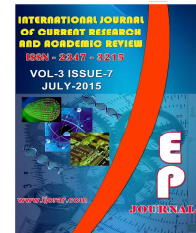




International Journal of Current Research and Academic Review

ISSN: 2347-3215 Volume 3 Number 7 (July-2015) pp. 224-230

www.ijcrar.com



Socio-economic and Infrastructural Comparison between a rural based and an urban based habitat

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KEYWORDS

Tribe,
Santal tribe,
Rural-urban
dichotomy

A B S T R A C T

Tribals are the underdeveloped community of society. They are guided by their own rule, custom, regulation, and rituals. But sometime due to the influence of modern life, their nature changing. Here in this paper locational influence over tribal society and livelihood has been discussed. Though they are from similar group of persons but the tribal people of Balipara is different from that of Ramnagardanga. This difference due to urban and rural touch in their life has been analysed in this work.

Introduction

Tribes are the social group of simple kind, the members' of which speak a common dialect and act together for common purpose of welfare. According to Perry, Tribes are a group, speaking a common dialect and inhabiting in a common territory.

Santals are the modernized tribal groups. They are at a higher level of acculturation. The main causes behind their development are modernization, globalization, urbanization, industrialization, agricultural improvement and so on. But this development effect is not equally spread over every places. There are different kind of characteristics of Santal people living in different places i.e in forested area, hilly area, rural areas, agricultural area, at the vicinity of urban area etc.

Each place have some effect over their life, particularly in case of dwelling places, social life, cultural life, economical life, political life. Human settlement in the place inhabited more or, less permanently by men and women. Generally settlements are of two types – rural i.e. village and urban i.e. town, city settlements.

There is always a rural urban dichotomy. People in villages mostly pursued agriculture or other primary activity. On the other hand town dwellers are mainly inked with secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities like – industry, transport, service sector or, professional activities. Santal tribe generally live in Chotanagpur, Orissa, West Bengal. Lumbering, fishing, hunting,

collecting etc are their occupation. In West Bengal, there is maximum concentration of santal population. They have retained to an unusual degree of their social cohesion, their language and many of their customs. Some of them are now well educated and indistinguishable from other people, but the majority remain essentially tribe man, of a singularly happy and carefree temperament.

Though rural and urban areas have many advantages but the list of disadvantages are also significant. But for peaceful living, man have to choose the right one. Here in case of two tribal villages, there is a great impact of rural and urban life on their socio economic and infrastructural development.

Study area

The present areas under study includes two santal tribal villages. It is located just about 10 Km from Bolpur railway station. Another santal village is Balipara which is located at the vicinity of Bolpur-Santiniketan municipality area. Actually it is situated in the notified area of Visva-Bharati, under Sriniketan block under Bolpur subdivision of Birbhum district, West Bengal. Distance from Bolpur railway station is 2.5 Km.

Major objectives of this study includes, to analyse the various socio-economic situation of two tribal villages. To identify the difference between two villages and to identify the possible cause behind it. To know the basic infrastructural differences between two tribal habitats. To identify the basic predicament of two tribal habitats and to give simple clue to overcome it.

Materials and Methods

The present study is completely based on primary information collected through field survey, questionnaire and direct field

observation. Then information have been classified, tabulated and represented through various cartographic and simple techniques.

Analysis and Interpretation

Comparison between two santal tribal habitats

To understand different socio-economic and infrastructural condition of two differently located tribal villages a comparative analysis has been made.

Population characteristics

Total population of Ramnagardanga is 422, in which males are 222 and female member is 200. Total families are 85 in number. On the other hand in case of Balipara, total families are 150 and total population is 675, out of which males are 350 and females are 325. Percentage of male population of Ramnagardanga is 52.61% where as in case of Balipara it is 51.85%. It is just nearer condition. In both cases average member per family is 4 to 5. There are 40% families in Ramnagardanga who arrange marriage of their girls and boys below 18 and 21 year respectively but this picture is only 10% in case of Balipara.

Health characteristics

Tribal's of Ramnagardanga for any physical problem consult with quack doctors. But when there is serious condition then they go to Bolpur Subdivisional Hospital. But inhabitants of Balipara prefer health centre of Personpally, Bolpur Hospital, Dinabandhu Andrews Memorial Hospital near Vinaya Bhavana and in extra emergency cases they prefer Bolpur Subdivisional Hospital. So the scope of treatment for Balipara tribal village is much more. Cases of T.B disease is found in Ramnagardanga, total number is 5. In case

of child delivery, 10% family of Ramnagardanga prefer home delivery still now which is just absent in case of Balipara. Here every family go to Health Centre or Hospital for delivery cases. In Ramnagardanga 6-8 families depends on 'Ojha' and 'Jaributi' for treatment (It is a treatment by spiritual man in their society). But this treatment culture is absent in Balipara. In case of alcohol taking Balipara lies in supreme position. Here only 10 adult members take wine. But the picture of Ramngar danga is different. Here total wine taking population is 150. i.e 35.55% of the total population. Here both male and female take alcohol. There are about 30 boys, below 18 years old, who take alcohol. As Balipara is situated in a developed area from socio-economic and cultural point of view so the habit of alcohol taking is lesser here but in case Ramnagardanga it is more because of it remoteness from civilized world, forest & rural based location and agricultural economy etc.

Income and occupation

The economy of Ramngardanga is rural and forest based. Only three members are government employees and 17 members do casual job. Total agricultural labours are 170 in number. All family have agricultural land.

It is clear from the above table that about 50% families have very little amount of land that is 5 katha. Other occupations includes collection of tree leaf from forest. Only 20 female collect it and make plate. Besides

two member work in Lodge and there are two taxi drivers. At off time 3 women, do 'Kantha stitch' and 'batick' works. There are about 150 poultry birds, 70 goats, 150 cows & 15 pigs in the village. Major crops are paddy, potato, mustard seed, wheat. For irrigation the villages depends on rainfall and deep tube well.

It is clear that about 74% families have below Rs. 3000 monthly income. So the financial condition of maximum people is not good. For working outside, 17 member migrate daily to Illambazar or Bolpur town.

But the picture of Balipara is quiet different from Ramnagardanga. Here total government service holders are 11, casual workers are 30 in govt. offices and in Visva-Bharati. There are 250 labours who works in hotel, shop, masonry works, painting, rice mills etc. There are one family which has 10 bighas land, 5 families hold 7 bighas If land and 9 families have 2 bighas of land. But agriculture is not performed by them. They give it to contract farmers of surrounding village for cultivation. About 70% labours migrate to Bolpur town, Sian, Illambazar, Kankalitala for job. There are about 100 poultry birds, 30 pigs, 5 cows in this village.

It is clear that 66.67% families have average monthly income below rupees 4500. So maximum families lies under lower income category. Only govt. service holders have higher income.

Table.1 House type of Ramnagardanga.

Type	Families
Cemented House	01 (1.18%)
Mud + Straw roof	14 (16.47%)
Mud + Tin/Asbestos roof	70 (82.35%)
Total	85 (100%)

Source : Field Survey

Table.2 House type of Balipara

Type	Families
Cemented House	11 (7.33%)
Mud + Straw roof	02 (1.33%)
Cemented + Tin roof	03 (2.00%)
Mud + Tin / Asbestos	134 (89.33%)
Total	150 (100%)

Source : Field Survey

Table.3 Differences in General Infrastructures / modern amenities

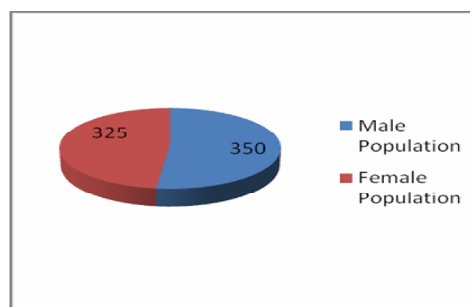
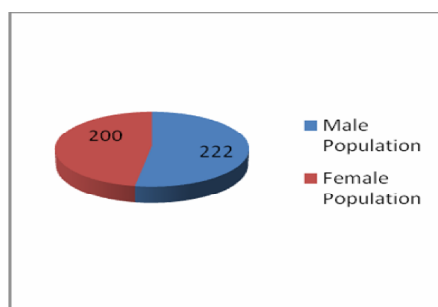
Sl. No.	Facility / Item	Balipara	Ramnagardanga
1	Mobile Phone	Per family average 2	Per family average 1
2	Cycle	Per family average 2	Per family average 1
3	Motor cycle	22 families	6 families
4	Four wheeler	01 family	1 family
5	T.V	110 families	15 families
6	Tractor / Powertiller	X	3 families
7	Cooking Gas	10 families	02 families
8	Pumpset	X	5 families
9	Street lights	✓	X
10	Road condition	Metalled	Clay + murrum road
11	Newspaper holder	10 families	03 families
12	Club	01	01
13	Playground	1 in Visva Bharati Area	01
14	Bank A/c	All families	All families
15	Water Pipe Line	5 families	2 families
16	Well + Tube well	9 families	3 families
17	Electricity	Every family	60 families
18	Latrine / toilet	50 families	5 families
19	Life Insurance	55 families	20 families

Source : Field survey

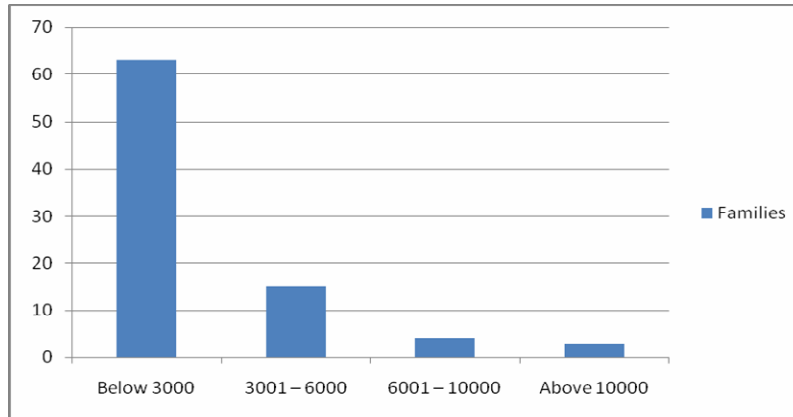
Fig.1 Pie diagram showing total male/female population

Ramnagardanga

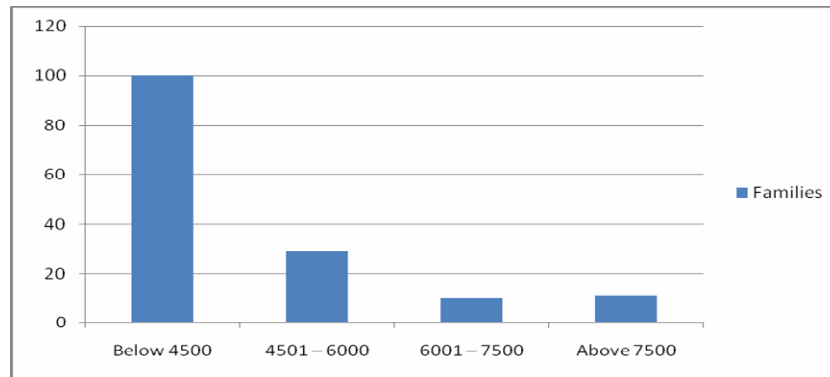
Balipara



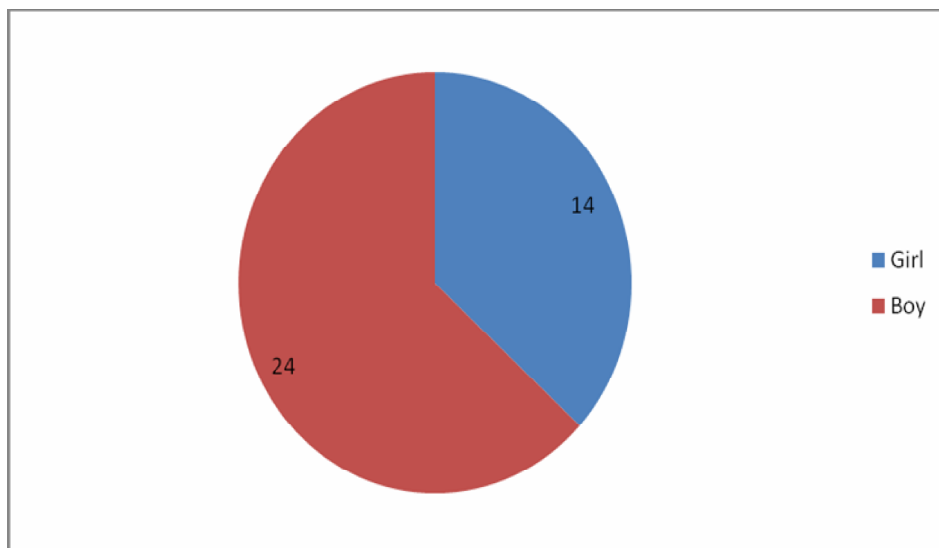
Bar diagram showing families of different income groups in Ramnagardanga



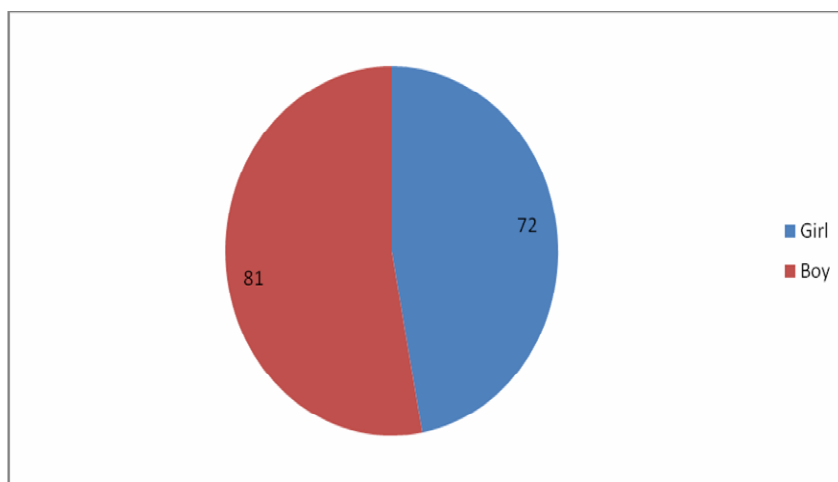
Bar diagram showing families with various income groups in Balipara



Pie Chart showing total girl and boy students in Ramnagardanga



Pie Chart Showing total Girls and Boys student in Balipara



Educational characteristics

Students of Ramnagardanga depend on Ramnagar Primary School, Daranda High School, Raipur Higher Secondary School, Bolpur College and Illambazar College for education. There are twenty four boy students and fourteen girl students in this village. It is clear from the above table that there is negligence to girls incase of education because of poor percentage share of girls' student i.e (36.84%) with respect to total students.

It is clear from the above table that the status of education of Balipara is comparatively developed than Ramnagardanga. Here the percentage share of girl student (47.06%) is more than Ramnagardanga. Students of Balipara depend on Personpally Primary School, Srinanda High School, Visva-Bharati University, Bolpur High School, Nichupaty High School, Bolpur College, Bandhgora High School, Bolpur Girls' School etc.

Housing condition

Out of total families 82.35% families have mud with tin and asbestos roofing houses. About 60 families have electricity facilities.

Five families have latrine and others use open spaces.

House type of Balipara

In Balipara there is maximum share of mud with tin and asbestos roofing houses i.e 89.33%. Here fifty families have latrine i.e 33.33%. The amount is not so satisfactory. But every family have electricity facilities. Drainage and garbage disposal condition of Balipara is also developed than Ramnagardanga.

Differences in General Infrastructures / modern amenities

From the above table it is clear that modern amenities are more in case of Balipara than Ramnagardanga. The main cause is the location of Balipara at the vicinity of Bolpur and Santiniketan town area. The share in case of street lighting, metalled road, newspaper holders, T.V holders, cooking gas holders, insurance holders, electricity holders, latrine holder are more in Balipara than Ramnagardanga as these are the main requirement of urban life. But in Ramnagardanga tractors or power tiller holder, pump set holders are more because of its rural or agricultural location.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it is clear that both the tribal villages have their own problem relating with their site, situation and demand. Problems of Balipara will be solved with the assistance of Visva Bharati, Bolpur Municipality. And the problem of Ramnagardanga will be solved with taking care from Panchayat. But it is not only the works of constitutional or, administrative body but there need greater co-operation of local dwellers.

Journal of Landscape System and Ecological Studies, Vol. 33. No-2, pp 73-100.

Acknowledgement

I do hereby acknowledge the tribal people of both Balipara and Ramnagardanga Adibasipara, for their kind co-operation at the time of my field visit and survey.

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