



Demographic and Socio-Economic Status of Indigenous Tribal Community: A Case Study of Dinhata-II Block of Cooch Behar District, West Bengal.

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ABSTRACT:

The study aimed to review the distribution, demography, and socio-economic status of Indigenous Tribal Communities of Dinhata-II Block in Cooch Behar District. Seven Gram Panchayat of Dinhata-II Blocks were selected for the study based on their highly scheduled tribe. The Research paper focuses on the distribution, demographic and Socioeconomic status of the Indigenous Tribal community of Dinhata-II block in the Cooch Behar District. A primary survey of 120 households was carried out and the various socio-economic statuses assessed were male-female distribution of population, fertility behaviors, size of the population, caste, religious composition, income, education level, occupation structure, size of landholding, etc. The study reveals that there are two different scheduled tribes (Santhal & Oraon) residing in the selected study area. The present study has used both primary and secondary sources of data. The secondary data has been collected from Several Reports and documents of Cooch Behar district and Dinhata-II Block, Census of India. The primary data has been collected from 7 Gram Panchayet of Dinhata-II Block through a questionnaire survey from 25th December 2023 to 25th February 2024 with a purposive random sampling technique and with the pre-designed questionnaire. The location Quotient analysis shows the block-wise concentration of the tribal population of the Cooch Behar district and the G.P.-wise concentration of the tribal population of the Dinhata-II block. The cartographic techniques have been used to show the male-female distribution of the tribal population, Sex composition, Age composition, sex ratio, age sex structure, education status, social composition, religious composition, educational composition, and occupational structure, The literature has been gathered from published articles, books and Govt report in the study area, the higher percentage of respondents reported that the main cause of backwardness and poverty as

well as lack of education, lack of women awareness, lack of women empowerment, cultural constraints and lower status of living condition with their traditional activities of those communities.

Keywords: Schedule Tribe, Indigenous, Economic Status, Social Status, Santhal and Oraon.

1. Introduction:

This chapter gives an overview of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Dinhata-II Block of Cooch Behar District in West Bengal. The main objectives of this article are to identify the concept of tribe, the origin or history of the tribe (especially Santhal and Oraon tribes), the classification of Indian tribes, and discuss the demographic characteristics of Dinhata-II block. In India, there are the largest number of tribal populations living in various forest cover or hill areas without having more casual contact with the population of plains region and modern civilization. According to Haimenderf (1977), co-existence was possible because there was on the whole no pressure of population and advanced communities did not feel any urge to impose their own on the people placed patently outside the orbit of Hindu Civilization. “The Tribal and Indigenous peoples of India constitute an important segment of the Indian population”. (*Government of India (GOI), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, July 2001.*, 2001) India has the largest size of the tribal population. As per the 1951 census, 5.6% of the total population of the country was tribal population. According to the 2011 census total population of Dinhata –II block is 205391 whereas males are 104443 & females are 100948. The tribal population is 1237. The density of the population is 1988 persons per sq. km. The sex ratio is 967 and the child-sex ratio is 983. The Literacy rate is 66.57% whereas male literacy is 76.40% and female literacy is 56.37%.

2. Objectives:

1. To identify the origin and ethnicity of the both Santhal and Oraon Tribes.
2. To define the block-wise concentration of the tribal population of Cooch Behar district.
3. To define the GPs wise concentration of the tribal population in Dinhata-II block
4. To assess the demographic, and socio-cultural characteristics of the Tribes.
5. To examine the economic condition of the tribe.
6. To examine how the economic condition affects their socio-cultural life and their identity.

3. Database and Methodology:

3.1. Database:

The proposed study is based on both sources of primary and secondary data sources. The secondary has been collected from the census of India, 2011, the socioeconomic and caste census of India, 201, and the block development office of Dinhata-II block. The secondary data has been collected through the field survey with the help of the proper questionnaires from the field of the Dinhata-II block of The Cooch Behar District. The data for this proposed study has been collected by the interview method with the help of the scheduled standard questionnaires.

3.2. Methodology:

3.2.1. Location Quotient: The location Quotient analysis to show the block-wise concentration of the tribal population of the Cooch Behar district and the G.P.-wise concentration of the tribal population of the Dinhata-II block.

$$LQ = \frac{e_i/e}{E_i/E}$$

Where L.Q. = Location Quotient

For Block;

e_i/e = the proportion of the block ST population with the total ST population of the district E_i/E = the proportion of the total block population with the total district population.

For Gram Panchayat;

e_i/e = the proportion of the Gram Panchayat ST population with the total ST population of the block,

E_i/E = the proportion of the total Gram Panchayat population with the total block population.

3.2.2. Cartographic Technique has been used: To show the male-female distribution of the tribal population, Sex composition, Age composition, sex ratio, age sex structure, education status, social composition, religion composition, educational composition, occupational structure,

4. Concept of Tribes:

“Tribe means a set of people theoretically of common descent. It commonly denotes a community, a race, a breed, or a class of people. The definition of the word “Tribe” is concerned and applicable to everyone. A tribal is a person belonging to that group. The word tribal is mistakenly understood as a Girijan or hills man”(Tribe tribal, Community, Tribes, & Indian, n.d.). Tribals are known to be the autochthonous people of the land. Tribals are often referred to ‘adivasi’, ‘vanvasi’, ‘pahari’, ‘adimjati’, ‘anusuchit janjati’, etc.(Trifed, 2020)The term **tribe** is used in many different contexts to refer to a category of human social group. The predominant usage of the term is in the discipline of anthropology. The definition is contested, in part due to conflicting theoretical understandings of social and kinship structures, and also reflecting the problematic application of this concept to extremely diverse human societies. The concept is often contrasted by anthropologists with other social and kinship groups, being hierarchically larger than a lineage or clan, but smaller than a chiefdom, nation or state’(See et al., 2020).

5. Definition of Tribes:

A **tribe** is a social division in a traditional society consisting of families linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect. A tribe possesses certain qualities and characteristics that make

it a unique cultural, social, and political entity. This post is about the major tribes in India. They are also known by the name 'Advises' in India (M. Tribes et al., 2020). A Tribe is a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory, and is not usually endogamous; although originally it might have been so (Imperial Gazetteer of India). A Tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding them as having a common ancestor (Oxford Dictionary). In Its simplest form the tribe is a group of bands occupying contiguous territory or territories and having a feeling of unity deriving from numerous similarities in culture, frequent contracts, and a certain community of interest (Ralph Linton). A TRIBE is an independent political division of a population with a common culture (Lucy Mair). A TRIBE is a group united by a common name in which the numbers take pride in a common language, by a common territory, and by a feeling that all who do not share this name are outsiders, 'enemies' in fact. (G.WB.Huntingford). A TRIBE is a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous, with no specialization of functions, ruled by the tribal officers, hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect, recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes, without any social obloquy attaching to them, as it does in the caste structure, following tribal traditions, beliefs, and customs, illiberal of naturalization of ideas from alien sources, above all conscious of homogeneity of ethnic and territorial integration (D.N.Majumder). "The framers of the Constitution took note of the fact that certain communities in the country were suffering from extreme social, educational, and economic backwardness on account of primitive agricultural practices, lack of infrastructure facilities, and geographical isolation, and who needed special consideration for safeguarding their interests. These communities were notified as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per provisions contained in Clause 1 of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution respectively" (Country et al., n.d.). **Article 366 (25)** defined scheduled tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342** to be Scheduled Tribes for this constitution" (M. Tribes et al., 2020). As per Census-1931, Schedule tribes are termed as "backward tribes" living in the "Excluded" and "Partially Excluded" areas. The Government of India Act of 1935 called for the first time for representatives of "backward tribes" in provincial assemblies (S. Tribes, 2020).

6. History or Origin of Tribes:

India is home to the tribal population of the World. As per the 2011 census, 705 major groups of tribal population live in various regions of the country. Among them, Santhal and Oraon are the largest groups in the country. The present study area Dinhata-II Block is also inhabited by the Santhal and Oraon Tribes. There are different types of opinions regarding the origin and Settlement of Santhal and Oraon tribes put forward by many researchers in the Indian sub-continent.

6.1 Origin of Santhal Tribes:

The Santhal are the largest and one of the oldest tribes in India, they are spread across Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal. From time immemorial they have cleared forests, tilled the land and produced food for subsistence. They belong to the Pre –Aryan period and were great fighters during the

British regime in India (Quora et al., 2020). Moreover, they are also found in neighboring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh. According to linguist Paul Sidwell (2018), Austro-Asiatic language speakers probably arrived on the coast of Odisha from Indochina about 4000–3500 years ago (Sidwell, 2018) & (Santal, Division, Austroasiatic, & Murmu, 2018). According to Guha (1944), they belonged to the Proto-Australoid racial stocks. But Dalton (1867) described them as Rajmahal Hill men and categorized them under the Dravidian group. There are different researchers put forward their opinions regarding the origin of Santhal as follows- A few scholars believe that the Santals entered India from the North-West. They first settled in Punjab and then moved to Chotanagpur. Dalton (1867) and Hunter (1876) opined that they came from the North East and settled in the Chotanagpur plateau. Risley (1891) talked about the earliest settlement of the Santals in *Ahiri Pipri* and *Chai Champa* which was situated on the northwestern frontier of the tableland Hazaribagh. As proclaimed by Campbell (1894), the Santals occupied the country on both sides of the Ganges, from where they moved to the Vindya hills and then to Chotanagpur.

6.2 Origin of Oraon Tribes:

The Oraon tribes, other major tribes in India, live in the forested uplands of east-central India, occupying the Chota Nagpur region of Jharkhand and adjoining states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh (Daripa, 2018) & (Announcements, Lecture, Frost, & Sicily, 2017). They belong to the Dravidian language family (*Encyclopaedic Profile of Indian Tribes - R. R. Prasad - Google Books Page 1 of 1*, n.d.). and They speak languages such as Kurukh, Sadri, and Hindi which are from the Dravidian family of languages they are the fastest growing tribes in India (Indigenous, 2019). They are traditionally dependent on the forest and farms for their ritual and economic livelihood, now a days, some of them have become agriculturalists (Daripa, 2018). According to the history and traditions of Kurukhs, they lived in the "Indus Valley Civilization" before 2500 B.C. According to Bloch's hypothesis, Brahui tribes migrated from the Baluchistan area of the Indus Valley to other regions in different directions. One of them came in the southeast direction and entered India, split into two at Rohtasgarh in the present state of Bihar. After splitting, one lives in Raj-Mahal Hill near Santhal Parganas, and the other lives in the Chhotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand State (View, Christianity, Area, & It, 2020). Many of them migrated to the tea gardens of Assam, West Bengal, and Bangladesh during the British period (Daripa, 2018). According to the Indian Anthropological Society, Konkan is said to be the original home of the Kurukh tribes from where they migrated to Northern India (Anthropological, 2020). Presently they are living in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Tripura, U.P., and Orissa states of India. They are found in Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh Srilanka and Marisus countries of the world. A kurukh scholar Dr. Nirmal Minz, former principal of Gossnar Collage Ranchi, expressed - "Kurukh tribal people besides Chhotanagpur, largely found in Kurus country (today it is called Sasaram area in Bihar and the area of Rohtashgarh), Khusra, Doyrasha, Panary, Dori, Chhechhari, Nawagarh, Biru, Barwe, Gangpur, Banai Bangla, Sambalpur, Rajgangpur, Manoharpur, Jashpur, Raigarh, Surguja, Pargana and minor at Chakardharpur, Chaibasa, old Purnia, Champaran, Duwars in West Bangal, Jalpaiguri Cooch Beahr and at Dinajpur and nearest area of Bangla Desh (View et al., 2020) & (Hills et al., n.d.).

7. Distribution of Tribes of Dinhata-II Block:

The tribal population of India has been recorded as the largest size in the World and India is the Home of the tribal population (Daripa, 2018). Tribal groups of India have been a small minority, and represent an enormous diversity of groups (Gujarat & Belt, n.d.). Groups and communities identified and enumerated as tribes during British rule came to be re-classified as Scheduled Tribes after the Constitution was adopted in 1950, the Constitution as per Article 342 (Özlem et al., 2014). They belong to the lowest rank in the social hierarchy. They are the poorest, most marginalized, oppressed, and deprived people in the country (Daripa, 2018). They have unique identities, traditional lifestyles, traditional culture, primitive conditions, ritual and economic livelihood, social stratification, unique languages, a rich range of folk songs, dances as well as traditional musical instruments. The tribal population of India is heterogeneous and diversified concerning the size of the population's lifestyle, cultures, and languages. They are also spread over the length and breadth of the country though their geographical distribution is far from uniform (Gujarat & Belt, n.d.). Based on ecological settings, social, economic, administrative, and ethnic factors the Tribal Populations are divided into five regional groups (Tribal Community Report 2014) such as 1. Himalayan Region. 2. Middle Region. 3. Southern Region. 4. Western Region. 5. Island Region (Daripa, 2018). They are mainly concentrated in the eastern, central, and western belts which cover the nine States of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. About 12 percent inhabit the northeastern region, about five percent in the Southern region, and about three percent in the Northern States. Regarding the distribution of ST population by States, Madhya Pradesh stands first with 14.7%, followed by Maharashtra (10.1%), Odisha (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.9%), Gujarat (8.6%), Jharkhand (8.3%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), West Bengal (5.1%), Karnataka (4.1%), Assam (3.7%), Meghalaya (2.5%), and the remaining States represent 11.6% of the tribal population (S. Tribes, 2020). The total population of Scheduled Tribes is 10,42,81,034 persons, constituting 8.6 percent of the population of India according to the 2011 census. The total forest cover in the country is 692,027 sq. km., 21.05 percent of the total geographical area. Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) covers about 411, 881 sq. Km. Therefore, almost 60 percent of the forest cover of the country is found in tribal areas (S. Tribes, 2020; Tribetribal et al., n.d.). **Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006** records **698 Scheduled Tribes** in India. As per the **Census of India 2011**, the number of individual groups notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705 (S. Tribes, 2020). According to the 2001 census, the size of the Schedule Tribe is 4406794 people and 5.5 percent of the total State population and as per the 2011 census the size of the Scheduled Tribe is 5296953 people & 5.8 percent of the total State population and 40 different types of tribal community live in different district of West Bengal (Daripa, 2018). According to the Constitutional (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950, 37 groups were listed as Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal (Bengal, 2020). The largest tribal group of West Bengal is Santhal constituting 51.8 percent and the second largest group of the tribal population is Oraon constituting 14 percent followed by Mundas(7.8%), Bhumij(7.6%), and Kora(3.2%) as per 2001 census. Other major tribal groups of West Bengal are Lodha, Mahali, Bhutia, Tamang, Subba, Bedia, etc (Bengal, 2020). More than 50 percent of the Scheduled Tribes population are engrossed in Mednipur, Jalpaiguri, Purulia, and Burdwan districts of West Bengal. Cooch Behar is another of the most backward and deprived tribal populated districts where 18125 people belonging to

tribal communities as per the 2011 census. The major tribal groups of Cooch Behar district are Santhals, Oraon, Rabha, Munda Gond, Mech, Garo, Kora, Chakma, Malpahari, Bhumij, Doha, Kheurua, Megh, Limbu, etc. Most of the tribes of the Cooch Behar District belong to Mongoloids and Proto-Australoid have dark skin, sunken noses, and lower foreheads (Franda, 2015) & (Hills et al., n.d.). They are sparsely distributed in various parts among the 12 blocks of the district.

Table- 1 Calculation table for Location Quotient map of Cooch Behar District

Name of the block	Total ST Pop(ei)	Total Pop(Ei)	$ei/e = \frac{ST\ pop}{\sum ST\ Pop}$	$Ei/E = \frac{Total\ pop}{\sum Total\ pop}$	$LQ = \frac{ei/e}{Ei/E}$
Haldibari	313	103969	0.01817	0.04110	0.44
Mekliganj	1918	150767	0.11135	0.05959	1.87
Mathabanga-I	140	218191	0.00812	0.08625	0.09
Mathabhanga-II	2974	227397	0.17265	0.08989	1.92
Coochbehar-I	1225	293267	0.07112	0.11593	0.62
Coochbehar-II	3429	289917	0.19907	0.11461	1.74
Tufanganj-I	378	243256	0.02194	0.09616	0.23
Tufanganj-II	3956	181246	0.22967	0.07165	3.21
Dinhata-I	1171	281890	0.06798	0.11143	0.61
Dinhata-II	1237	244066	0.07181	0.09648	0.74
Sitai	215	110353	0.01248	0.04362	0.29
Sitalkuchi	259	185353	0.01503	0.07323	0.21
Total	(e)=17225	(E)=2529652			

Source: Computed from the Census of India 2011.

Above table-3.1 shows that Tufanganj-II is the most concentrated block (3956) and Mathabhanga is the lowest concentrated Tribal population of the Cooch Behar district. Based on Location Quotient Value, the tribal block of Cooch Behar is divided into three zones-High (0.741-3.210), Moderate (0.291-0.740) and Low zones (0.090-0.290). Mekhliganj, Mathabhanga-II, Coochbehar-II, and Tufanganj-II blocks are highly concentrated in the tribal population of the district. Coocgbehar-I, Haldibari, Dinhata-I, and Dinhata-II blocks are moderately concentrated of tribal population. The remaining Mathabhanga-I, Tufanganj-I, Sitai, and Sitalkuchi block fall under the least concentrated of tribal population. Although Dinhata-II block moderately tribal concentrated area of the Cooch Behar district the block has unique witness of tribal communities. Mainly Dinhata –II block is predominated by Santhal and Oraon Tribes. These tribes live in 35 villages of the 11 Gram Panchayat out of 12 Gram Panchayat of Dinhata –II.

Table-2 Calculation Table for Location Quotient Map of Dinhata-II Block

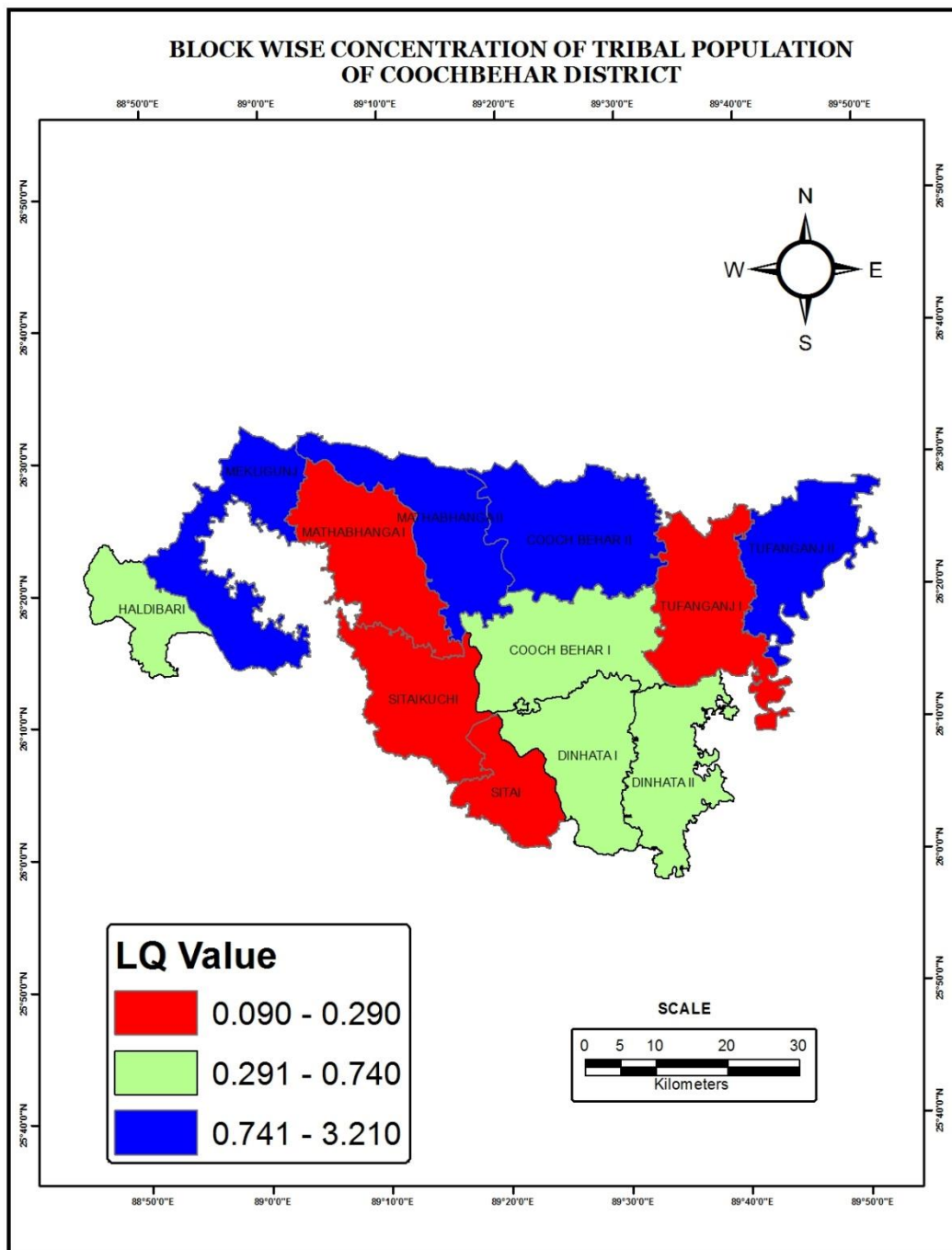
Name of G.P	ST pop(ei)	Total pop (Ei)	$ei/e = \frac{ST\ pop}{\sum ST\ Pop}$	$Ei/E = \frac{Total\ pop}{\sum Total\ pop}$	$LQ = \frac{ei/e}{Ei/E}$
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Sukarurkuthi	169	21584	0.12417	0.0963	1.29
Chowdhurihat	128	26622	0.09405	0.1188	0.79
Bamanhat-i	119	17014	0.08744	0.0759	1.15
Bamanhat-II	393	13122	0.2888	0.0586	4.93
Burirhat-I	10	12869	0.0074	0.0574	0.130
Burirhat-II	110	16785	0.0808	0.0749	1.08
Kismet Dasgram	159	22064	0.1168	0.0985	1.19
Barasakdal	71	21999	0.0523	0.0982	0.53
Nazirhat-I	0		0	0	0
Nazirhat-II	14	17523	0.0103	0.0782	0.13
Gobrachhara Nayarhat	168	31646	0.1234	0.1413	0.87
Sahebganj	20	22799	0.0147	0.1018	0.14
Total pop	e=1361	E=224027			

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Census of India, 2011

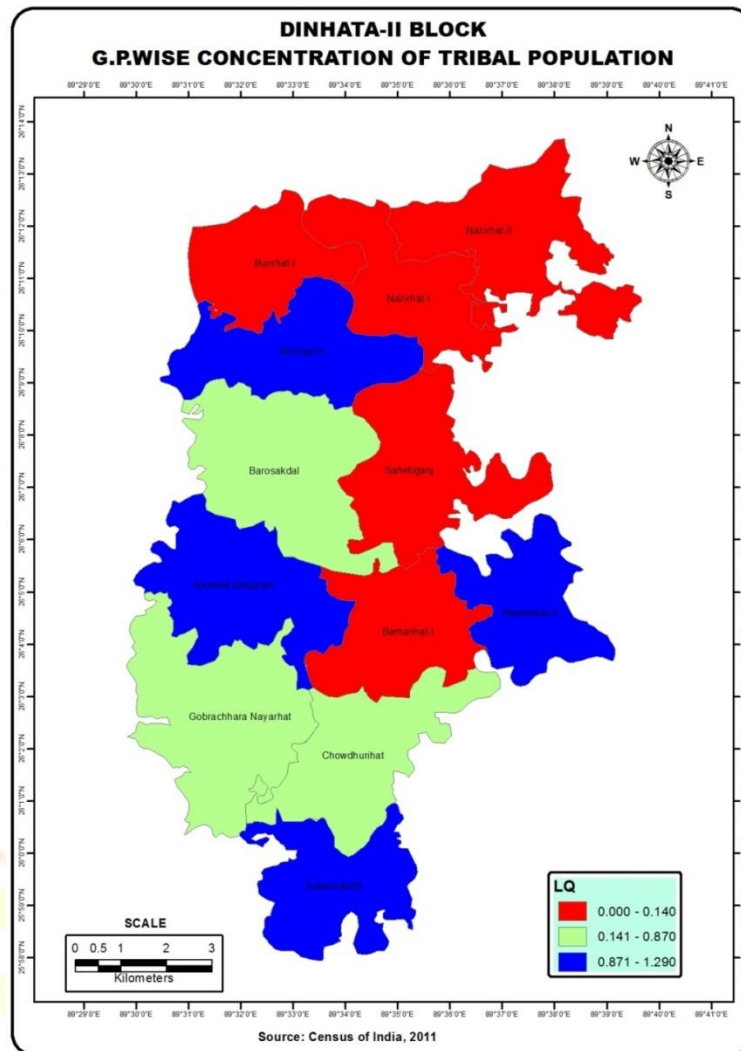
According to the Socio-Economic and Caste Census of India, 2011, the table shows the concentration of the indigenous Tribal population of Dinhata-II Block. It observed that the concentration of tribal population varies from gram panchayat to gram panchayat of the block. An analysis of the tribal-centric buildings of the gram panchayats in Dinhata-II block shows that the highest number of indigenous tribes have concentrated in the Bamanhat-II-gram panchayat. Apart from Sukarurkuthi, Chowdhurihat, Bamanhat-I, Burirhat-II, Kishamat Dasgram, and Gobrachhara Nayarhat have a moderate concentration of indigenous tribes. Indigenous tribes have been found in the lowest concentration in the rest of Burirhat-I, Barasakdal, Nazirhat-II, and Sahebganj gram panchayat. However, according to the Socio-Economic and Caste Census of India and Census of India, 2011, out of the gram panchayats in Dinhata -II block, only Nazirhat-I-gram panchayat did not have any indigenous tribes.

Figure-1 Block Wise Concentration of Tribal Population of Cooch Behar District



Source: Census of India, 2011

The spatial concentration is shown on the map by measuring the location quotient values based on the tribal data of the block of Cooch Behar District. The map shows that the block of the Cooch Behar District is divided into three tribal concentration zones. These are – i) High tribal concentrated zone (0.741-3.21), ii) Moderate tribal concentrated zone (0.291-0.740), and iii) least tribal concentrated zone (0.090-0.290). Among the blocks of the Cooch Behar District, indigenous tribes have the highest concentration in Tufanganj-II, Cooch Behar-II, Mathabhanga-II, and Mekhliganj. The tribes have moderately concentrated in Dinhat-I, Dinhat-II, Cooch Behar-I and Haldibari block. The lowest concentration of the tribal population is observed in Tufanganj-I, Sitai, Sitalkuchi, and Mathabhanga-II.

Figure-2 GPs Wise Concentration of Tribal Population of Dinhata-II Block

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Census of India, 2011

The spatial concentration is shown on the map by measuring the location quotient values based on the tribal data of the gram panchayats of Dinhata-II block. The map shows that the gram panchayats of the block are divided into three tribal concentration zones. These are – i) High tribal concentrated zone (0.871-1.290), ii) Moderate tribal concentrated zone (0.141-0.871), and iii) low tribal concentrated zone (0.00-0.141). Among the gram panchayats of Dinhata-II block, indigenous tribes have the highest concentration in Sukarurkuthi, Bamanhat-II, and Kisamat Dasgram, and Burirhat-II-gram panchayats. Apart from Chowdhurihat and Gobrachhara Nayarhat moderate concentration of indigenous tribes. However, in Bamanhat, Sahebganj, Nazirhat, Burirhat, Nazirhat gram panchayats, the lowest indigenous tribal concentration is seen.

8. Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Tribes:

The Santhal are the second-largest Hindu religious tribe in India. They live in Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Orissa. According to the census of 1951, the tribal population of India is 5.6%. As per the 2011 census, the size of the tribal population in India is 10,42,81,034 which is 8.6% of the total Indian population. Among them, a total of 9,38,19,162 people belong to the rural tribal population whereas 1,04,61,872 people belong to scheduled tribes in the urban areas. Out of the Scheduled tribes, 11.3% belong to

the rural areas and 2.8% in urban areas (**Josh, 2020**). In West Bengal, the number of tribal populations was 52,96,963 in the 2011 census which is about 5.8% of the total state tribal population. More than half of the total Santhal lives in West Bengal. According to the 2011 census, in West Bengal, the tribal population is 52,96,963 which is 5.8% of the population of the state. In Cooch Behar district, as per the 2011 census total tribal population is 18,125 which is 0.64% of the total district population (Nisén et al., 2018). But in the proposed study area the number of the tribal population is 1237 which is 0.50% of the total block population of the Dinhata-II block (**Map et al., 2021**). India is the homeland of the tribal population. India has about 550 categories of Indigenous scheduled tribes (**Josh, 2020**). They are mainly concentrated in the Santhal Parganas on the eastern edge of the Chhotanagpur Plateau. Besides, their settlement can be seen in Giridihi, Bakura, Birbhum, Burdwan, Koch Bihar, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar district. The Oraon Tribal community of Dinhata-II block, socio-culturally, economically, and ethnographically is unique and distinguished from others. These socio-cultural aspects discussed include political organization, religion, faith, clan, family, marriage, economy, education, and occupation of the Santhal. The chapter also describes about the inheritance of land and poverty, clothing, food, and shelter of the Santhal tribe. This descriptive account is collected from secondary sources and the data collected from the Santhal of the study area.

8.1. Demographic characteristics:

Demographic characteristic refers to the age, sex, age-sex composition, dependency ratio, sex ratio, etc. of the population of a place. The demographic characteristics of the indigenous Santhal and Oraon tribes of Dinhata-II block are described based on field survey data. The demographic characteristics of the indigenous tribe of the area are discussed below.

8.1.1. Age Structure:

Age is one of the most important demographic characteristics. From the age of the population, one gets an idea about the different characteristics of the population such as whether the person is capable of action or dependent or the person is young, mature, compelled and whether the population is dependent or not able to work, whether the population is suitable for marriage and concept about of the elderly and young population are found in the population. From the age group of a population can gain a thorough knowledge of the following information about the population of that place.

- i) To identify the working population because the population who fall under the age group 15-64 are working population or working force.
- ii) The concept of the dependent population as the population that are in less than 15 ages and above 64 ages are called dependent population.
- iii) About the concept of the young and old age population generally, children under the age of 15 and those above the age of 64 are considered old.
- iv) There is a good idea of whether public relations are conducive to marriage because the population above the age of 18 has the right to marry as recognized by the Indian Constitution.

- v) The concept of reproductive population as the populations that are in the 15-49 age group are called reproductive age group.
- vi) The idea of the knowledge about the menstrual cycle of the women population

Table 3 Age –Sex Distribution of The Tribal Population

Age Group	Total Population	Male	%	Female	%
0-4	62	26	10.97	36	15.25
5-9	51	22	9.28	29	12.29
10-14	50	24	10.13	26	11.02
15-19	38	18	7.59	20	8.47
20-24	41	18	7.59	23	9.75
25-29	44	22	9.28	22	9.32
30-34	29	12	5.06	17	7.20
35-39	41	23	9.71	18	7.62
40-44	18	8	3.38	10	4.24
45-49	34	18	7.59	16	6.78
50-54	33	18	7.59	15	6.36
55-59	8	5	2.11	3	1.27
60-64	7	4	1.69	3	1.27
65-69	14	8	3.38	6	2.54
70-74	6	2	0.84	4	1.69
75-79	7	4	1.69	3	1.27
80-84	7	4	1.69	3	1.27
85-89	3	1	0.42	2	0.85
Total pop	493	237		256	

Source: Computed from the Field Survey Data, 2023-2024

The table-3.3 shows the population age group of the Santhal and Oraon Tribal population of the Dinhata-II block according to the age of the Santhal and Oraon tribes based on the field survey data on the indigenous tribes of Dinhata block. The table-3.3 shows that when reviewing the age group of the indigenous tribes of Dinhata block, 26.98% of the total indigenous population is between zero and 14 years of age. Again 7.19% of the population is above 64 years of age. Then it is seen that based on the field survey data, 36.17% of the total indigenous tribes of Dinhata Block-II are dependent populations. The young dependent population is 28.98% and the elderly dependent population is 7.19%. The percentage of the working population of the indigenous Tribe of the Dinhata-II block is 63.83%.

8.1.2. Sex Composition: Sex composition is an important significant characteristic of the demography. It helps to define male and female populations among the size of the total population of a particular region. It also defines the sex ratio. According to the 2011 census total male Indigenous tribal population is 614 and the total female Indigenous population is 623 of the Dinhata-II blocks. The total female under 6 years is 85 and the female under 6 years is 94 populations. The above table shows the Sex of the indigenous tribal population of the Dinhata-II

block. From the below table, it is observed that the size of the female is 48.37% out of the 459 tribal population whereas 51.63% is the size of the male population of the proposed study area.

Table 4 Tribal Sex of the Dinhata-II Block

Block	Sex		Child Sex (6 years)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	614	623	85	94
District	9388	8737		

Source: Computed from the Field survey Data and Census of India, 2011

From the above table-3.4, according to the 2011 census, the indigenous tribal male is 614 and female is 623 in the Dinhata-II block whereas the district tribal male population is 8920 and the female tribal population is 8305.

8.1.3. Sex Ratio: In all communities of the world, men and women have different sexual compositions. An important point of interest for demographers is the sex ratio. Because the main reason for the socio-economic condition of a region is the sex ratio of men and women. One emphasizes the sex ratio in interpreting different subject matter of a regional and geographical region. The effect of the sex ratio on the population structure of a region is immense. Sex ratio refers to the ratio of males to females in a particular population or a portion of males relative to females in a particular population (*Population Composition Stan Becker, PhD Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2008*). According to the 2011 census, the sex ratio in India is 943 female/thousand male whereas the tribal sex ratio is 990 female/thousand male. The sex ratio of children (0-6 age group) in India is 919 females/thousand males whereas it is 957 females/thousand males in the Indigenous scheduled tribes. Goa marks the highest tribal sex ratio (1046) and the lowest Indigenous tribal sex ratio in Jammu & Kashmir (924) (*Census Organization of India, 2019*).

Table 5 Tribal Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio of the Dinhata-II Block

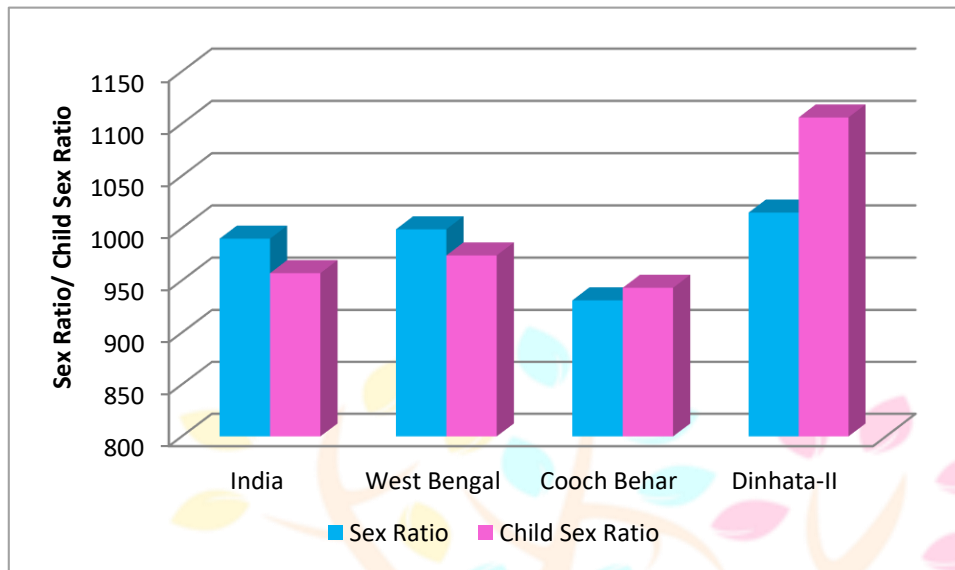
	Sex Ratio	Child Sex Ratio
India	990	957
West Bengal	999	974
Cooch Behar	931	943
Dinhata-II	1015	1106

Source: Census of India, 2011

The above table shows the sex ratio and also shows the child sex ratio of the Dinhata-II block to compare the sex ratio and child sex ratio of the District of Cooch Behar, West Bengal, and India. According to the 2011 census, if comparing the sex ratio of Dinhata-II block with the sex ratio of Cooch Behar district, West Bengal and India, it is seen that the Dinhata-II block has the highest sex ratio. According to the 2011 census, the sex ratio in Dinhata block is 1015, whereas the sex ratio in Cooch Behar district is 931, the sex ratio in West Bengal is 999 and the sex ratio in India is 990. On the other hand, if comparing the child sex ratio of Dinhata-II block with the child sex ratio of the Cooch Behar district, West Bengal, and India, it is seen that the Dinhata-II block has the highest sex

ratio. It is observed that the child sex ratio of Dinhata-II block is 1106, the Child sex ratio in Cooch Behar district is 943, the child sex ratio in West Bengal is 974 and the child sex ratio in India is 957.

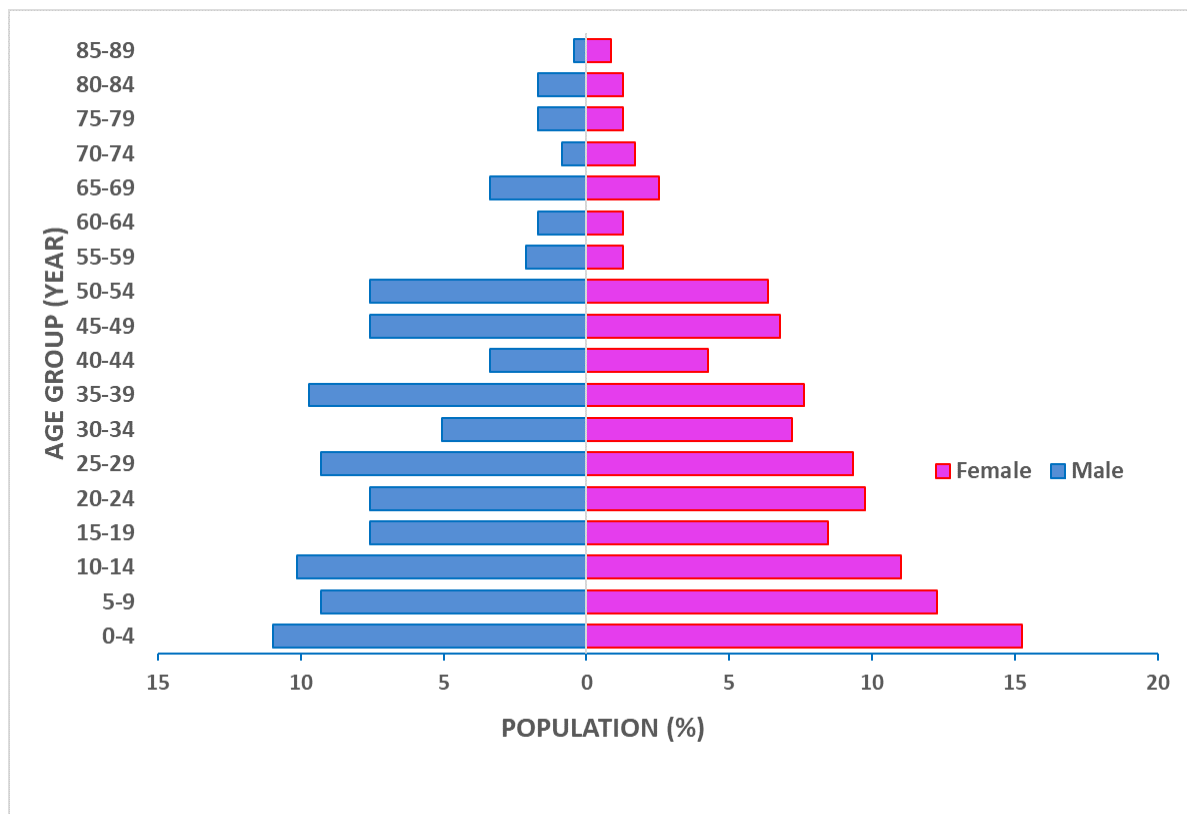
Figure-3 Comparison of Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio of Dinhata-II Block with District, State, and Country



Source: Census of India, 2011

8.1.4. Age Sex Structure:

The most prominent demographic characteristics of the population are age-sex structure. Age Sex Structure of a population refers to the number of females and males in different age groups. It is a graphical representation of the Age sex structure of the population and is widely known as the age-sex pyramid. Age and sex structure are the result of the trend of fertility, mortality, and migration. It varies from caste to caste, religion to religion, geographical region to geographical region. Age- Sex Structure defined the age group-wise distribution of the male-female population of the region and it also defined the child, working, and dependent population of the age group. It is the graphical representation of males and females in different age groups where the x-axis shows the males on the left and females on the right & the axis shows the age group from birth to old age population.

Figure-4 Age-Sex Structure of the Tribal Population

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2023-2024

8.2. Social Characteristics: Indigenous tribes of Dinhata-II block have some social Characteristics like population characteristics. These social characteristics are mainly presented based on field survey data. Population Social characteristics refer to the various social aspects of the population. Such as population social status, social structure, marriage system, age of marriage of population, population social behaviours, education-culture, surrounding condition social system, social organization, social customs, etc. A special knowledge about the social characteristics of different tribes can be acquired by social characteristics. Again, these social features easily shed light on the social status of the social group. Since overall knowledge about population can be acquired through social characteristics, population social characteristics are an important topic of discussion and research for demographers today. The social characteristics of the indigenous tribes of Dinhata block of Cooch Behar district are highlighted below.

8.2.1. Age at Marriage: The age of marriage is a very important social Characteristic. This characteristic gives an overall idea about the age of marriage of a tribe, age of marriage of a man and a woman, age difference of marriage by age group, difference of age of marriage by caste, etc. Reviewing the age of marriage of the indigenous tribes of Dinhata block, the field survey has shown that according to them, the age of boys is 18 to 19 or 19 to 22 years and the age of girls is 18 to 18 or 18 to 19 years.

Table 6 Age at Marriage

Gram Panchayat	Age at Marriage			
	<20	20-24	25-29	>29
Bamanhat-I	13	9	4	5
Bamanhat-II	23	5	2	3
Barasakdal	11	6	4	2
Burirhat-II	8	12	8	5
Chowdhurihat	17	8	5	6
Kismat Dasgram	12	22	2	3
Sukarurkuthi	20	17	4	4
%	43.33	32.92	12.08	11.67

Source: Computed from the Survey Data, 2023-2024

From the above table-6, it can be seen that the review of the age of Indigenous tribal marriage in the Indigenous inhabited gram panchayats under the proposed survey of Dinhata block shows that 43.33% of Indigenous people have got married below 20 years of age, 32.92% Indigenous tribes are married in 20-24 years, 12.08% Indigenous tribes are married between 25-29 years and only 11.67% Indigenous tribes are married after surpassing 29 years.

8.2.1. Length of Schooling: One of these important social characteristics is Length of schooling. This characteristic gives an idea about the nature of education of the tribes. This gives an idea of what kind of education is available in the total population and how many of the total population are studying or studying in which class. Such as how many of the total population have not received education, and how many are associated with primary education, secondary education, higher education, and other education. The proposed field survey identifies the four pursuances of length of schooling. The nature of education classes of indigenous peoples. These are no education, primary education, secondary education, and more than secondary education.

Table 7 Length of Schooling of the Tribal Population of Dinhata-II Block

Gram Panchayat	Length of Education			
	No education	Primary	Secondary	More than Secondary
Bamanhat-I	40	20	20	6
Bamanhat-II	25	19	23	5
Barasakdal	20	17	17	12
Burirhat-II	33	8	10	8
Chowdhurihat	24	16	15	3
Kismat Dasgram	36	20	19	6
Sukarurkuthi	38	21	11	1
%	43.81	24.54	23.33	8.32

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2019-2020

From the above table-7, it can be seen that reviewing the Indigenous Length of Schooling in the Indigenous-inhabited Gram Panchayats under the proposed survey of Dinhata-II Block shows that 43.71% of Indigenous Tribes have not received any education, 24.54% of Indigenous Tribes have got primary education, 23.33% of the

Indigenous tribes have secondary education and only 8.32% of the Indigenous tribes have more than secondary education

8.2.3. Education Composition: Another social characteristic is the composition of education. This characteristic gives an idea of the total number of literate and the number of illiterates in the country. Indigenous Tribal Education composition in Dinhata-II block has been discussed mainly based on 2011 census data and proposed field survey data.

Table-8 Education Composition

	Literate	%	Illiterate	%
Cooch Behar	10642	58.71	7483	41.29
Dinhata-II	673	54.41	564	45.59

Source: Census of India, 2011

From the table it is observed that shows literacy composition among the tribal communities literate 54.41% and illiterate is 45.59% of the Dinhata-II block whereas in Cooch Behar District literate tribes are found 58.71% and 41.29% are considered as illiterate. Cooch Behar district has 4.3% more educated people than Dinhata-II block. Dinhata-II block has 4.3% more illiterate than Cooch Behar District. On the other hand, based on primary data, 43.71% of Indigenous Tribes have not received any education and 56.3% of Indigenous tribes have been educated.

8.2.4. Type of the family:

The type of family is another important social characteristic of the population. This characteristic provides information about the family of the population. Information is available on whether the population belongs to any family, whether it is isolated joined, or extended. Based on the field survey data of the Dinhata-II block, it can be seen that the tribes in this region mainly belong to three types of families namely single family, joint family, and extended family. The table of the proposed field survey shows that out of the 90 surveyed households in Dinhata block, 64.44% belong to the nuclear family, 24.44% belong to the tribal joint family and only 11.11% belong to the extended tribal family. Thus, it is seen that most of the tribal families of Dinhata-II block live in isolated families.

Table- 9 Types of Family

Gram Panchayat	Types of the family		
	Nuclear	Joint	Extended
Bamanhat-I	7	2	2
Bamanhat-II	9	6	0
Barasakdal	6	2	2
Burirhat-II	6	2	2
Chowdhurihat	9	1	2
Kismat Dasgram	12	4	1
Sukarurkuthi	9	5	1
Percentage (%)	64.44	24.44	11.11

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2023-2024

8.2.5. Social Composition:

The social structure is another important feature of the population. The cultural aspects of people are largely affected by the social structure. By which human activities and life, economy, social condition, economic condition, etc. are determined. Examples of social structures are family, religion, law, and economy. Economic conditions, the legal system, the political system, and the cultural system are deeply affected by these social structures. Reviewing the social structure of the indigenous tribes of Dinhata block, it has been found that they belong to agrarian-based and non-agro-based families.

Table-10 Social Composition

Gram Panchayat	Social Composition	
	Agricultural Family	Non-Agricultural Family
Bamanhat-I	7	4
Bamanhat-II	13	3
Barasakdal	8	2
Burirhat-II	9	1
Chowdhurihat	10	2
Kismat Dasgram	14	3
Sukarurkuthi	12	2
%	81.11	18.89

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2023-2024

Based on the theory of the proposed field survey, 81.11% of the 90 surveyed households in Dinhata-II block belong to agricultural families and 18.79% belong to non-agricultural families. Therefore, based on the report of the survey, it is seen that the main basis of the indigenous population of the area is agriculture on which their livelihood system stands.

8.2.6. Religious composition:

An important social characteristic of the population is religion which has a profound effect on the life of every human being. Different religious practices affect people and people's lives in many ways. People are influenced by religion and live in different ways. On the one hand, just as there are differences in religious customs and practices, there are divisions and divisions among people for these religious practices. Due to differences in religious practices, differences in fertility behaviors, diet, lifestyle, birth control, marriage, dress, etc. can be noticed among different religious groups. People in different parts of the world are fans of different religions because of their ethnic, regional, and geographical differences. Some are Hindus some are Muslims or some are Christians and some are Buddhists. Some are Hindus some are Muslims or some are Christians and some are Buddhists. Differences in population, sex, birth, etc. can be noticed among these different religious groups. From the field survey data and the census data, it is known that the Dinhata -II block is mainly inhabited by two indigenous tribal communities and they are mainly Hindus and Christians. However, most of the indigenous tribes used to worship different animals in the Hindu religion. Of the seven-gram panchayats in the field survey, seven-gram panchayats have Oraon Indigenous tribes. But out of seven-gram panchayats, only one gram panchayat is

inhabited by the Santhal tribe. Among these two indigenous groups, the Oraon indigenous tribes are Hindus and they observe all Hindu religious customs and practices. The Santhal tribes are partly Christian and partly Hindu. The Santhal and Oraon tribes of the area have their religious customs, rituals, and deities. Besides, who worships the various elements of nature, animals, and birds in the knowledge of the Gods? Among the basic religious ceremonies of these two tribes, there is a great difference between the religious rites of the Santhal and their religious rites, The Oraon are worshipers of the nature of society and animism. However, the Almighty Dharmesh is recognized as the creator of their religion. This omnipotent position is in the sun. So, most of the religious ceremonies revolve around the sun is celebrated. The society also believes in various deities. The symbolic position of all these deities focuses on the issues of villages, agricultural resources, forests, epidemics, etc. There are various religious festivals for their enjoyment. The resemblance of Hindu worship with some religious ceremonies is very clear, such as the Vadhu festival of the Hindu community and the Karma festival of Oraon. This festival held around the Kadam branch is named after tree worship. Differences can be observed in the customs observed by the Santhal. In the Santali language, the deity is called Banga. Their main deity is Suryadev. A Marang Buru. As a result, the life of the Santhal is most affected.

Table- 11 Religious Composition

Gram Panchayat	Religious composition	
	Hinduism	Christian
Bamanhat-I	11	0
Bamanhat-II	15	0
Barasakdal	10	0
Burirhat-II	10	0
Chowdhurihat	12	0
Kismat Dasgram	05	12
Sukarurkuthi	15	0
%	86.67	13.33

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2023-2024

Based on the data of the proposed survey through the said table, the tribal religious composition of the Dinhata-II block is shown. From that table, it can be seen that the Hindu tribal community lives in seven-gram panchayats of the surveyed gram panchayat. Christian tribal community lives in only one gram panchayat i.e., Kishmat Dashgram gram panchayat. Out of 90 surveyed households in Dinhata-II block, 86.67% of households belong to the Hindu tribal community and only 13.33% of households belong to the Christian tribal community.

8.3. Economic Characteristics:

The above demographic and social characteristics of the tribes of the Dinhata-II block make it important to review the demographic and social issues of the tribal population as well as some of their economic characteristics to accurately represent the various economic issues related to their population. So, there is an urgent need to discuss economic characteristics along with demographic and social characteristics. Economic features provide information on various economic aspects of the population such as occupational structure, family

income, economic status, wage per capita production, supply of work, working methods, working methods, market value working methods, salary structure, way of life, etc.

8.3.1. Occupational Structure:

The occupational structure is one of the important economic characteristics. It plays a very important role in the analysis of the economic condition of the population. It provides an analysis of the overall concept of population economic structure. It provides a professional analysis of the economic structure of a region's population, such as farmers, agricultural workers, industrial workers, employees, and other employees.

Table -12 Distribution of Workers

	Main Workers	%	Marginal workers	%	Non-Workers	%
CoochBehar	5632	31.07	1729	9.54	10764	59.39
Dinhata-II	398	32.17	64	5.17	775	62.65

Source: Census of India, 2011

The above table shows the workers distribution of the Indigenous tribal population of Dinhata-II block and Cooch Behar District. The table shows that 32.28% of the total tribal population of Dinhata block is main workers, 5.16% is marginal workers and 62.65% is non-workers. Whereas 31.07% of the total tribal population of Cooch Behar District is the main workers, 9.54% is marginal workers and 59.39% is the non-workers. Reviewing the said worker distribution, it is seen that most of the indigenous population of Dinhata block and Cooch Behar district are unemployed. There are 59.39% of Indigenous people in the district and 62.65% of Indigenous people in Dinhata block are non-workers.

Table- 13 Distribution of Main Workers

	Main workers			
	Cultivators	Agricultural labour	Household industry	Others workers
Cooch Behar	1271	2168	67	2126
%	22.57	38.49	1.19	37.75
Dinhata-II	154	195	0	49
%	38.69	48.99	0	12.31

Source: Census of India, 2011

The above table shows the distribution of the main workers of the Dinhata-II block and the Cooch Behar district. Out of the block total main workers, 38.69% were cultivators, 48.99% were agricultural labour, and 12.31% other workers. While in Cooch Behar district out of the total main workers 22.57% were cultivators, 38.49% agricultural labour, 1.19% were household industry, and 37.75% were other workers. From the discussion, it can be seen that out of the total main workers in Cooch Behar district, where cultivators and agricultural labourers are jointly

comprised 61.8%, out of the total Indigenous main workers of Dinhata-II block cultivators and agricultural labourer combines 7.82%. So, the main job of the Indigenous people of this region is to work in agriculture and as agricultural labourers.

Table –14 Occupational Composition

Gram Panchayat	Occupational Structure			
	Cultivator	Agricultural Labour	Industrial & Service Sector	Others
Bamanhat-I	11	22	3	3
Bamanhat-II	20	21	2	1
Barasakdal	18	25	2	2
Burirhat-II	20	26	2	2
Chowdhurihat	9	18	3	1
Kismat Dasgram	18	15	3	2
Sukarurkuthi	17	20	4	3
%	38.57	50.17	6.48	4.79

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2023-2024

From the above table, it is seen that when analyzing the occupational composition of Indigenous tribes of Dinhata-II block gram panchayat, 36.56% of the total Indigenous workers of that gram panchayat belong to Indigenous farmers, 50.16% Indigenous workers belong to agricultural workers, 6.48% Indigenous workers are engaged in industrial and service sectors and 4.69% indigenous workers belong to other occupations. Thus, it is seen that most of the total tribal workers in Dinhata-II block are engaged in agricultural labour.

9. Conclusion:

In this chapter of the proposed survey, discuss the Indigenous population of Dinhata-II block in terms of Concept, Definition, History, Origin and Democracy and Socio-Economic characteristics. “Tribe means a set of people theoretically of common descent. It commonly denotes a community, a race, a breed, or a class of people. The definition of the word “Tribe” is concerned and applicable to everyone. A tribal is a person belonging to that group. The word tribal is mistakenly understood as a Girijan or hills man”(Tribetribal et al., n.d.). A **tribe** is a social division in a traditional society consisting of families linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect. A tribe possesses certain qualities and characteristics that make it a unique cultural, social, and political entity. This post is about the major tribes in India. They are also known by the name ‘Advises’ in India (M. Tribes et al., 2020). The Santhal are the largest and one of the oldest tribes in India, they are spread across Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal. From time immemorial they have cleared forests, tilled the land, and produced food for subsistence. They belong to the Pre –Aryan period and were great fighters during the British regime in India (Quora et al., 2020). According to Guha (1944), they belonged to the Proto-Australoid racial stocks.

The Oraon tribes, other major tribes in India, live in the forested uplands of east-central India, occupying the Chota Nagpur region of Jharkhand and adjoining states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh (Daripa, 2018) & (Announcements et al., 2017). They belong to the Dravidian language

family (*Encyclopaedic Profile of Indian Tribes - R. R. Prasad - Google Books Page 1 of 1, n.d.*). and They speak languages such as Kurukh, Sadri, and Hindi which are from the Dravidian family of languages they are the fastest growing tribes in India (Indigenous, 2019). Tribal Populations are divided into five regional groups (Tribal Community Report 2014) such as 1. Himalayan Region. 2. Middle Region. 3. Southern Region. 4. Western Region. 5. Island Region (Daripa, 2018). They are mainly concentrated in the eastern, central, and western belt which cover the nine States of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. About 12 percent inhabit the northeastern region, about five percent in the Southern region, and about three percent in the Northern States. Regarding the distribution of ST population by States, Madhya Pradesh stands first with 14.7%, followed by Maharashtra (10.1%), Odisha (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.9%), Gujarat (8.6%), Jharkhand (8.3%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), West Bengal (5.1%), Karnataka (4.1%), Assam (3.7%), Meghalaya (2.5%), and the remaining States represent 11.6% of the tribal population (S. Tribes, 2020). The total population of Scheduled Tribes is 10,42,81,034 persons, constituting 8.6 percent of the population of India according to the 2011 census. The total forest cover in the country is 692,027 sq. km., 21.05 percent of the total geographical area. Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) covers about 411, 881 sq. Km. Therefore, almost 60 percent of the forest cover of the country is found in tribal areas (S. Tribes, 2020; Tribetribal et al., n.d.) The largest tribal group of West Bengal are Santhal constitute 51.8 percent and the second largest group of the tribal population is Oraon constitute 14 percent followed by Mundas(7.8%), Bhumij(7.6%) and Kora(3.2%) as per 2001 census. Other major tribal groups of West Bengal are Lodha, Mahali, Bhutia, Tamang, Subba, Bedia, etc (Bengal, 2020). Cooch Behar is another of the most backward and deprived tribal populated districts where 18125 people belong to tribal communities as per the 2011 census. The major tribal groups of Cooch Behar district are Santhals, Oraon, Rabha, Munda Gond, Mech, Garo, Kora, Chakma, Malpahari, Bhumij, Doha, Kheurua, Megh, Limbu, etc. Most of the tribes of Cooch Behar District belonged to Mongoloids and Proto-Australoid have dark skin, sunken nose, and lower foreheads (Franda, 2015) & (Hills et al., n.d.) Above table-3.1 shows that Tufanganj-II is the most concentrated block (3956) and Mathabhanga is the lowest concentrated of Tribal population of Cooch Behar district. Based on Location Quotient Value, the tribal block of Cooch Behar is divided into three zones-High (0.741-3.210), Moderate (0.291-0.740) and Low zones (0.090-0.290). Mekhliganj, Mathabhanga-II, Cooch Behar-II, and Tufanganj-II blocks are highly concentrated in the tribal population of the district. Cooch Behar-I, Haldibari, Dinhata-I, and Dinhata-II block are moderately concentrated in the tribal population. The remaining Mathabhanga-I, Tufanganj-I, Sitai, and Sitalkuchi blocks fall under the least concentrated tribal population. Although Dinhata-II block moderately tribal concentrated area of the Coochbehar district the block has unique witness of tribal communities. Mainly Dinhata –II block is predominated by the Santhal and Oraon Tribes. These tribes live in 35 villages of the 11 Gram Panchayat out of 12 Gram Panchayat of Dinhata –II. The table-3.3 shows that when reviewing the age group of the indigenous tribes of Dinhata block, 26.98% of the total indigenous population is between zero and 14 years of age. Again 7.19% of the population is above 64 years of age. Then it is seen that based on the field survey data, 36.17% of the total indigenous tribes of Dinhata Block-II are dependent populations. The young dependent population is 28.98% and the elderly dependent population is 7.19%. The percentage of the working population of the

indigenous Tribe of the Dinhata-II block is 63.83%. From the table-3.4, according to the 2011 census, the Indigenous tribal male is 614 and female is 623 in the Dinhata-II block whereas the district tribal male population is 8920 and the female tribal population is 8305. According to the 2011 census, the sex ratio in Dinhata block is 1015, whereas the sex ratio in Cooch Behar district is 931, the sex ratio in West Bengal is 999 and the sex ratio in India is 990. It calculated from the proposed study, that 43.33% of people got married below 20 years, 32.92% got married within 20-24 years, and the rest 23.75 people got married more than 24 years. The proposed study highlighted that 43.71% of tribal people have not received any education, 24.54% of people have received primary and followed by 23.33% have secondary and only 8.32% have more secondary education. Literacy is very low, 51.41% of people are literate and 41.29% of people are illiterate. It is found that 64.44% of people have belonged to the nuclear family followed by 24.44% joint and 11.11% people extended family. The study defined that 81.11% of people are agrarian and only 18.89% of people are non-agrarian. The study said that 86.67% of people belonged to Hinduism and 13.33% people belonged to Christianity. According to the census, 2011 the main worker is 32.17%, 5.17% people are engaged in marginal and 62.65% people are non-workers.

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