

Education and Health Problems among the Primitive Tribal Groups of Bihar

Dr Ganga Nath Jha¹, Bhaskar kumar²

Abstract

The conditions of Primitive Tribal groups now known as PVTG (Particular Venerable Tribal Group) in Bihar are pathetic. They are living in the dearth of all basic amenities. Their health and education problem is very thinkable. In this paper, attempt has been made to deal with problems of health & education of the PTGs in Bihar, particularly of the Sauria Paharia and Mal Paharia of Bhagalpur & Banka district respectively.

Key Words : Primitive Tribes, PTG of Bihar, Health and Education issues among PTGs

Introduction:-

After the formation of Jharkhand in 2000, Bihar is having very small number of tribal population under its state boundary. Most of the tribe and tribal people remained in the part of the Jharkhand. According to 2001 census, only 9,026 primitive tribal people remain in Bihar. However, in Bihar too, the number of Primitive Tribal Groups which is also called as vulnerable groups are eight and same as in Jharkhand. These eight vulnerable groups of Bihar are the Asur, Birhor, Korwa, Birjia, Sauria Paharia, Mal Paharia, Parahaiya and Sabar.

Traditionally these vulnerable groups always remain in a special ecological zone such as in hilly areas, near the hill, in forest, apart from civilized society and near the forest etc. But now, due to deforestation & urbanization their ecological structure has been changed. Today they do not collect their food and fire wood from the forest. Now they also lives near the civilized society and treat their patient with doctor in government hospital and avoid there traditional hocus-pocus.

The vulnerable tribes are mainly inhabited in Bhagalpur, Banka, Madhepura, Supoul, Katihar, Kishanganj, Araria, Purnia, Nawada, Gaya & Bhabhua district of Bihar. The Mal Paharia has the largest in population among all vulnerable tribes.

1 Ganga Nath Jha Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, VBU, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. INDIA

2 Bhaskar Kumar, Research Scholar, TMBU Bhagalpur, Bihar, INDIA

Sauria Paharia has found only in Bhagalpur district of Bihar. Subsistence of Mal Paharia & Sauria Paharia is based on labouring, animal husbandry and liquor selling. Sauria Paharia lives in very critical situation in respect of Mal Paharia, although the situation of Mal Paharia is also not good.

Their health and education problem is very thinkable. Korwa and Birhor still collect plants, roots, tuber etc. of medicinal values which they sell in the market and earn money by which they survive. The Parahaiya of Gaya collects honey from the jungle and sells it in the market for their survival of life. Lack of employment and resources, lack of awareness in relation to health and rampant drinking habits in addition to the superstitious beliefs have made the life complex of these vulnerable groups.

Research Area:-

Bhagalpur district is situated in far east direction of Bihar state and stand as junction station on Kiul-Sahebganj rail section. By road it is well connected with NH-80. Whether Banka district is situated in far south-east of Bihar state. The eastern and southern boarder of the Banka district coincides with district "Godda" of the state Jharkhand. In west and north east it touches 'Jamui' and 'Munger' district of Bihar respectively. Banka is well connected with rail and road both from Bhagalpur district.

Research Methodology:-

In this research sampling has been done which is purposive sampling. All data and information has been collected from personal interview and observation.

Location, Population & Household Details:-

Sauria Paharia has found in Kahalgaon and Pirpainty block of Bhagalpur district. Kahalgaon block is situated at a distance of 60 kms. and Pirpainty block is situated at a distance of 90 kms. In the east direction of Bhagalpur district town. In Kahalgaon block Sauria Paharia lives in Kutubpur, Ramjanipur (both belongs to Ramjanipur panchayat), Chandipur (Oriup panchayat) and in Makaspur village which is in Shyampur panchayat.

In Pirpainty block they lives in village Mazrohi which is in Olapur panchayat, Jagdishpur Paharia Tola in Maheshram panchayat, Harinkol Paharia Tola in Harinkol panchayat and in Bargama village in Parsbanna panchayat.

Total No. of Sauria Paharia's household in Kahalgaon block is 479 and their total population is 2,546 in which male are 1,292 and female are 1,254. In Pirpainty block total number of Sauria Paharia's household is 230 and their total population is 1,053 in which males are 543 and females are 510.

Altogether total population of vulnerable tribes in Bhagalpur district is 3,599 and their household is 709 in which males are 1,835 and females are 1,764.

Banka district covers Mal Paharia tribe as PTG. Mal Paharia lives in Teliakura, Nabhigadha and Santhali Bisanpur village (all are in Sanga panchayat) and also in Marsa village of Kudro panchayat of Baunsi block which is situated at a distance of 30 kms. in south direction of Bhagalpur district and 18 kms. far in north direction from Banka district town. Total No. of household of Mal Paharia is 69 and their population is 309 in which 167 are male and 142 are female.

Education In Sauria Paharia of Kahalgaon Block:-

Educationally Sauria Paharia is very backward. Their literacy rate is only 18.38%. Male literacy rate is 20.04% while female literacy rate is 16.66%. There are no any person which has passed the Xth board exam and not engaged in any types of government job till now.

Education In Sauria Paharia of Pirpainty Block:-

Literacy rate of Sauria Paharia in Pirpainty block is greater than the Kahalgaon but it could not be said satisfactory. Literacy rate in Sauria Paharia tribe of Pirpainty block is 24.40% in which male literacy is 24.49% and female literacy is 24.31%. Some persons are educated upto +2. Rajesh Malto is posted as a middle school teacher in Kasri village of Pirpainty.

Education In Mal Paharia of Banka District:-

Literacy rate in Mal Paharia tribe of Banka district is extremely low and it is only 7.11% in which male literacy rate is 7.18% and female literacy rate is 7.04%. Comparatively the literacy rate of Banka district is more lower than the Sauria Paharia of Bhagalpur district.

Thus I have observed through my research that the main reason for the low literacy rate of above mentioned tribes are their critical economic situation, lack of awareness, acute negligence attitude for their education and over expense in liquor drinking.

Health Problem In Sauria Paharia of Bhagalpur District:-

In Kahalgaon block, Sauria Paharia tribe of Kutubpur, Ramjanipur & Chandipur village are facing acute drinking water problem. Water colour are red in Kutubpur village and milky white in Ramjanipur village which should not be drunk but unfortunately they drink that water because they have no any option for drinking water.

Well remains completely dry from March to June month. Through two minute water discharging handpump they fulfill their drinking water need. Except these, other three hand pumps are not in working since last six months. Chandipur village is suffering from sanitation problem. Makaspur village is also facing the drinking water problem. Due to this their health is affecting from various diseases.

Mostly Sauria Paharia people of Kahalgaon block including women also are seriously involved in liquor drinking. Generally they use their selfmade wine called "Hadia" which has been prepared from "Mahua". They do not understand any difference between day & night for drinking Hadia. Now some peoples are also purchasing packed pouch of wine from their local market.

Also in Pirpainty block liquor making from mahua, selling & drinking Hadia is as a daily routine among Sauria Paharia.

Due to water problem, liquor addiction, lack of cleanness, lack of awareness & lack of intaking nutritional diet; they are suffering from various diseases. Tuberculosis, Asthma, Pox, Skin disease, Itching, Diarrhoea, Anaemia, Malnutrition, Jaundice, Gland T.B., Malaria, Kala-azar, Cough, Liver Problem and Leprosy are found in them. Deva Paharia (32 Yrs.) & Manoj Paharia (35 Yrs.) of Kutubpur village is leprosy patient.

Health Problem in Mal Paharia of Banka District:-

Liquor addiction has been also found in Mal Paharia and it is as common as Sauria Paharia. Lack of cleanness, lack of awareness, lack of knowledge for intaking nutritional diet for good health also has been observed during research. Due to this Anaemia, Malnutrition, Tuberculosis, Asthma, Malaria, Kala-azar, Itching, Skin disease are common among them. One leprosy patient Rajendra Paharia (38 Yrs.) of Santhali Bisanpur village also has been found in Banka district.

Conclusion:-

Sauria Paharia of Bhagalpur district & Mal Paharia of Banka district are actually living in a very critical situation. Their literacy rate and health problem is extremely thinkable. They need a special care, protection & conservation for their existence. State government, Central government and other Non-governmental organizations should be active and providing aid not only by allotting funds for their development but also for increasing their awareness and consciousness in respect of health, education & liquor eradication.

Suggestions:-

According to our research, I want to suggest for redress their health & education problem. These are –

Aanganwari Kendra should be opened in their own village and should try to depute any Paharia women as their Sevika (director).

Government school should be opened in their village and also should try to provide hostel facility & fooding facility in their.

Monthly stipened should be given to all Paharia children which is studing in the school.

Within every 15 days medical camp has been placed in their village.

Government hospital should be opened near the Paharia's village and availability of doctor should be definite in both day & night.

DDT Powder should be spread in every 3 months interval.

Some special programmes should be launched for consciousness and awareness of their education, health and liquor eradication.

BDO & SDO of concerning block should visit once in a month in their village for their self observation.

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