI were 25.86 (± 4.05) year; 43.80 (± 7.06) kg; 149.90 (± 5.60) cm; 115.30 (± 12.50) mmHg; 74.27 (± 9.26) mmHg and 19.5 (± 2.61) kg/m² respectively. The prevalence of hypertensive in present study was 6.9%. This hypertensive rate is lower than previous studies, conducted by NNMB and other institutions. The prevalence of hypertension was significantly higher among the overweight ($X^2= 12.13$, $p < 0.001$) and literate tribal women ($X^2= 12.03$, $p < 0.05$) but other socio-economic indices not showed any significant result.

Conclusion: Appropriate intervention strategies need to be adopted to increase awareness and treatment practices of hypertension among tribal women in West Bengal.

Keywords: Hypertension, Prevalence, Tribal women, Overweight, West Bengal

Health Status of Adolescent and Adult Women in Sabar Tribal Community In West Midnapore, West Bengal

Rama Das¹, Poushali Sengupta², Pankaj Kr.Mandal³

1. Assistant Professor, Department Of Food & Nutrition (U.G. & P.G.),
2. Ex-student, M.Sc., Department of Food & Nutrition
3. Assistant Professor Department of History, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College, Barrackpore, West Bengal.

Abstract

More than half of the world's tribal population live in rural India and the tribal populations are among the most underprivileged and undernourished people in India. In tribal community malnutrition is present in the form of under nutrition which is caused due to lack of adequate nutrient in their daily diet. The present study revealed that the nutritional status of adolescent girls & adult women is in a critical state, as indicated by their low BMI. The nutritional status intricately linked with dietary habits. Inadequate food supply, low socio economic condition, lack of knowledge & geographical isolation lead them to chronic energy deficiency. They intake both qualitatively and quantitatively low nutritious diet. Adolescent girls enter adulthood with under nutrition & the condition become severe in adulthood. Hence, there is a need to provide special attention to this group in improving their nutritional status by intervening appropriate health and nutrition programmes like nutrition education, iron supplementation and de-worming during adolescence as well as in adult women. Health problems can be solved to a great extent by utilizing low-cost technologies and developing local need-based health infrastructure. 65% adolescents and 67.3% adult women consume more than 50% protein deficient diet per day. The total intake of calorie per day was significantly lower in adolescent girls & adult women.

Keywords: BMI, Health, Malnutrition , Nutritional status.

Applying Cultural Consonance Model to Find Out the Health Status of a Group of Urban Living Santals

Priyanka Kanrar¹, Nivedita Som², Subha Ray³

1. Project Assistant, Cultural Research Institute, Kankurgachi, Kolkata-700054, West Bengal, India.
2. Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata-700008, West Bengal, India.
3. Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, 35, Ballygunj Circular Road, Kolkata-700019, West Bengal, India

Abstract

Objective: The present study aimed to find out the association of body composition, blood pressure and blood sugar levels with perception towards and actual practice of lifestyle of a group of urban living Santals.

Methods: We conducted this study on a group of urban living Santals, living in the Howrah Metropolitan city. A total of 101 Santals (male= 43 and female =58) of age 18-50 years were involved in this study. Data were collected on socio-demographic characteristics, beliefs and perception towards lifestyle pattern and the actual pattern of lifestyle. Body composition, blood pressure and blood sugar levels were measured following standard protocols. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze data.

Results: Both males and females showed high adiposity levels in their body. Lifestyle practices like, food consumption and physical activities were significantly associated with body composition, blood pressure and blood sugar levels of the participants. The results of MANCOVA indicate that sex difference in body composition measures was significant after removing the effects of covariates.

Conclusion: We conclude that there is a conspicuous difference in perception towards and actual lifestyle practices. This dichotomy indicates that the perception towards the pattern of lifestyle, perhaps encoded in their own culture often fail to get translated in actual lifestyle pattern and eventually affects their physical health.

Keywords: Cultural Consonance, Santals, Perception, Behaviour.

Association between BMI, Blood Pressure, and Age: Study among Tribal Females of West Bengal

Bino Kumar Kuiti¹, Sadaruddin Biswas², Samiran Bisai¹, Prasenjit Debbarman¹

1. Cultural Research Institute, BCW&TD, Govt. of West Bengal
2. Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia

Abstract

Background: Developing countries are increasingly faced with the double burden of hypertension and other cardiovascular disease, along with infection and malnutrition. The relationship between BMI and BP has long been the subject of epidemiological research. Positive association BMI and BP have also been reported among Asian population.

Aims: To investigate the prevalence of overweight/obesity and hypertension, and to study the association between BMI, blood pressure, and age among tribal women of two districts in West Bengal.

Methods: A community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Alipurduar and Dakshin Dinajpur districts in West Bengal, during November 2015 to September 2016. For the present study, a total of 2029 females aged 17 to 47 years old were included. Data on anthropometric and socio-demographic variables, i.e. age, monthly family income, educational status, family size and occupational status, were collected using a pre-designed questionnaire. Height, Weight and Blood Pressure were measured using standard procedures.

Results: The mean and standard deviation age, weight, height, SBP, DBP and BMI were i.e. 25.86 ± 4.05 ; 43.8 ± 7.06 ; 149.9 ± 5.60 ; 115.3 ± 12.50 ; 74.27 ± 9.26 and 19.5 ± 2.61 respectively. The prevalence of hypertensive in present study was 6.9%. This hypertensive rate is lower than previous studies which were conducted by NNMB and other institutions. Mean systolic, and diastolic BP was higher among subjects with elevated BMI and among older subjects. Low BP was found among CED and higher among overweight. BP was found lowest among youngest females and higher in older females. BMI was also found to be associated with age independently. Although the magnitude of correlation differed, there was significant positive correlation among BMI, age, systolic and diastolic BP.

Conclusion: In future study, need to conduct comprehensive study to collect lipid profile and chronic disease related data which will make a real cause of hypertension among tribal women in West Bengal.

Assessment of longitudinal growth pattern among Santal early preschool children in West Bengal, India.

Anirban Samanta and Samiran Bisai

Cultural Research Institute, BCW & TD Department, Govt. of WB, India.

Abstract

Growth monitoring and promotion of optimal growth are essential components of primary health care for infants and children. The age at onset of childhood growth, normally occurring between 6 to 12 months, is recognized to be an important phase during post natal human growth development. Longitudinal study of weight, height and velocity are essential to monitor child growth.

The aim of this study is to investigate the weight growth characteristics of Santal early preschool children and these results were compared with the World Health Organization child growth standard.

This longitudinal growth study conducted among early preschool children, the weight of 121 boys and 123 girls, from ICDS Centre in a rural area of Nayagram and Gopiballavpur-I blocks in Paschim Medinipur district, were measured at one month interval from 1 to 47 months during 2012 to 2015. The monthly weight increments were calculated in every one month to chart the weight velocity curve.

Anthropometric measurement of weight was analysed using appropriate descriptive statistics and percentile curves were prepared. Age specific mean weight have significant difference between boys and girls but mean weight velocity has no difference between both sexes, mean weight and weight velocity was compared with data from the 2006 standard WHO growth percentile chart.

The boys are belongs to underweight an early age than the WHO standard, being at about 3rd percentile at 1 month to 47 months. In the girls, mean weight is at the 5th percentile of the WHO standard at 18 months and gradually falling to reach the 3rd percentile at 21st months, slowly falling to below end of 47 months, and velocity curve were placed a little below mean of WHO velocity curve for both sexes. The mean weight velocity was less than 100 grams/month in boys and girls about 37 months and 43 months, respectively.

Our preliminary results were actually calculated from the combination of longitudinal data and cross-sectional data pools. Since this is only a pilot study, we expect that a long-up period of the same study would give more exact growth characteristics of this ethnic group.

Keywords: Longitudinal study, Growth, Weight, Velocity, WHO standard, Santal, West Bengal, India.

A Study on Blood Pressure among the Oraon Tribes of Paschim Medinipur

Biswajit Mahapatra and Soma Pal

Research Scholar, Department Of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University

Abstract

Background: Present study focuses on a tribal group, the Oraons who have come from Chotonagpur of Bihar long back and now settled in and around Paschim Medinipur. The Oraons were found to live in cluster and struggling to maintain their own cultural identity. Hypertension is an eminent modifiable risk factor for CVD and relates to body adiposity, which can be evaluated by various anthropometric measurements.

Objectives: The present study reports prevalence of under nutrition and hypertension and potential predictors of hypertension. To understand the risk and association of anthropometric measures with life style correlates with blood pressure and determine the sexual dimorphism pertaining to blood pressure in the population. It also studies the association of adiposity/obesity related measures with the blood pressures among the males and females of Oraon tribes of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.

Methods: This cross sectional study was undertaken among 100 randomly selected tribal males and females from Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. A total of 100 adults (50 males and 50 females) were measured and classified into three age groups, that is, Grade 1: 18-25 years, Grade 2: 26-40, Grade 3: 41-60 years. Eleven anthropometric data were recorded for each subject. Anthropometric measurement (height, body weight, body circumferences, and skinfold thickness), blood pressure and socio-demographic characteristics were ascertained. The selected anthropometric data were categorized into normal and risk groups as per their cut off levels. The association was analyzed.

Results:- BMI shows that 20 (40%) is underweight ,20 (40%) is normal ,6 (12%) is overweight , 4 (8%) is obese in female and 36(72%) is underweight ,12 (24%) is normal ,1 (2%) is overweight , 1 (2%) is obese in male . Based on SBP, the prevalence of prehypertension and stage I hypertension in males was 14.0% and 4.0%, respectively. Similarly, in females the prevalence of prehypertension based on SBP was 48.0 %, respectively. On the basis of DBP, the prevalence of prehypertension and stage I hypertension in males was 6.0% and 2.0% respectively. Similarly, in females the prevalence of prehypertension and stage I hypertension based on DBP was 38.0% AND 8.0% respectively. Our results suggest that females of this ethnic group were more prone to have prehypertension and stage I hypertension than males.

Conclusion: BMI was associated with the socio-economic factors. WHtR was observed to be the best risk predictor for increasing prevalence of CVD risks among Indian tribes.

Keywords: Hypertension, under nutrition, tribe, West Bengal.

Assessment of undernutrition among Santal children of Bolpur-Sriniketan block of Birbhum District, West Bengal, India

Maitrayee Mitra¹, Ashish Mukhopadhyay² and Mithu Bhadra³

1. Research Assistant, Cultural Research Institute, BCW Department, Government of West Bengal;
2. Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, A.P.C. College, New Barrackpore, West Bengal;
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Dinabandhu Mahavidyalaya, Bongaon, West Bengal.

Abstract

Health and nutritional status are two crucial and interlinked aspects of human development, which in turn interact with socio-demographic variables in important ways. Undernutrition is a deficiency of calories or of one or more essential nutrients. India has the highest occurrence of childhood malnutrition in the world. One out of every three children in developing countries is undernourished. It is a major drain on developing countries' prospects for development because undernourished children require more intense care from their parents and are less physically and intellectually productive as adults. Present cross sectional study was undertaken to assess the nutritional status of 348 pre-primary and primary school going Santal children aged 4 to 10 years which includes 186 boys and 162 girls of Bolpur-Sriniketan Block, Birbhum, West Bengal. Anthropometric measurements of height and weight were measured using standard procedure. The analyses reveals that the mean value of height of boys is slightly greater than that of the girls but the mean value of both weight and BMI of girls are slightly greater than those of the boys. The differences in height, weight and BMI between boys and girls were not statistically significant. The age group wise distribution of undernutrition of both boys and girls were identified by calculating age specific z-scores values. On the basis of height for age, the percentage of severe stunting is higher among the boys than the girls but the percentage of moderate stunting is higher among the girls than the boys. On the basis of weight for age, the percentage of severe and moderate underweight is higher among the boys than the girls. The study concludes that the boys are more affected by undernutrition in the form of underweight and stunting than girls. Similar prevalence of undernutrition is found when the present study was compared with different previous studies conducted among the children and adolescents of India. It is imperative that effective health and nutritional intervention programme should be initiated by the government and non-government organizations for greater wellbeing of the studied tribal children.

Keywords: Undernutrition, Anthropometry, Children, Santal, Birbhum, West Bengal.

Tribal Low Birth Weight Scenario: A Review

Subhashree Das and Samiran Bisai

Cultural Research Institute, BCW and TDD, Government of West Bengal.

Abstract

Background: Low birth weight has been defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as weight at birth of less than 2.5kg. LBW is thus caused by either a short gestation period or retarded intrauterine growth (or a combination of both) and also depends on maternal nutritional status. The physical factors include the maternal height, pregnancy weight, paternal height and weight. Nutritional factors consist of food intake as well as weight gain during pregnancy.

Method: Present study is based on the published reports. This study is mainly consider the research works on tribals of India including West Bengal.

Results: According to UNICEF (2011) report the percentage of low birth weight is 28% in India. According to a 2012-2013 survey report of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the percentage of children with low birth weight is 11.5 in West Bengal .Some major examples like in Paschim Midnapur of West Bengal shows that the incidence of LBW Is 36.80% among tribals. The major cause of death during infancy is low birth weight (30.00%) in Udalguri, Assam. Among Malayalee tribe from Tamil Nadu around 70% of the new born babies have the birth weight less than 2.5 kg. The present study found that the percentage of LBW is varied from 11.5% to 70%.

Conclusion: This study concludes that the incidence of LBW among the tribal women can be decreased with the improvement of the socio economic status, level of education, nutritional status and regular health check-up.

Keywords: Low birth weight, Tribe, Nutrition, West Bengal, India.

Study of Haematological Variables among the Santals of Purulia for Detecting Abnormal Haemoglobin and Thalassemia

Debanjan Brahmachari¹, Biswanath Sarkar² and Subir Biswas¹

1. Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University.
2. Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata

Abstract

Haemoglobin (Hb) is a complex protein found in red blood cells contains with an iron molecule. The main function of hemoglobin is to carry oxygen from the to the body tissues, and to exchange the oxygen for carbon dioxide, and then carry the carbon dioxide back to the lungs. A hemoglobin abnormality is a variant form of hemoglobin that is often inherited and may cause a blood disorder such as Anemia very common in tribal of India.

Object of present study is to evaluate the haematological variable for detecting abnormal hemoglobin. The present study was held on the Santals of Purulia, on 118 samples, including 64 females and 54 males. The study was mainly focuses on the six parameters of variables; those are Red Blood Cell (RBC), Haemoglobin (Hgb), Haematocrit (HCT), Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV), Mean corpuscular haemoglobin (MCH) and Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration (MCHC). Prevalence of anaemia has been shown in the present study. Sex wise distribution on the basis of their ranges of RBC, Hgb, MCV and MCH has been shown in this study among the studied population. In present study maximum number of female have RBC below the normal range $5.5 \times 10^6/\mu\text{l}$, where among the male RBC is normal range, In the context of haemoglobin maximum number of female has the haemoglobin below the normal level which is $<10 \text{ gm/dL}$ but again among the male have normal ranges of haemoglobin, it means $10 \text{ gm/dL}+$. In the present study maximum number of both male and female has the value of Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV) is less than 80 femtoliters (fL) that means the studied population is highly microcytic. The value of Mean corpuscular haemoglobin (MCH) among the both male and female is less than 24 picograms/cell, so the population of the present study is highly hypochromic. In the present study 12 beta thalassemia traits have been found by further HPLC method, the value of Hgb, HCT, MCV and MCH is lower among the individual of beta thalassemia trait than the normal individual which is very normal and significant.

Keywords: Haemoglobin, Haematological Variables

**BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT
AND
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AMBEDKAR BHAVAN**

**P 1/4 C.I.T. Scheme No. VIIM, P.O. - Kankurgachi,
VIP Road, Kolkata-700054**