

Sunil Kumar Baskey.
Research Scholar,
Department of Education,
The University of Burdwan.
West Bengal, India.

Abstract

This paper details the results of a survey conducted in selected areas at six sub-divisions in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal. The main purpose of this study was to know and compare the Socio-economic Status of the tribal people in the district. Purposive sampling was used to select the sample from entire population. Respondents of 766 samples were selected for the study. The tools used were a questionnaire and an interview schedule for the study. The collected data were processed using tabulation charts and graphical representations. The main findings of the study were that in Burdwan Sadar (South) sub-division, the Scheduled Tribes people are having highest Socio-economic Status; whereas Katwa sub-division the trend is the lowest. It is observed that average Socio-economic Status of Scheduled Tribes people in two sub-divisions are above the average and the trend of others sub-divisions are having below the average.

Key words: Socio-economic Status, Tribal People, Sub-divisions, livelihood etc.

Introduction:

The population of STs in India as per 2011 census was 104,281,034 constituting 8.61% of the total population. The tribal population of India and West Bengal had grown at the rate of 17.64% and 13.93% during the period of 2001-2011 respectively. According to 2011 census the scheduled tribe population of **West Bengal** is 5.29 millions, which constitutes 5.80% per cent of the total population and is unevenly distributed in the districts. Paschim Mednapur has the highest 16.61% tribal concentration in the State. Jalpaiguri district has 13.81%, Purulia 10.21%, Burdwan 9.24% and Dargiling district has 7.50% , standing they are second, third, fourth and fifth respectively. More than 57 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes are concentrated in these districts. The lowest proportion of tribal population is in Kolkata district (0.20 %). Other districts viz. Howrah (0.28%), Cooch Behar (0.34%) and Purba Mednapur (0.53%) could not reach even 1% of total Scheduled Tribes population in the state. The population of Scheduled Tribes has marginally increased in 2011 compared to 2001 census whereas literacy rate has beefed up by 11.86% and 14.5% in India and West Bengal respectively. **(Census of India 2011& Tribal Profile At A Glance 2014)²⁷**.

Socio-economic status (SES) is a combined measure of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation. For analyzing SES of a family, the household income, education, and occupation were examined, as well as combined income of the family members with other attributes were assessed. Socioeconomic status (SES) is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. SES, here, is sum total of the scores of family monthly income, land holding, dwelling housing, properties including furniture, luxurious items and other impediments. **(Aggarwal, J.C. 2008)**

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

In the country, the state of West Bengal has the distinction of having 40 tribal groups. Development of tribal population of our country is a constitutional obligation of the state. But, how to develop these tribals? This has been the vexed question baffling the country's policymakers, planners, administrators and all those concerned with the welfare and development of the tribal people. Laws have been made with regard to the protection, safeguard, and development of tribals; and these have been put into practice too. Right from independence, a large number of programmes have been undertaken by the Government of India for the development of the tribals and tribal areas to ensure a better quality of life for them and also to protect them from exploitation. Thousand of millions of rupees have been spent for developing a few millions of people. But the result shows that the quality and quantum of development achieved is far from being satisfactory. Tribals are still facing the problems of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, poor literacy, poor health facility and deprivation from natural resources. The conditions of the tribal are comparatively worse. Though Government of India provides special attention for the development of tribal groups, yet the literacy level, income, socio economic status and living condition of the tribal are much discouraging. This may be due to many reasons. In order to get clear view of these issues this study attempts to examine socio-economic status and livelihood of the tribal people in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal. This study would provide valuable information to planners and administrators in their future pursuit for sustainable development of tribal people. (Sinha, B.K.P. and Behra, M. 2009). As socio economic status is the by product of different factors of the society, so an attempt has been made to study the socio economic status of tribal people in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal.

Review of Related Literature:

Chand, J. (1985) made a study on **"A Comparative Study of Various Mega Tribal Pupils in Relation to Their Self-Perception, Socio-Economic Status, Vocational and Educational Aspirations and Academic Achievement"**. The major finding showed that: i) socio economic status did not influence the vocational choice of Angami pupils, ii) the educational aspirations of Ao pupils were found to be significantly different from those of Sema pupils, they were found similar to those of Angar pupils, iii) the educational aspirations of boys belonging to Angami, A and Sema Tribes differ significantly from those of girls of respective tribes and iv) boys belonging to these three tribes found to have similar educational aspirations and the educational aspirations of A0 tribes belonging to the high socio-economic status group were found to be significantly different from those pupils at middle and low socio-economic status group.

Sundararajan and Lilly Epsy Bai (1990) explored a study on **"Socio-Economic Status and Occupational Aspirations of the Higher Secondary Leavers"**.

Findings of the study were:

1. There was a significant difference in the SES and the OAS of the higher secondary Boys and Girls.
2. There was significant difference in the SES of the higher secondary students studying in the Urban and the rural schools.
3. There was significant difference in the OAS of the students with high SES and those with low SES.
4. The relationship between the SES and the OAS of higher secondary students was positive but negligible.

Sharma,R.S. (1991) viewed a study on **“Education and Planning in India”**. The major findings were: i) the socio-economic conditions acted as a barrier in the education of tribal pupils and those educational schemes for these pupils may be such as to provide them immediate jobs, ii) job opportunities may be extended to private sector and governmental undertaking organization, iii) efforts may be made to preserve their culture as such, iv) attitude of people towards education was largely influenced by the motive of economic returns, v) the size of the family had some influence on the educational level of the family, vi) communicative factors were the constraints in modernization and spread of education and vii) for better utilization the educational opportunities, more hostel facilities need to be provided to the students coming from long distance.

Mohandas, M. (1992) analysed a study on **“Impact of New settler in the Westernrn Ghat Region on the Socio Economic Conditions of the Tribal Population - The case of Wayanad District in Kerala”**. The main findings are that large scale migration into the ecologically susceptible Western Ghats area not only caused immense forest degradation but also economic and social deprivation of the tribals and land alienation of them.

Rao, V.M. (2002) made a study on **“Socio-economic Status of Tribal Women in Arunachal Pradesh”**. The study reviewed the traditional systems to control the women in the society as well as their impact on day to day living conditions of the women in various categories of the tribals. Further, the study examined the benefits derived from the governmental programmes for the tribal women. The main finding is that the study has given recommendations for the effective implementation of the governmental programmes of the tribal women.

Indowu,A.I. and Dere,A.O. (2007) analyzed a study on **“Socio-economic Status and Occupational Aspirations of High School Seniors in Nigeria”** on vocational aspiration of high school seniors in Nigeria in relation to their socio-economic status. The main finding of the study showed that higher the socio-economic status higher would be the aspiration level of students.

Quagliata, T. (2008) made a study on **“Is There a Positive Correlation between Socio-economic Status and Academic Achievement?”** regarding the family environments of low socioeconomic status (SES) students were examined and a comparison made in learning styles between low and high achievers Socioeconomic factors such as family income, education, and occupation play major role in the academic achievement of all students. The major findings of the study are that there is a positive correlation between SES and academic achievement.

Brogan,R.(2009) analysed a study on **“Measurement of SES and various components School outcome and personal SES Relations between School outcome and School SES”**. In many ways SES is related to the concept of social class. Both have financial stability as a foundation for classification. Both are important to a child's optimal development and an adult's satisfaction with life. However, the concept of social class is considered to be continuous throughout one's lifetime and from one generation to the next. The major findings of the study are: i) the SES classifications are established in an effort to find the means of identifying and changing inequalities, ii) social class has economic differences as a primary influence & iii) the concept of SES considers other influences such as the chance for social or economic advancement, influence on policy, availability of resources, and prestige of the primary occupation.

Dhargupta,A.et.al.(2009) enquired of **“Study on the Effect of Socioeconomic Parameters on Health Status of the Toto, Santal, Sabar and Lodha Tribes of West Bengal, India”**. The researchers used a pre-tested structured interview schedule for data collection. The major findings of the study were: i) the

practice of education was found common in Santal, Lodha, and Toto than Sabar, ii) cultivation was the main occupation on maximum respondents of all selected tribes, iii) majority of the Sabar respondents were under low-income group, iv) family size was large in Santal than other three tribes, v) education, occupation, income, house types were highly significant in relation to health status among the Santals and vi) family education status, land type, land holding, family size, family type and personal cosmopolite were highly significant to health status amongst the Lodhas.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

There are various problems in Scheduled Tribes community. The most of the Tribal people do not understand the need and purpose of socio economic status and it affects tribal life to lead. The researcher endeavours to find out the socio economic status and its follow up effects of the tribal people residing at six sub-divisions in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal. The title of the problem is thus stated as follows: "A Study on the socio economic status of the Tribal People in the District of Burdwan, West Bengal". (Soren, L.K. 2015).

Objective: The objective of the study is to identify the socio economic status of the tribal people in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal.

Hypothesis:

Ho₁: There is no significant difference in socio economic status between male and female tribal people.

Ho₂: There is no significant difference in socio economic status of tribal people belongs to different locations.

METHODOLOGY:

Population & Sample:

All the tribal people in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal constitute the population of the study.

Table 1
Showing Sample Description

Sub-Div	Rural		Urban		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Bdn (N)	33	45	20	28	126
Bdn (S)	32	37	25	34	128
Kalna	35	39	26	28	128
Katwa	28	34	23	27	112
Durgapur	34	38	21	25	118
Asansol	18	21	55	60	154
Total	180	214	170	202	766

Sample:

The purposive sampling technique was used to select of 766 Scheduled Tribes people at six sub-divisions in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal. Sample selected for the present study consisted of 150 households in six sub-divisions; each sub-division consists of 25 households of Burdwan districts. That means each sub-division has 150 respondents and total numbers of sample are 766.

Tools:

The following tools were used for collection of data.

i) Questionnaire

The data was collected through a questionnaire of exclusive segments pertaining to socio economic status of tribal people .

ii) Interview Schedule

It was drafted on the basis of major variables, parameters and objectives of the study.

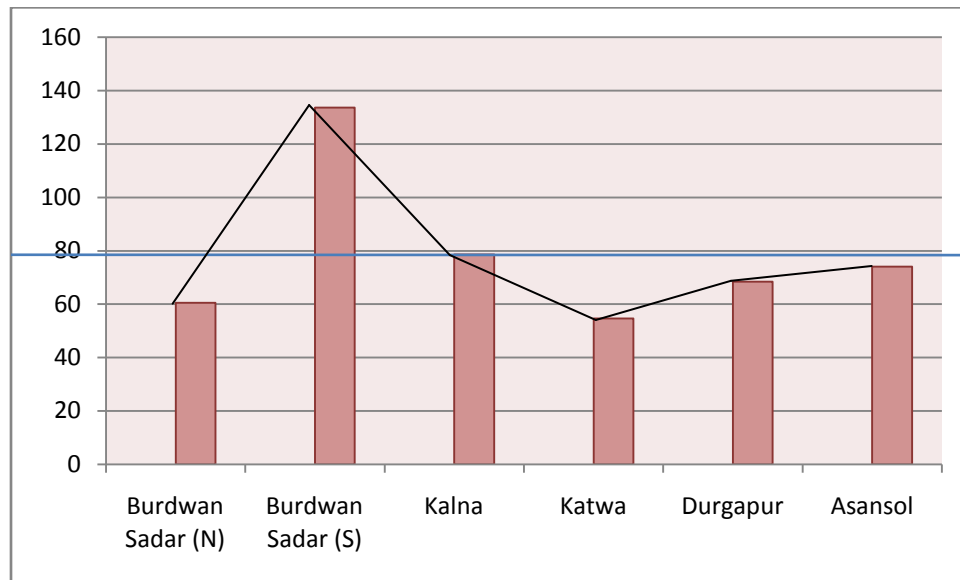
Analysis and interpretation of the data:

In order to understand the socio economic status of tribal people among six sub-divisions in the district of Burewan, West Bengal along with average socio economic status were designed as given in table.

Table2**Showing Average socio economic status of tribal people in the district of Burdwan**

Name of Sub-divisions	Respondents	Average SES score of tribal people
Burdwan Sadar(North)	126	60.58
Burdwan Sadar(South)	128	133.65
Kalna	128	78.65
Katwa	112	54.66
Durgapur	118	68.39
Asansol	154	74.01
Total	766	78.85

Interpretation: Above table indicates the average scores on the socio-economic status (SES). It seems that the rate has increased at Burdwan Sadar (South) as having strong conducive atmosphere of earning livelihood due to flourishing fertile land and more salaried persons etc whereas deplorable SES has been seen at selected areas of Katwa sub-division because it were a fur-flung situated at Adivasi Para, Paligram, Mongalkote Block where prime livelihoods are marginal farmer, day-labourer, contractual labour etc

Figure 1**Showing the average scores on Socio-economic Status of tribal People****Interpretation:**

The figure clearly indicates that trend of the average Socio-economic Status (SES) of tribal people is the highest at Burdwan Sadar (South) ; whereas it is lowest at Katwa sub-division in the district of Burdwan.

Table 3

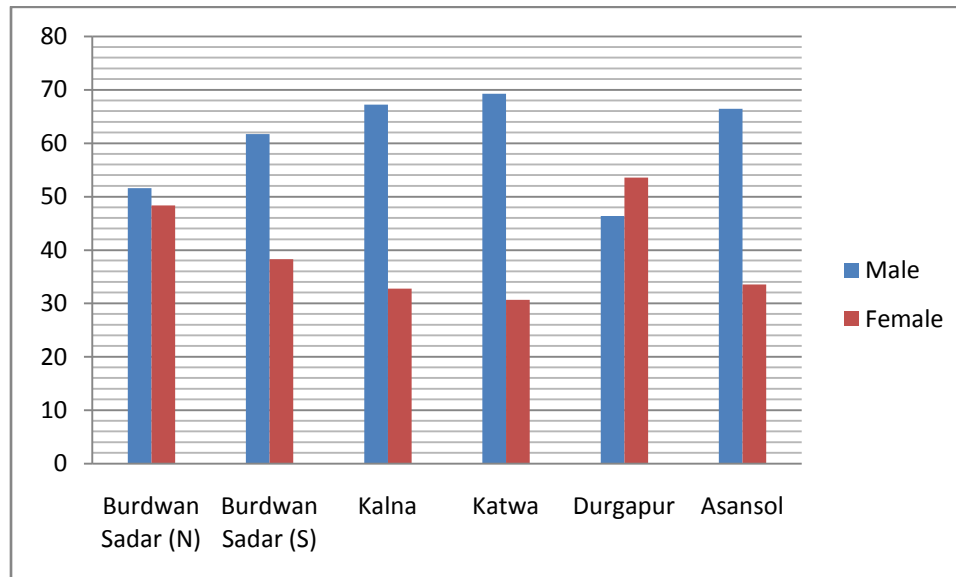
Showing percentage of Socio Economic Status score obtained by males and females of Scheduled Tribe people.

Name of Sub-divisions	Percentage of Socio-economic Status Scores (SES)	
	Male (SES score in percentage)	Female (SES score in percentage)
Burdwan Sadar (North)	51.62	48.38
Burdwan Sadar (South)	61.70	38.30
Kalna	67.22	32.78
Katwa	69.30	30.70
Durgapur	46.40	53.60
Asansol	66.46	33.54
Total	50.72	49.28

Interpretation: Above table indicates the percentage of Socio-economic Status (SES) scores among males and females of Scheduled Tribe people under six sub-divisions in the district of Burdwan. The results reveal SES scores of tribal males differ in a large manner comparatively their female counterpart in all sub-divisions except Durgapur sub-division where female are having highest 53.60% in the district. SES includes sum total indicators of occupation, sources of income, family monthly income, land holding, dwelling house and furniture and other impediments etc.

Figure 2

Showing percentage of Socio-economic Status score obtained by tribal male and female



Interpretation: The above figure indicates the trend of Socio-economic Status (SES) of male and female ST people in six sub-divisions of Burdwan district. The results indicate that in Katwa sub-division, male ST people are having the highest Socio-economic Status (SES); whereas female ST people of Durgapur sub-division are having the highest SES Status.

Analysis of data pertaining to Hypothesis-1

(Ho₁: There is no significant difference of socio-economic status between male and female tribal people.)

The study was also conducted to estimate the effect of Socio-economic Status on Education and aspiration of the tribal male and female in the district of Burdwan. To estimate the significant difference between average socio-economic status among the tribal male-female respondents, method of 't' test has been adopted.

Table 4**Showing difference between male and female tribal people of socio-economic status**

Group	N	Mean	SD	SED	T	Level of Significance
Male	350	86.41	56.42	4.24	3.28	.01
Female	416	72.49	61.09			

Interpretation:- The value of 't' 3.28 is significant at 0.01 level, meaning thereby, male and female tribal people in the district of Burdwan differ significantly about their socio-economic status. Results also indicate that the socio-economic status of male ST people was higher than the female tribal people. Therefore, the gain was in favour of male tribal people. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Analysis of data pertaining to Hypothesis-2

(Ho₂: There is no significant difference in socio economic status of tribal people belongs to different locations.)

The study was conducted to measure and estimate the effect of socio-economic status at rural and urban tribal people in the district of Burdwan. To compare the difference in opinion about socio-economic status among rural and urban tribal people, method of χ^2 test was adopted.

Table 5**Showing difference between rural and urban tribal people towards socio-economic status**

Location	Socio-economic Status				χ^2	Level of Significance
	High	Average	Low	Total		
Rural	16	13	365	394	28.9	.01
Urban	59	17	296	372		
Total	75	30	661	766		

Interpretation: Above table indicates a comparison between tribal people of rural and urban locations on the basis of their attitude score towards socio-economic status. Result indicates that the value of χ^2 28.9 is significant at .01 level, meaning thereby, rural and urban tribal people differ significantly in their attitude towards socio-economic status.

References:

Aggarwal, J.C. (2008). *Teacher and Education in a Developing Society*. Vikas Publishing

House Pvt Ltd. A-22, Sector-4, Noida-201301(U.P.). Fourth Edition.

Brogan, R. (2009). Measurement of SES and various components School outcome and personal SES Relations between School outcome and School SES. Socioeconomic Status www.education.com

Census of India 2011 & Tribal Profile At A Glance 2014.

Chand, J. (1985). *A Comparative Study of Various Mega Tribal Pupils in Relation to Their Self-Perception, Socio-Economic Status, Vocational and Educational Aspirations and Academic Achievement*. Fourth Survey of Research in Education.

Dhargupta, A. et. al. (2009). Study on the Effect of Socioeconomic Parameters on Health Status of the Toto, Santal, Sabar and Lodha Tribes of West Bengal, India. Kamala-Raj 2009. *Stud Tribes Tribals*, 7(1).

Indowu, A.I. and Dere, A.O. (2007). Socio-economic Status and Occupational Aspirations of High School Seniors in Nigeria. *Journal of Educational Counselling*, 20(4).

Mohandas, M. (1992). *Impact of New settler in the Western Ghat Region on the Socio Economic Conditions of the Tribal Population - The case of Wayanad District in Kerala*. Report of the Project sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

Quagliata, T. (2008). Is There a Positive Correlation between Socio-economic Status and Academic Achievement? *Education Masters*. Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. School of Education. Paper 78. St John Fisher College. Fisher Digital Publication.

Rao, V. M. (2002). Socio-economic Status of Tribal Women in Arunachal

Pradesh, Kurukhsetra, Vol. 50, No.2.

Sharma, R.S. (1991). *Education and Planning in India*, Net. Delhi, Anmol publication.

Sinha, B.K.P. and Behra, M. (2009). *Changing Socio-economic Condition and Livelihood of Geographically Isolated Tribal Community in Kandhamal and KBK District of Orissa*. Final Report. Planning Commission, Govt of India, Yojna Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001, India. Pp37.

Soren, L.K. (2015). A Study on the Educational Aspiration of Santal Tribe. *Golden Research Thoughts*. Impact Factor: 3.4052(UIF). ISSN 2231-5063, Volume-5, Issue-4.

Sundararajan, S. and Lilly Epsy Bai (1990). Socio-Economic Status and Occupational Aspirations of the Higher Secondary Leavers. *The Progress of Education*, LXV (4).