

Perspectives on Tribal Women with Special reference to Jangalmahal Area in West Bengal

Dr. Santanu Bera

Research Assistant, Women's Studies Centre, Vidyasagar University, Midnapur, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

India has a high population of tribal groups. The Jangalmahal area in West Bengal of tribal women includes Lodha, Santal, Munda, Oraon, Lohara etc. The female tribals have a high significant to their community such as farmers, forest products etc. This manuscript may be provided the high significance value of the women tribal such as marriage system, family planning etc. to their community.

1. Introduction

Jangal Mahal of West Bengal (South-Western Forested Part) mostly tribe rich areas comprise with 26.86% tribal population. The manuscript deals with the relationship of tribal women, specifically Lodha, Santal, Munda, Oraon, Lohara etc. [1-2] Lodha tribe may be mostly primitive tribes of West Bengal. As per 2001 report (census), the population of Lodha was 84,966 (including all genders). Within the West Bengal district, the high population of the districts are the Medinipur (43.1%), Jalpaiguri (34.9%), Bankura (4.2%) and Purulia (3.0%). The women tribal regions are the Jangalmahal namely Purulia, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur districts. Their actual land/home belongs to Jangalmahal areas of Medinipur, Bankura, and Purulia [3-5]. These tribes are backwards all sectors includes social, educational, economic as well as political, illiterate, below poverty level, low nutrition, credulity, highly addiction, ignorance socially and squeezing [6]. The British government may be recognized these tribe are criminal. But there was no evidence to such claim. After the period of independence, in the 1952 the Indian government stated that these tribe as 'De notified tribe'.

Due to living purpose, forest is mostly preferred by Lodha tribes in the Jangalmahal region. The rate of literacy of the tribals Lodha is too much less, with 34.8%. The challenges sectors not only the hunger but also the poverty no homes habit was found. The education situation not so good in the society specially women. The first women bachelor degree was awarded by the Chuni Kotal in the year 1985 of the society of Lodha. The farmers group of female tribals includes Santal, Munda or Mahatas. The titles belongs to the Lodha's groups includes Bhuiya, Kotal, Digar, Ahora, Shabar, Bhakta, Nayek etc. Their village gods are Goram, Boram and also others are Shitala, Chandi, Jugin. The religion of the peoples of Lodha (approximately 10%) is Christianity.

2. Women tribals as forest friendly people with medicinal practice:

Female tribals livelihood mostly forest which excludes the products of timbers and mostly focuses the production of minor forest, mainly the non-timber forest products of plant origin like brushwood, bamboo, stumps, canes, tuber, honey, wax, lac,

leaves of *kendu* or *tendu*, roots, tusser (silk) cocoon, medicinal plants, shrubs & herbs etc. They have knowledge of ethnomedicinal values of medicinal trees, shrubs & herbs and medicines specially folks.

For example, Arjun Myrobalan bark have pharmacognostic values includes anti-ischemic, cardioprotective agent (hypertension), ischemic (heart diseases), low blood pressure level as well as low heart rate. The Tamarind fruit includes foods related to human, spices or seasoning, non-food seeds, the Lac Rangeeni/Kusumi (resinous part) includes finished woods, cosmetic used in the skin, dyes and medicines (folk), shellac, instruments related to music, additives and coats, the use of Sal, Sakhua, Sargi, Salwa, Kandar and Piyal (seeds & leaves) includes extraction of oil seeds and plate making leaves, fuels etc. The honey includes cooking, baking and health application and the bamboo includes materials for buildup home, preparing baskets and woven mats, agriculture purpose, fish equipments, industry of wood chip, pulp of paper, fodder of vegetables [7].

3. Marriage:

In the tribal region, before marriage the male and female are generally met both of their workplace or theater of the village or affairs before their marriage and choose each other without their family members, friends or other persons influences [8].

4. Family planning:

The time of the pregnancy of their society have several rules and rituals. The mother may alteration to diet and miscellaneous foods. Medicines related to herbals are recommended by the folk healers. For destroying bad things, women tribal wears stone and other sacred materials as well as threads. Under the supervision of the midwife, the baby was born and the umbilical cord of the baby was cut with the help of scissor (bamboo made). They don't maintain family planning in their society [9].

5. Education:

Maximum peoples of the tribal regions are not educated. Many Lodha tribal girl's students has participated their schools

based on the initiatives taken by the government for e.g. kanyashree prokalpa, mid-day meals in their schools etc.

6. Conclusion:

Instead of the above parameters, such other factors like economic condition, fuel collection, agriculture, animal husbandry, health, handicrafts may be influenced the tribal women livelihood. For personal use and market selling, the

Lodha people collect products from the forests which may include bamboo, oils including perfumes, herbs and medicinal plants, tannins and resins, canes, honey and wax, leaves of shal, lacquer of tree bark i.e., resins etc. [10]. Due to less knowledge and lacking of education, the tribals are not able to receive the governments benefits both the central and state governments.

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