



ABSTRACT BOOK

53rd Annual Conference of the Indian Anthropological Society

&

International Seminar on

**‘Man and Environment in India: An Anthropological
Approach to the Development and Welfare over Time and
Space’**

December 15-17, 2023

Organised by

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology & IQAC

Bidhannagar College, EB-2, Sector 1, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700064

Under the Aegis of

THE INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH, NEW DELHI

&

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA, KOLKATA

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY -1 (15.09.2023)		
DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
15.12.2023	9.00 hrs	Registration
15.12.2023	10.00-11:15 hrs	Inauguration (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Welcome Address: Principal, Bidhannagar Govt. College Address by Chief Guest Address by President Indian Anthropological Society Jyotirmoy Chakraborty Award Distribution T.C Roychoudhury Award Distribution Vote of thanks of the Session: Dr. Sankha Priya Guha
15.12.2023	11.15-12.15 hrs	Keynote Address: (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Prof. Rajat Kanti Das Speaker: Prof. P.P. Majumder
15.12.2023	12.15-12.30 hrs	Tea Break
15.12.2023	12.30-13.30 hrs	S.S. Sarkar Memorial Lecture (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Prof. Barun Mukhopadhyay Speaker: Prof. S. Rahim Mondal
15.12.2023	13.30-14.30 hrs	Lunch Break
15.12.2023	14.30-16.30 hrs	Parallel Technical Session 1 (HALL-2 nd FLOOR) Chairperson: Dr. Abhijit Das Invited Speaker: Prof. Sumahan Bandopadhyay Abstract Presentations: 3,6,8,12,15,19,29,30,34
		Parallel Technical Session 2 (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Prof. Arpita Mandal Invited Speaker: Dr. Mithun Das Abstract Presentations: 1,2,4,9,18,20,24,36,61
		Parallel Technical Session 3 (G19) Chairperson: Subhra Bhattacharya Invited Speaker: Dr. Rajat Sanyal Abstract Presentations: 17,23,49,71,75,77,100,108,109
15.12.2023	16:30- 16:45 hrs	Tea Break
15.12.2023	16:45- 18:30 hrs	Parallel Technical Session 4 (HALL-2 nd FLOOR) Chairperson: Sri. Hirendranath Chakraborty Invited Speaker: Prof. Amit Kisku Abstract Presentations: 16,32,33,35,39,40,41,47,56
		Parallel Technical Session 5 (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Dr. Amit Kumar Ghosh Invited Speaker: Dr. Jyoti Ratan Ghosh Abstract Presentations: 44,46,52,54,68,95,97,102
		Parallel Technical Session 6 (G19) Chairperson: Dr. Sutapa Chowdhury Invited Speaker: Sri Avick Biswas Abstract Presentations: 122, 57,58,59,60,69,79,82,84,86

DAY -2 (16.09.2023)			
DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME	
16.12.2023	10:00-12:00 hrs	Chairperson: Prof. A. R. Bandopadhyay Invited Speakers: Prof. K. Thangaraj (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Prof. Sudip Dutta Banick and Prof. Susmita Mukhopadhyay	
	12:00-12:15 hrs.	Tea	
	12:15-14:15 hrs.	Chairperson: Prof. Ranjana Roy (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Invited Speakers: Prof. Grazyna Liczbinska, Prof. Biswanath Sarkar, Prof. Sarit Chowdhury	
	14.15-15.00 hrs	Lunch Break	
	15.00-17:00 hrs		Parallel Technical Session 7 (HALL-2 nd FLOOR) Chairperson: Dr Kanchan Mukhopadhyay Invited Speaker: Dr. Suman Nath (118). Dr. Subhamoy Kisku (119) Abstract Presentations:45,48,55,57,70,74,76,78,87
			Parallel Technical Session 8 (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Prof. Subrata Roy Invited Speaker: Dr. Gopal Chandra Mondal (121) Abstract Presentations: 5,21,65,66,67,80,81,98
Parallel Technical Session 9 (G19) Chairperson: Dr. Chumki Piplai Invited Speaker: Dr. Debasish Kumar Mandal Abstract Presentations:101,104,105,106,107,110,111,112,114			
16.12.2023	17:00- 17-15 hrs	Tea Break	
16.12.2023	17:15- 18:45 hrs	Parallel Technical Session 10 (HALL-2 nd FLOOR) Chairperson: Dr. Amitava Sarkar (G19) Invited Speaker: Dr. Abhradip Banerjee (94) Abstract Presentations: 90, 91,92,93,96,99,113	
		Parallel Technical Session 11 (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Dr. Nabakumar Duari Invited Speaker: Dipak Piplai (88) Abstract Presentations: 7,26,27,28,37,38,50,53	
		Parallel Technical Session 12 (G19) Chairperson: Prof Premananda Bharati (BOARD ROOM) Invited Speaker: Dr. Sudipta Ghosh (72) Abstract Presentations: 10, 31,43,85, 89,103, 115	

DAY -3 (17.09.2023)		
DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
17.12.2023	10.00-11.30 hrs	Chairperson: Dr. Goutam Bera (HALL-1 ST FLOOR) Invited Speakers: Prof. Md. Golam Hossain and Dr. Md. Abdul Wadood
17.12.2023	11:30-11:45 hrs	Tea Break
17.12.2023	11.45-13.00 hrs	Panel Discussion by Prof. S.B. Ray (IBRAD) (G19)
		Parallel Technical Session 13 Chairperson: Prof. Kaushik Sankar Bose (HALL 1ST FLOOR) Invited Speaker: Dr. Suman Chakrabarty Abstract Presentations: 11, 13,14,63,64
		Parallel Technical Session 14 Chairperson: Dr. Bidhan Kanti Das (G19) Abstract Presentations:22,25,42,51,62.
17.12.2023	13.00-14.00 hrs	Lunch Break
17.12.2023	14.00-15.30 hrs	Valedictory session (HALL 1 ST FLOOR) Chairperson: Dr. S. B. Chakraborty valedictory address: Prof. Subho Roy Vote of thanks: Prof. Subir Biswas, General Secretary, Indian Anthropological Society

Keynote Address

CELEBRATING HUMAN DIVERSITY TO ATTAIN "PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS"

Partha P. Majumder

National Science Chair, Government of India

The United Nations has stated in introduction to the Sustainable Development Goal # 16 that (a) Disrespecting or looking down on our differences is the basis of most conflicts – disruption of peace; (b) Disrespecting or looking down on our differences brings injustice ... we are “superior” to them; hence we must enjoy higher “privileges” ... root of injustice, and (c) Institutions are created as a collective ... by people and for people ... disruption of peace and injustice weakens institutions. We are revealed and make ourselves known to one another by the diversity of our looks, i.e., physical features – complexion, height, etc.; gender; language; culture; and, values. The first step in the attainment of SDG-16 is to recognize that diversity is to be celebrated and to recognise that we have a common heritage in spite of the diversity. In this lecture, I shall provide a narrative of the ancestries and the genetical heritage of population groups of India and justify why the diversity of populations is to be celebrated.

S.S. Sarkar Memorial Lecture

A PLEA FOR NEW TEACHING AND UNDERSTANDING OF ANTHROPOLOGY IN INDEPENDENT INDIA FOR THE SERVICE OF NATION - THE DEMANDS OF THE OF THE TIME

Sekh Rahim Mondal

(formerly of) Dept. of Anthropology & Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India

Adhyapak Sasanka Sekhar Sarkar is a legendary architect of anthropology in India. The path breaking researches conducted by him has given a unique shape of the discipline. His methods of teaching and concerns for the discipline for service of the nation as a humanist anthropologist is still a reference to many. His works are still considered as the milestones in anthropological studies of our country. He was the man who thought for role of Anthropology in human and social welfare. His ideas around the discipline for the service of nation are eye openings. Sarkar's ideas and works were much more ahead of times. The legacies what he left before us may open a new field of review research on " Anthropology in India: Before and after S. S. Sarkar. This may give us some new directions of studies and research for upholding the discipline for dealing with the contemporary challenges as well as the opportunities.

Through this deliberation the author sincerely pays his tribute towards such a reverend teacher and scholar who taught and fought for going beyond the line of stereotypes and mainstreaming in anthropology.

Apparently, the subject of Anthropology advocates for scientific and holistic study of humankind for all periods, all times, all societies and all places. But for several reasons it has taken different shapes of unique natures in course of its history of development in the hands of both powers and practitioners. However, due to several challenges and circumstances there has been a gradual shifts in the discipline not only in its objectives of study and research, but also in its theories, concepts and methodology.

The present era of 21st. century has given the birth of a New Social Order, which has made significant changes both in natural as well as social and cultural environments to a large extent. Under such emerging contexts conventional mainstream anthropology confronting with three prime issues i.e., relevance, representation and identity of the discipline on ethical and moral grounds, the study of "others" and "on the people" are now been seriously questioned from several corner. The issues of social responsibilities of the social scientists and their roles in social well beings of common masses and nation as well are gaining grounds. The paradoxical realities are that, in one hand human beings and societies at large have much advanced to day in the realms of modern science, technology, medicine and in other arenas, which we proudly designated as "development". While on the other hand, there has been a gradual loss of human values and essence of human life what has pushed the mankind in post human stage. Moreover , the effects

of so called development has negatively impacted both the natural and social worlds of recent times. Under such emerging forces the role of Anthropology has immense value.

Under this back drop the present discourse will highlight the role of anthropology in changing contexts of contemporary times. Special emphasis shall be given in this deliberation on the transformation process that are being taking place in Anthropology, more particularly in social and cultural sub fields of this discipline. Some awkward questions relating to anthropological teaching and learning shall also be raised in this deliberation. It is argued that critical thinking is the most important for giving a new shape of anthropology for facing the contemporary challenges and use of opportunities.

This discourse is based on both book and field views, supported by the author's own experiences of research and teaching in the fields of Anthropology and allied disciplines for over four decades.

This deliberation got tremendous impetus from the legacies left by Adhyapak Sarkar.

Abstract 1

FOOD CONSUMPTION PRACTICES AND NUTRITIONAL HEALTH: A STUDY BASED ON THE LODHA TRIBAL WOMEN OF JHARGRAM DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

Juni Ghosh and Biswajit Pal

Department of Rural Studies, West Bengal State University, Barasat, West Bengal, India

Nutritional status is an essential component of an individual's health condition which is influenced by the intake, absorption and utilization of nutrients. A good nutritional status is maintained by the healthier food consumption practices which depend on various factors, majorly on the availability, affordability and acceptability of food. Lodha tribes are the largest Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of West Bengal, India who are more underprivileged than other tribes and among them women are deprived more.

Present research has been undertaken to study the impact of food consumption practices on nutritional status among the women of Lodha tribes of Jhargram district of West Bengal.

A cross-sectional study has been conducted on randomly selected 80 adult Lodha tribal women of aged between 18 to 49 years by a pre tested structured interview schedule from purposely selected two adjacent blocks, Binpur I and Binpur II in Jhargram district.

The result indicates that more than half of the respondents had a good nutritional status still the cases of undernourished women (35%) were not less. The study also revealed a significant association (<0.05) between the age and monthly family income of the study population with BMI, as BMI increased by increasing respondents' age and family income. Lodha women who earned more take more meal a day and food consumption practices are better than others. Respondents with average Food Consumption Score (36-45) with 9 food groups had significantly normal BMI. Adequate intake of vegetables, fruits, pulses and flesh foods had a significant impact (<0.05) to Ideal BMI scale.

Food consumption practices of tribal women largely depend on socio-economic condition and income level. Lodha women are practicing of affecting consumption of naturally available nutritional foods which are majorly responsible for this high level good nutritional status. Side by side young women are exposed to unhealthy food practices resulting to less BMI. Regular health education, awareness, health care services along with economic wellbeing can improve the situation towards the healthy Lodha community.

Keywords: Lodha tribes, tribal women, nutritional status, food consumption practices, BMI.

Abstract 2

P53 AND POISED RISK FOR BREAST CANCER

Abhishikta Ghosh Roy¹ and Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay²

¹Physical Anthropology Division, Anthropological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India

²Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal

Mutations in the p53 gene are relatively common in breast cancer and are associated with more aggressive forms of the disease. Breast cancer has been made the most prevalent disease due to its high incidence and good prognosis. Globally, there are numerous mutations reported and found

associated with the breast cancer incidence. But there is a lacuna of data among the breast cancer patients from eastern India. The present study tried to understand the spectrum of mutations in p53 gene among the female breast cancer patients. A total of 110 patients and 150 controls were screened for exons 5-7 of p53 gene by direct sequencing. The results did not reflect any mutation or polymorphism in the studied cohort. The study therefore envisaged that mutations in exons 5-7 of p53 gene are rare causes of breast cancer among the female Breast Cancer patients from West Bengal, India. The presence of p53 mutations in breast cancer cells can be used as a diagnostic marker and is associated with a poorer prognosis. Tumours with p53 mutations may be more resistant to certain treatments.

Keywords: Tumour suppressor gene, mutation, breast cancer, Bengalee.

Abstract 3

THE CULTURES AND CONTRA-CULTURES: A STUDY OF DISASTERS IN COASTAL ODISHA

Prasant Kumar Sahoo

Department of Anthropology, F. M. Autonomous College, Balasore, Odisha, India

Cultures don't maintain the status quo and are therefore obliged to change. It may divide or juxtapose or even evolve to a new cultural arena through acculturation or assimilation. Hence, in the process of cultural evolution and the subsequent behavioural repercussions, cultures segregate creating 'sub-cultures' or 'mono-cultures'. Within these sub-cultures, the addition of new traits can lead to the changes for the not so good as well as changes for the good. The questionable asymmetries are so frequent that they take the shape of permanency and become 'contra-cultures' – 'less benign sub-culture working against those aspects of common culture usually regarded as beneficial or good'. While discussing the contra-cultures, nothing can be the best time to portrait the actuality of individuals or communities than withstanding hazards. It may reflect the sub-cultures of unity, harmony, altruism and symmetries or may expose the sub-culture of difference, parasitism, vested interests and asymmetries. This paper, with the help of some case studies from coastal Odisha, critically analyses the disaster sub-cultures at micro levels and finds that some sub-cultures are more resilient than others against the vagaries of nature. It is also found that these sub-national elements possessing and practicing their traditional knowledge systems and culturally suitable traits prove to be advantageous as well as adaptive. On other hand, there are sub-cultures that succumb to the uncertainties of nature due to the community's inherent vulnerabilities, both cultural and physical. The paper thus critically concludes with the fact that contra-cultural elements like discriminations based on gender, caste, creed and color, denial of access to resources, corrupt siphoning of public money, self-centeredness etc. can persuade the culture to be more vulnerable to disasters by controlling its ethics and governance system. This makes the disaster mitigation and management more miserable and virtually reduces the community's position back to zero.

Keywords: Sub-culture, contra-culture, culture, disaster, coastal Odisha.

Abstract 4

QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF FACTORS INFLUENCING HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOR AMONG TRIBAL MOTHERS

Robert A Shimray

Department of Anthropology, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India

The field of medical anthropology has shown a longstanding interest in examining the behaviour of individuals seeking health-related services. This paper provides valuable knowledge about the cultural and social aspects that shape health and well-being. We gain a deeper understanding of healthcare practices by studying how people approach healthcare and the underlying reasons for their actions. This understanding enables us to develop more effective healthcare policies and interventions. Additionally, studying health-seeking behaviour helps us identify the obstacles and enable us to access healthcare services. It also allows

us to comprehend how cultural beliefs and practices influence health outcomes. Ultimately, this knowledge helps us create healthcare interventions that are culturally responsive and impactful. Study Area: The paper explores the health-seeking behaviour of the tribal mothers of Rüzazho village, Phek district, Nagaland. Method: The study was conducted among 89 mothers aged 23 to 70, selected using a snowball sampling method for three months. The data was collected through a systematically prepared interview schedule that included questions on the demographic profile of the mothers, types of diseases suffered in the last 1-2 years, treatment choices, place of childbirth, and prenatal and postnatal treatment. Findings: The study found that the health-seeking behaviour of Rüzazho's women was shaped by their social, cultural, and individual perceptions, experience, and interpretation of the disease.

Keywords: Tribal mothers, health-seeking behaviour, disease, faith healers, biomedical doctors, popular treatment.

Abstract 5

A BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY TO UNDERSTAND IF THERE IS A RELATION BETWEEN PRIMARY FINGERPRINT PATTERNS AND BLOOD GROUP IN HUMANS

Saba Farhin

Post-graduation Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

The 3 primary fingerprint patterns i.e., Arch, Loop, and Whorl which consist of distinctive features are formed during the early stages of foetal development and remain unchanged throughout a person's life. On the other hand, the inheritance of the ABO blood grouping system follows a specific genetic pattern.

The relationship between fingerprint pattern and blood group has been studied extensively, and this paper aims to provide an overview of the research conducted in this field. The present study was intended to understand if there is any relationship between the frequency of certain fingerprint pattern type and ABO blood groups and also if any specific fingerprint pattern that is more common in individuals with certain blood groups.

Among the 50 female students within the age range 18-25 years old, of Bidhannagar College, Kolkata; blood samples and their fingerprints were collected as data.

The data collected showed that the loop fingerprint pattern most commonly occurred in blood groups A+ and B+. The data was statistically analysed by the CHI SQUARE test where CHI SQUARE VALUE= 27.719, DF= 12, P VALUE= 0.00607999.

The result is significant at $p < 0.05$; which rejects the Null Hypothesis and accepting the Alternative Hypothesis that there is relation between the frequency of certain fingerprint pattern type and ABO blood groups.

Keywords: Fingerprint pattern, latent prints, ABO blood group, identification, gender.

Abstract 6

BRIDGES BETWEEN ETHNOMEDICINE AND ALLOPATHIC MEDICINE: AN EMPIRICAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY AMONGST THE SANTALS SETTLED IN TWO DIFFERENT ECOZONES OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Suman Ghosh¹ and Sankha Priya Guha²

¹Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, West Bengal, India

²Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

The coexistence and dynamic interaction between ethnomedicine and allopathic medicine in tribal communities have a complex relationship. The interconnectedness between the two in tribal cultures recognizes that ethnomedicine, being deeply rooted in cultural norms, spirituality and traditional knowledge, often serves as the primary healthcare system. Simultaneously, allopathic medicine, with its scientific underpinnings and advanced technologies, offers vital interventions for critical cases and emergency situations. The intricate dynamics of knowledge exchange and adaptation between the two medical systems have exhibited varying degrees of integration between ethnomedicine and allopathic medicine, as some

communities embrace cross-cultural dialogue and incorporate allopathic practices into their ethnomedical frameworks. Conversely, others actively resist external medical interventions, perceiving them as a threat to their cultural identity and autonomy.

This empirical study explores the interplay between ethnomedicine and allopathic medicine within the Santal communities inhabiting distinct ecological zones in West Bengal, India. Focusing on two specific regions, namely the Susunia hill area in the Bankura district (an ecological dry zone) and the Mousuni island in the South 24 Parganas district (an ecological wet zone), the research investigates the coexisting relationship between ethnomedicine and allopathic medicine by employing a rigorous anthropological approach involving first-hand fieldwork.

Keywords: Ethnomedicine, allopathic medicine, healthcare system, medical pluralism.

Abstract 7

THE MATUAS: ELECTORAL POLITICS FOR CLAIMING IDENTITY

Abhra Ghosal and Kaushik Bhattacharya

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Suppressed for long, autonomous Dalit politics is finding its voice in West Bengal through the organisational strength of the Matua Mahasangha. Claiming for identity in the domain of minority complex, practice in caste in West Bengal received huge political attention after the collapse of the long-standing Left Front regime in 2011. The emergence of Matua Mahasangha as the frontal organisation of the lower-caste Matua community since 2007-08 with their specific demands regarding citizenship, caste certificates among many others, however, had disturbed the urban, upper-caste hegemony over local politics at a considerable level, as well as, had introduced a new politics of mediation in rural West Bengal. This paper tries to throw light particularly on this issue. The Matuas, being a solid vote conglomerate under the leadership of the Mahasangha, introduced the caste question in the public domain of political activities. The politics of bargain have been a beneficial process for both the Matuas and the All-India Trinamool Congress-led state government. The prime opposition in the state legislative assembly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), also adopted a similar political strategy by playing similar game in electoral politics. This paper will try to show how the lower syncretic Matua sect had been involved in the mainstream politics and had challenged the upper-caste dominance. The major issues under observation are – How does the Matua Mahasangha get the identity as the frontal organisation of Matua community? How does the contemporary ruling political party, All India Trinamool Congress put influence on Matua Mahasangha? And finally, how does Hindutva, the Hindu Nationalism, fan the fuel for claiming Matuas' political identity through electoral politics?

Keywords: Dalit politics, Matua Mahasangha, minority complex, identity politics, Hindutva.

Abstract 8

RELATION BETWEEN RIGHT TO HEALTH, STRESS & HEALTH OF MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

C Janarthan and Ahrar Ahmad Lone

Department of SHSS, Sharda University, Noida, Delhi, India

The Author had associated with migrant construction workers in his long career and witnessed various problems faced by them and they were subjected to continuous problems including health-related problems, hence he was, he was compelled to study their problem in detail after superannuation and continued his research (PhD) into the life events and human rights violations of migrant construction workers.

In this particular article he is analysing one of the important stressful life events i.e., health and related issues of migration construction workers. He further analysing the Relation between stressful life events i.e., health with Right to Health & Stress. The conclusion is as under: 1. Migrated construction workers subjected to various Health issues which is a stressful life event. Various Studies demonstrates that there is a positive correlation between Stressful life events and illnesses. 2. In spite of provisions exists in Indian constitution

and international treaties and best of their efforts, violations of human rights i.e. Right to Health is taking place as understood from earlier studies. 3. It is the responsibility of all concerned particularly officers, Engineers, supervisors who deal with workers directly on day-to-day basis and enforcement officer responsible for implementation, to ensure the right to life of migrated construction workers are protected, Prevention of the violation Right to life which will result in improvement in the health of workers.

Keywords: Migrant construction workers, health-related issues, stressful life events, right to health, human rights violations.

Abstract 9

PREVALENCE AND PREDICTORS OF MULTIMORBIDITY AMONG THE ELDERLY OF PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, INDIA: A RURAL-URBAN COMPARISON

Samarpita Koley¹ and Sovanjan Sarkar²

¹Ghatal Sub-divisional Hospital, Ghatal, Paschim Midnapore, India

²Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Rangamati, India

Multimorbidity (MM) can be explained as the occurrence of two or more disorders in a single point in time in an individual. During the last couple of decades or more, multimorbidity is turning into a major medical issue for both, individuals and health care providers. Few studies have identified some possible risk factors of multimorbidity such as increasing age, low socioeconomic status, increasing disability and distress, sex and occupation. The principal aim of the present study is to see the prevalence of multimorbidity and to identify its significant predictor(s) among the Bengali speaking Hindu population of Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal in a rural-urban comparative manner. The present cross-sectional study has been conducted among 1000 randomly chosen individuals of both sexes aged 50 years and above from the rural and urban settings of Paschim Medinipur district. The socioeconomic profile and morbidity related data were collected by using a pretested structured questionnaire. The result of the present study demonstrated that the prevalence of different groups of chronic diseases is predominantly higher among the rural people, irrespective of sex. Fried food, stress, type of family, educational status, family income, daily activity pattern, consumption of various types of food are found to be the significant determinants of multimorbidity. In conclusion, the present cross-sectional study suggests that rural people are unaware about the healthy lifestyle and were also suffering from chronic diseases than their urban counterparts.

Keywords: Multimorbidity, lifestyle, elderly, rural-urban, Midnapore, India.

Abstract 10

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SOCIAL-CULTURE IN SEMI-URBAN PEOPLE IN ASHOKNAGAR, DISTRICT OF NORTH 24PGS, WEST BENGAL

Swapan Kumar Sardar and Apu Gharami

Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra, India

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most substantial recent challenges facing social-culture and business in semi-urban people. It has generated health concerns as well as an unprecedented social and economic crisis which has particularly hit service industries hard and caused a problem. The COVID-19 pandemic is very different from other forms of crisis (e.g., financial, political) because it has had a significant overall impact on all businesses, organizations, creative workers and users. It is a health crisis which specifically impacts both the outdoor and indoor leisure industries. Overall, COVID-19 has significantly altered the social fabric of society. The present study was conducted on Ashoknagar semi-urban area in the district of north 24 pgs. This study tries to observe the social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and identifies the affected social areas that have undergone dramatic changes during the pandemic, such as education, economic activity, health, recreation, food habits, communication and life style etc. The current study shows that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on semi-urban people is very significant. Changes have been observed in people's daily lives. In the same way, it has been seen that the Covid-19 pandemic was able to

change the health system, communication system, education system, lifestyle, food habits, social rituals and political activity in the semi-urban peoples.

Keywords: Social-culture, semi-urban, COVID-19, pandemic, impact.

Abstract 11

MALNUTRITION ASSESSED BY MINI NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL AMONG INDIAN ELDERLY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Uposoma Dey

Department of Anthropology, IGNOU, Kolkata, India

Overall health and nutritional status of elderly population of India is not satisfactory. Objective: Present systematic review was conducted to determine the overall occurrence of malnutrition of Indian elderly and furthermore attempted to find out the underlying causes of malnutrition.

Present review considered published article reported malnutrition of elderly as assessed by mini nutritional assessment (MNA) tool. Thus, literature searching, screening and data synthesis was made and recorded following preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) protocol. All published literature looked through utilizing the accompanying keywords. The MedCalc software was applied to estimate the overall prevalence of malnutrition by using meta-analysis statistical method.

Thirty of 147 articles were included in this analysis. Overall mean MNA scores was 19.47 ± 4.17 . Study found overall prevalence of malnutrition among elderly was 17.93% (95% CI: 14.23-21.84). The prevalence of malnutrition was significantly higher in rural elderly (21.67%, 95% CI: 16.44-27.40) than urban (14.23%, 95% CI: 10.02-19.05) elderly of India. Rural elderly more likely to be 1.8 (OR: 1.76; CI: 1.56-1.99) times greater chance to be developed malnutrition than the urban elderly. Moreover, present study estimated that about 18.6 million Indian elderly population was malnourished and expected to be 22 million by 2021 due to elderly population growth, morbidity, poverty and joblessness by COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the expansion of elderly malnutrition in future, there is felt need a special nutrition intervention programme for the rural elderly population. Thus, a dedicated geriatric friendly nutrition rehabilitation centre (GFNRC) may be setup at every community development block of India.

Keywords: Elderly, malnutrition, meta-analysis, MNA, India

Abstract 12

GENDER NEUTRALITY IN TODAY'S CONTEMPORARY FASHION: A SOCIOLOGICAL ORNAMENTATION

Chaitali Datta

Department of Sociology, Amity Institute of Social Sciences, Amity University, Noida, Delhi, India

FASHION is defined way beyond simply wearing clothes. Fashion is associated with words like trending, styling, elegance, personal clothing taste, comfort, and wearable. Fashion is not just clothing; that includes jewellery, make-up, hair styling, and more.

Often, fashion is divided into two types regarding the aspect of gender – Female fashion and male fashion. Whether it is the question of clothes with colour, jewellery style, clothing styles, hairstyles, or wearing makeup, there was a boundary between masculine and feminist. One reason is that even in fashion, society has set a specific boundary for the two genders, i.e., male and female.

The fashion industry proliferates in this contemporary society because of digitalization, social media, and globalization. Fashion is changeable according to time, place, and purpose. With the development and change in the society, fashion is now advancing. There can be open visual gender neutrality in the fashion society. Unisex fashion has been trending among the present generation, and society has also accepted this change.

The inquisitive objective of this study is to bring the light upon- 1. Is there any concept of gender neutrality in fashion in today's contemporary society? 2. If there is the concept of gender neutrality in today's fashion,

then what are the social reasons behind this influence, and how it has affected society? 3. Exactly who is accepting and how much there is acceptance of gender neutrality by people as a part of the large society?

This is a qualitative study where the data is mainly extracted from secondary sources such as published articles, posts from social media platforms, the internet, online magazines, different online shopping sites, and observations done during visits to shopping malls and marketplaces.

Keywords: Fashion, gender neutrality, unisex, trending, society.

Abstract 13

CHANGING PATTERNS OF LIVELIHOOD: A STUDY OF THE CHENCHUS OF NALLAMALA FOREST OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Sagar Kodi and Valerie Dkhar

Department of Anthropology, Pondicherry University, R.V. Nagar, Kalapet, Puducherry, India

Chenchus, traditionally a hunting and gathering tribe native to the Nallamala forest of Andhra Pradesh, are spread over in small habitations over the western and southern stretches of the Nallamala ranges, mostly in isolated groups. Nallamala forest is diverse and biodiversity-rich because it receives heavy rainfall between June and September. The Chenchu's livelihood, subsistence in nature, is heavily dependent on the flora and fauna of this forest. They collect roots, tubers, leaves, fruits, and vegetables and hunt small game like deer, rabbits, squirrels, and quails. Scouring the jungle for natural resources for survival, they became experts in locating food sources and identifying edible and medicinal plants. However, the commercial exploitation of the forest began rapidly, increasing inroads into the woods as they watched helplessly. In 1978, the Nagarjuna Sagar Sanctuary was set up within Nallamala Forest and upgraded to Tiger Reserve Forest in 1983. This led to imposing certain restrictions, such as a ban on grazing, hunting, developmental works such as roads and buildings, and displacement and relocation of the Chenchu hamlets outside the Reserve. In 2006, the Government of India launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) of 100 days of work throughout India, including tribal areas. Chenchus, who are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), came under the Special Chenchu Project. Thus, this paper attempts to critically analyse the change and continuity in the livelihood patterns of the Chenchus in the Nallamala Forest of Andhra Pradesh.

Keywords: Chenchus, livelihoods, tiger reserve, relocation, new economic opportunities, change and continuity.

Abstract 14

TABOOS AMONG INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR ECOLOGY AND CULTURE OF BIRJIA TRIBE: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY

Vivek Kumar

Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, India

Indigenous knowledge has long been connected with cultural practices and land stewardship, making it a priceless repository of holistic wisdom built up over many generations. However, taboo barriers frequently prevent the inclusion of these conventional practices in contemporary discourse. There are many different aspects to the dynamics surrounding taboo subjects concerning indigenous knowledge. Birjia tribe belongs to PVTG in the state of Jharkhand with a rich cultural heritage and possesses a unique body of knowledge that reflects their deep connection to the natural world. They have developed a distinctive body of knowledge that reflects their close ties to nature. Birjia's interactions with their surroundings, their social ties, and their spiritual beliefs are significantly shaped by different kinds of taboos.

Drawing from ethnographic research and oral traditions, this study delves into the multifaceted dimensions of taboo relations within the Birjia tribe. It examines how certain places, plants, animals, and practices are designated as taboo and therefore regarded as sacred or forbidden. The analysis highlights the intricate web of ecological and cultural significance that underpins these taboos. This abstract explores the taboos in the context of the indigenous knowledge system of the Birjia tribe and the concept of taboo relations within the

context of the indigenous knowledge system. It plays a significant role in shaping the Birjia's interactions with their environment, their social relationships, and their spiritual beliefs. This study explores the complex facets of taboo relationships within the Birjia tribe, drawing on oral traditions and anthropological research.

Keywords: Birjia, taboo, indigenous knowledge, ecology, Latehar.

Abstract 15

ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, & HEALTH: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON ENVIRONMENT-CONTROLLED ETHNOMEDICINAL USAGE IN DISTINCT ECOZONE OF TIPLIGHERI IN SUNDARBAN DELTA IN SOUTH 24 PARGANAS

Imran Nazir and Sankha Priya Guha

Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

With sheer advancement in the field of modern medicine, healing & treatment processes of various ailments of mankind has dramatically changed. As these advancements occur within their pace within famously known "allopathic" type of treatment methods in the field of medical science, the knowledge of traditional healing practises & ethnomedicinal treatment processes of tribal communities also undergone changes. Traditional healing practises are considered as the most applied method of treatment in case of any ailment that is emerged within the tribal communities. As these are applied ethnomedicinal practises of tribal communities are diverse and useful it is important to understand how these traditional practises have changed with respect to time, space and environment.

The aim of the empirical study on "Environment, Space, & Health: An empirical study on environment-controlled ethnomedicinal usage in distinct ecozones of Tipligheri in Sundarban delta in South 24 Parganas" is to investigate and understand the relationship between the environment, space, and health practices of the Munda communities residing in this distinct ecological zone.

The empirical study aims to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern science by exploring the interplay of environment, space, and health practices. The study aims to understand traditional ethnomedicinal practices in Tipligheri, contributing to the understating of valuable traditional knowledge related to medicinal plants and healing methods of the Munda community.

The methods applied in this study are interview, open-ended questions. Observation, case studies, qualitative and quantitative methods are applied as well.

Within the study it has been concluded that environmental conditions, the space of habitat, absolutely have a staggering effect towards the health status and treatment methods of the Munda tribal community in both the villages. It has also been observed and established that the changes in the treatment methods occur due to environmental conditions. The tribal community apply their traditional healing methods in their lives.

Keywords: Medical anthropology, tribal health, traditional healing methods, Sundarbans, environment.

Abstract 16

HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT INFLUENCING TRIBAL LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD: A STUDY AMONG THE RABHAS LIVING UNDER CHILAPATA RANGE IN ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT, W.B.

Suchismita Sen Chowdhury

Department of Anthropology, Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith, Birati, Kolkata, India

Several communities in India depend on the forest for livelihood. But in recent times the symbiotic relationship between the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the forest has been threatened by human-animal conflict situation. Forest provides them food. But restricted entry into forest creates economic uncertainty. Human-animal conflict creates hindrance for conservation of the forest.

Objectives of the present study are to explore the cause and effect of human-animal conflict situation influencing life and livelihood of the tribal people living near forest areas and to find out a suitable solution.

Recorded forest land in West Bengal constituted 13.38% of the total geographical area of the state. Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts together had 45.98% area under forest coverage (Govt. of West Bengal,

2015). The three major reserve forests under Alipurduar district are Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR), Chilapata Reserve Forest and Jaldapara Wild Life Sanctuary. These regions are inhabited by a numbers of different ST groups. The Rabhas are one of the oldest settlers of this region. The present study was done among the Rabhas living near Chilapata forest with a focus on human-animal conflict situation. Primary data has been collected through field work in two villages under Chilapata Range. Purposively selected Rabha men and women were interviewed using structured schedule. Focus group discussions were conducted.

People of this area face problems like loss of crops, loss of domesticated animals, destruction of house by the elephants and injury or death due to animal attack. Several reasons have been identified for increasing human-animal conflict in the studied area. An invisible tug of war continues between the Forest Department and STs regarding use of forest. The department is less aware about the belief system of the Rabhas. The social organisation and nature-man-spirit complex followed by them can lead to formulate conservation strategies.

Keywords: Human-animal conflict, conservation, the Rabha.

Abstract 17

A STUDY OF PREHISTORIC SITE DESTRUCTION OF KHASIDIH OF JHARKHAND AND THE SUGGESTIVE CONSERVATION MODEL

Subhadeep Saha and Debasis Kumar Mondal

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Prehistoric sites hold invaluable clues to our human past. It sheds light on the cultures and environments of our ancestors. However, these archaeological heritage sites are gradually destroyed due to natural processes, human activities, and modern development.

The present paper focuses on the causes and the challenges associated with prehistoric site destruction and finding an alternative conservation plan to mitigate these threats and preserve our shared heritage for future generations.

The present study has been performed in the prehistoric site Khasidih in the Galudih region of Jharkhand. The data has been collected from primary sources as well as secondary sources. The primary data have been collected through fieldwork including intensive and extensive exploration of sites and observation, whereas the secondary sources are existing literature reviews, books, and reports.

The destruction of prehistoric sites is an urgent global concern to address this issue effectively, a set of guidelines has been recommended to employ heritage conservation sustainable.

Keywords: Prehistoric site destruction, cultural heritage, natural and man-made destruction, recommended plan for conservation.

Abstract 18

ETHNIC VARIATION ON STUNTING AND ITS CONCOMITANT FACTORS AMONG THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN OF PURULIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Shiule Gope and Sadaruddin Biswas

Public Health and Nutrition Research Unit, Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, India

Malnutrition is a universal problem that has many forms. Approximately 149 million children under 5 suffer from stunting, and 45 million suffer from wasting (FAO, 2020).

To determine ethnic, age, and sex variations in the prevalence of stunting. It also attempted to establish the relationship between stunting and its concomitant factors.

This cross-sectional study was undertaken in three blocks of Purulia district among preschool children of two distinctive ethnic groups (Kurmi and Sabar). A total of 701 (boys-372; girls-329) preschool children were measured, comprising both ethnic groups, Kurmi (377) and Sabar (324), within the age group of 1–5 years. The nutritional status of the children was evaluated based on height using WHO-recommended cut-off values (WHO, 2006).

The overall (sex-combined) prevalence of stunting was 43.8% among Kurmi and 75.0% among Sabar preschool children. Birth weight (BW) ($\chi^2 = 27.29$, $p < 0.001$), Colostrum taking status (CS) ($\chi^2 = 18.75$, $p < 0.001$), number of siblings (NS) ($\chi^2 = 18.9$, $d p > 0.001$), and birth order (BO) ($\chi^2 = 15.95$, $p < 0.001$) were significantly associated with the prevalence of stunting. Logistic regression analyses revealed that BW strongly predicted stunting among Kurmi boys (Wald = 16.08, $p < 0.001$). CS strongly predicted stunting, irrespective of sex and ethnic groups. Kurmi girls with \geq second sibs had a significantly higher risk (OR = 3.28, CI = 1.42–7.58) of stunting than those with one sib. Similarly, Kurmi girls with \geq 3rd BO had a significantly higher risk (OR = 2.73, CI = 1.09–6.80) of stunting than those with \leq 2nd BO.

This study revealed that stunting was very high among the studied preschool children, and Sabar children were more stunted than their neighbouring (Kurmi) children. It was also revealed that different socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics were significant predictors of stunting. Therefore, the authorities should take a proper ethnic-specific nutritional intervention programme; ethnic-specific health awareness should be promoted to optimize the adverse effects of socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics on the stunting status of Sabar and Kurmi children in the Purulia district.

Keywords: Ethnic, variation, stunting, predictors, West Bengal, India

Abstract 19

MULTIGYMS: IT'S STRUCTURE AND ROLE IN THE PHYSICAL-CULTURE AMONG THE YOUTHS—A SOCIAL-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL

Koushik Paul, Debjani Bhattacharya and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata, India

Physical and mental health of people is a natural state of a population caused by normal functioning of all its biological and domestic as well as socio – cultural systems. Physical culture is a special and complex social phenomenon, which is not limited to the solution of bio – physical development and implementation of all kinds of social activities, which shows its health, cultural importance with regard to the system of economy, education and recreation. The rising trend of participation in physical culture in the present day is a movement which dates back to the 19th century Western countries. Physical culture, the trend as system today is a structured and mostly institutionalized exercise programme which are organised by different clubs, associations, offices, Universities and colleges, popularly known as “Multigyms”, is found to be propagated in some rural and urban areas of West Bengal. These are based on trial and error, socio – economic and cultural inferences. The physical Culture are becoming a popular sub- culture specially in the urban spots of West Bengal including the advent of modernization, media. The purpose of the present study is to determine the importance, popularity and role of physical culture among the rural and urban Youths in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The prime objective of the same are to investigate the importance of physical exercise and the variegated factors behind the increasing trend of the system, and the consequences among the Youths, the study groups under the purview of the structures and roles of multigyms. The units of study have been selected purposively for collecting the empirical data though Direct Intensive Observations, Semi – Structured Interview, and Case Studies, Books, Journals, Reports and internet resources were also utilized as secondary data in the present study.

Keywords: Physical culture, physical and mental health, education, economic class, gender.

Abstract 20

POLYCYSTIC OVARIAN SYNDROME: AN INVESTIGATION ON FAT PATTERNING AND CAPN10 GENE POLYMORPHISM ON TIBETO-BURMAN LINGUISTIC GROUP OF TRIPURA, NORTH EAST INDIA

Kusum Ghosh, Diptendu Chatterjee and Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) is one of the major reproductive and metabolic health issue, currently recognized to be a multifactorial, complex endocrine disorder of less known aetiology with an intricate pathophysiology. It is a familial, multifaceted condition associated with different clinical manifestations where hyperinsulinemia and peripheral insulin resistance are central features. Given the physiological overlap between PCOS and type-2 diabetes (T2DM), CAPN10 being a strong candidate for T2DM, a few studies from south India have analysed CAPN10 SNPs among PCOS women yielding contradictory results. Therefore, in this background the present study attempted to discern the association of CAPN10 gene polymorphism (SNP-19) and fat patterning with PCOS among the Tibeto-Burman linguistic Group of Tripura, North East India.

To achieve the purpose 42 clinically diagnosed PCOs individuals and 94 age matched non-PCOs participants were incorporated from Tripuri group in the present study. Anthropometric variables have been collected using standard techniques. Extracted genomic DNA from mouthwash (Standard protocol) was PCR amplified and genotyped for CAPN10 gene polymorphism. Allele and genotype frequencies of the SNPs were determined and compared between the cases and controls.

Present study envisaged a significant ($p < 0.05$) difference of obesity measures among the PCOS and Non-PCOS group. Furthermore, the allele and genotype frequencies of the CAPN10 gene do not differ significantly between women with polycystic ovary syndrome and the control group.

Therefore, we can conclude that, SNP-19 variant of CAPN10 gene do not represent a risk factor for polycystic ovary syndrome in the present studied population. However, Central Adiposity can be taken as one of the major risk factors for PCOS.

Keywords: PCOS, genetic polymorphism, CAPN10, fat patterning.

Abstract 21

HEIGHT PREDICTION FROM DIGIT AND HAND DIMENSIONS OF THE SANTALS OF PURBA BARDHAMAN DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL: A CORRELATIONAL STUDY

Avik Ray

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata, India

In case of disaster victim identification, for various populations, the degree of correlation between height and hand dimensions may vary and therefore necessitate establishment of population-specific predictive models that can estimate the said height of individuals belonging to the specific group better than generalized models. In this study, an attempt to establish such a predictive model of height for the Santal population of Purba Bardhaman district, West Bengal, from 14 different variables derived from both hands and arm span has been made. Height, digit lengths of all ten 10 fingers of both hands, right-hand length (RHL), right-hand breadth (RHB), left-hand length (LHL), left-hand breadth (LHB) and arm span (AS) have been measured for 220 males, and 280 females, after which Pearson's correlation coefficient between height and all the variables, simple and multiple linear regression equations involving height and dimensions of either hand for both sexes have been derived. Pearson's correlation between height and other variables of the hand after a two-tailed significance correlation analysis shows that arm span correlates the most in both sexes. Among males, at $p < 0.01$, RHL scores highest following AS in terms of Pearson's r . This is followed by RHL and the trend is the same in both sexes. Among males, the 3rd digit of both hands correlates the most with height when it comes to digits, and in females, the 2nd and 4th digit of the right-hand correlates the most. For linear regression models, AS shows the highest adjusted r^2 value showing the highest goodness of fit for the regression model in males, the same as in females. This is followed by the RHL and LHL. For digits in males, a multiple regression equation concerning all digits in the left hand showed higher adjusted r^2 than the right hand. In females, it is exactly the opposite. For hand dimensions, the right-hand shows better-adjusted r^2 than the left, and the trend is similar in females. This study concludes that the digits of both hands show a similar correlation with height in comparison to other populations for both sexes although most variables of male hands have a higher correlational relationship with height than that of females.

Keywords: Height estimation, morphometry, forensic anthropology, forensic science.

Abstract 22

NATURE'S RHYTHMS: THE SYMBIOSIS BETWEEN THE ORAON TRIBE'S LIFE RITUALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN RANCHI, JHARKHAND

Arti

Poornima University, Jaipur, India

The study navigates the profound connection between the Oraon tribe's cultural ceremonies and their surrounding environment, exploring the significance of the environment in their life rituals of birth, marriage, and death in the context of the Ranchi district in Jharkhand, India. An essential cornerstone of this research is the examination of the tribe's birth rituals. These ceremonies stand as a testament to the Oraon tribe's symbiotic relationship with the environment, using resources such as the 'Sal' leaf from their local surroundings. This usage reflects not only their respect for natural elements but also their perception of the environment as a provider of life-enhancing materials. The study proceeds to dissect the tribe's marriage customs. These traditions, primarily observed during the 'Agahan' period, show an astute awareness of the environment's rhythms. The symbolic 'marwa' or nuptial canopy, crafted from various tree branches, underscores the marriage's sanctity and is emblematic of their close ties to the environment. In dissecting the tribe's death rituals, the study uncovers an even deeper link to the natural world. Whether a body is interred or cremated is determined by the phase of the agricultural cycle, reinforcing their belief in the cyclicity of life and nature. In summary, this research delves into the rich tapestry of the Oraon tribe's cultural practices and their intertwined relationship with the environment. The study highlights the tribe's conservation practices, deep-rooted environmental reverence, and respect for natural cycles. By exploring these traditional practices, we contribute to the broader discourse on indigenous ecological wisdom and strategies for sustainability. This exploration of the Oraon tribe's customs elucidates how traditional practices can foster a sustainable relationship with nature, a lesson of crucial importance in the current global ecological context.

Keywords: Ecological interactions, birth rituals, marriage rituals, indigenous wisdom, ecological sustainability.

Abstract 23

UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICE OF MEMORIAL STONES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: INSIGHT FROM ETHNOGRAPHIC TRADITION

Tirthraj Bhoi

Department of History, University of Jammu, Jammu, India

The paper attempts to study the memorial stones in Jammu and Kashmir. The memorial stones reflect a widespread practice based on the beliefs of "hero worship" as well as "ritual death" sometimes as a form of sati stones. The Kalhana's Rajatarangini, the 11th Century A.D., chronicle of Kashmir kings, mentioned the clear idea as to how Sati and Prayopavesa by Purohitas were institutionalized in Kashmir since the early historic period. The topic pertaining to memorial stones is very thought-provoking which gives a wide scope to probe unidentified aspects of the social memory. A comprehensive approach to study the both past and present is taken under consideration. It tries to relate the memorial stones which were erected to commemorate the dead in the form of megaliths and is still practiced by the tribals of Jammu region. The study has undertaken the detailed assessment of the structures in different parts of the region. It is primarily based on exploration of the new sites, interview techniques using detail questionnaire and field survey which were taken into account. An Ethnographic approach has been undertaken to gather the widespread data from the sites as a form of oral structure. In the preliminary investigation in the field, I found many important memorials stone. The following are the two illustrations: Fig. 1: Memorial stone from Padder and Fig.2: Memorial stone from Kistwar.

Keywords: Megaliths, memorial stones, Sati stones, ethnography, oral tradition.

Abstract 24

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT AND ITS ASSOCIATED KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES (KAP) AMONG THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS OF INDIA: A REVIEW

Deepshikha Sarkar

Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, India

For a human female, menstruation is a natural physiological process which requires management. It also bears religious and cultural connotations that might have an impact on young girls' perspectives as well as how adults respond to their needs. A serious public health concern is the management of menstrual hygiene (MHM) and practices among teenage females in low- and middle-income (LMIC) nations has serious public health implications.

The aims of this review work were to reveal (i) how the teenage girls in India were well informed about, and prepared for menarche and menstruation, (ii) their sources of information about menstruation, and (iii) the ways teens socially suffer as a result of menstruation?

The scientific literature published between 2000 and 2023, was screened according to PRISMA checklist. A systematic search technique was used to find publications examining the menstrual knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) among the Indian young females.

From the relevant literature, information on menarche awareness, the kind of absorbent used, disposal, cleanliness, constraints, and school absence were extracted. Inadequate planning, ignorance, and inappropriate menstrual hygiene practices were among the major barriers to girls' education as well as to their self-esteem and personal growth. Urban girls were more likely than rural girls to use disposable pads, and usage grew with time. Unsuitable disposal was frequent. Many limitations were placed on menstruating girls, particularly while participating in religious activities. Missing school days during menstrual periods was also reported in a few studies.

It is crucial to improve health education for teenage girls by incorporating scientific information regarding menstrual hygiene and health. This might reduce chances of infections of the reproductive system and improve reproductive as well as overall health and wellbeing among the Indian women.

Keywords: Menstruation, menstrual hygiene management, adolescent, knowledge, attitude, practices.

Abstract 25

POLITICS ON POPULATION CONTROL: RECENT DEBATE IN INDIA

Shewli Shabnam

Department of Geography, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

At present, India is facing a multiple number of challenges, including widespread hunger, malnutrition, environmental degradation, increasing rate of crime and unemployment, among others. Many people try to explain it through Malthusian doctrine, which states that the root cause of all socio-economic and environmental problems is excessive population growth and advocates population control as their solution. In this context, the present paper is centered around the two-child policy debate in India and tries to throw light on the country's fertility situation and various perspectives on fertility control policy. The Malthusian concept resulted in blaming the poor for the global crisis and encouraged hyper-nationalists who often target minority and ethnic groups in their countries. Consequently, I will also discuss the changing fertility rates among India's Hindus and Muslims.

The 2020 SRS Report revealed that India's total fertility rate (TFR) has reached 2.0, which is below the replacement level of fertility (i.e., 2.1). Among the large states of India, only six states recorded TFR higher than 2.1 but below or equal to 3.0. Therefore, the future increase in India's population will mainly be based on the momentum effect. According to NFHS-5 conducted in 2019-21, the TFR among the Hindus, Muslims, and Christians were 1.94, 2.36 and 1.88, respectively. Contrary to the general perception, the sharpest decline of TFR was observed among the Muslim population.

The critics of the two-child policy raise concerns about reproductive rights, sterilization abuse, imbalance of sex ratio in favour of the males and its potential impact on society. Numerous research suggests that poverty

reduction, enhancing female education and women's economic empowerment are more powerful instruments of fertility reduction in a democratic and participatory set-up.

Keywords: Two-child policy, total fertility rate (TFR), Malthusian doctrine, reproductive rights, population control.

Abstract 26

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSIGHTS ON THOLPAVAKOOTHU; THE FUTURE OF TRADITIONAL PUPPETRY OF KERALA

Akhil Unnikrishnan

Anthropological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Tholpavakoothu is a traditional puppetry form found in Kerala's south-eastern districts. Puppets made out of leather are displayed through the illumination of lamps on a white screen performed in certain drama houses known as KoothuMaadam inside temple premises. Performed by a number of communities, including Chettiars/Saiva Vellalars, Nairs, Panikkars, and others. Moreover, the art form has been brought outside the temple premises to the global world. Traditional forms of art are deteriorating every day while those that have been introduced to the outside world and outside the boundaries of the temple are evolving. The traditional ones are being taken over by inexperienced people who are unaware of the art form, despite the artists' best efforts to promote their own art forms. It is cut short when travelling to the urban form, this is because art enthusiasts and tourists who support such art form have less time. Though many communities are involved, only two or three people are involved in one performance, whereas previously there were 10 to 16 people. The puppetry groups are competing for control of Tholpavakoothu in specific temples. However, the issue here is that another type of Tholpavakoothu is being practiced while the art form is being promoted on the one hand. The paper aims to encapsulate the art form through the social history of the puppeteers, the changes that have occurred, and its contemporary form in order to comprehend where the art form is headed.

Keywords: Tholpavakoothu, traditional, Koothumaadam, temple premises, social history, changes.

Abstract 27

WOMEN WORKERS IN LIGHT OF CONCIIOUSNESS – AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL FRAMED SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES OF THE WOMEN WORKERS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY OF SANTIPUR, NADIA, WEST BENGAL

Md Tajmaul Islam¹ and Partha Chakraborti²

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra, India

The development of society, the contribution of self-help groups is very important and could be called a milestone in socio-economic development of small-scale industries - such as handloom and handicraft industries. As we know, handicrafts and handlooms are an unorganized sector as the artisans are facing a huge problem to retain their traditional work mainly due to lack of capital, training, and lack of market opportunities etc. For this problem, SHGs are the only solution. The present study is an attempt to analyze the role and performance of SHGs in promoting the empowerment of women workers in the handloom industry. The study was conducted in Santipur, Nadia District. The broad objective of the study is to analyze the operating system of women self-help groups for savings, disbursement of loans to the needy, management of group funds, debt repayment, leadership development, bank linkages and examine the social benefits received by members. To collect and collect primary data, field observation and semi-structured interview methods were employed. Information was collected from 57 women workers about their problem thinking and preferences in the textile industry. The study reveals that SHGs is a new path for financial intermediation by banks in the form of microcredit. Through the formation of self-help groups, loans are sought for various purposes such as weaving, domestic, health, festivals, repayment of old debts, investment etc. For the women workers form a group (SHG) to overcome their economic problems through self-initiation such as security, poverty, health conditions, standard of living and education etc. As well as saving habits, economic independence, self-confidence, social cohesion, wealth. Benefits such as ownership, debt

relief, additional employment, etc. are availed by SHG members. Thus, self-help groups have worked for women's empowerment, social cohesion and socio-economic and political upliftment of the poor for their consolidation.

Keywords: Handloom, self-help group, empowerment.

Abstract 28

THE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORAON TRIBE AND RELATED ORAL TRADITION AND CONTINUITY: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Koel Ray¹ and Vivek Kumar²

¹Department of AIHC & Archaeology, Utkal University, Orissa, India

²Department of Anthropology & Tribal Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, India

Demographically speaking, the population of the Oraon tribe is the largest after that of the Santals in the region of Jharkhand. Their population is more in the Ranchi district when compared to the other districts. The Oraon people are mainly farmers and pure naturalists. This naturalist attitude is also reflected through their own traditional knowledge, customs and belief systems. Apart from this, their knowledge is also ascertained via the special procedures performed by them. Amongst the Oraon population, traditional knowledge is especially evident in all elements related to religious, social and cultural activities such as worship, birth and death rites and rituals, song composition and music, dance, festivities etc. Similarly, this traditional knowledge extends to medical practices. These people are capable of successfully finding treatment ranging from common ailments to even non-surgical procedures, simply with the help of natural medicinal plants and herbs available near their homes. Such practices not only cure their diseases but also strengthen their belief and faith towards these traditional knowledge systems even more firmly. Traditional knowledge always has the potential of translating into significantly useful practices and processes for the greater benefit of mankind. This paper aims to document and analyse these notions, ideas and practices not only from a research perspective but also for posterity at large.

Keywords: Oraon, tribe, tradition, transmission, knowledge system.

Abstract 29

A STUDY ON THE LITTLE-KNOWN ETHNIC GAMES OF THE AO NAGAS AND SUMI NAGAS OF NAGALAND

Somnath Chakraborty and Somenath Bhattacharjee

Department of Anthropology, Nagaland University, Nagaland, India

Games and sports are an essential part of human life. It can be considered as an intangible cultural heritage of a community. The field of sport and culture refers to the values, ceremonies and way of life characteristics of a given group and the place of sport within that way of life. Like the concept of society, the notion of culture is widely used in the sociological, anthropological and historical study of sport. It encourages the researcher and student to consider the meanings, symbols, rituals and power relations at play within any particular cultural setting. Traditional sports and games as a specific part of the global sport system may engender the notion of old, exotic and endangered cultural manifestations, but to some extent that is only the outsider's view on an extremely widespread and interesting sub-group of sports, which can be analysed from different perspectives relating to sociological, anthropological or cultural sciences. These perspectives, shortly described below, are either a bigger area of research as cultural studies or anthropology of sports, or they are particular concepts and models like habitus, collective memory or sites of memory.

Different tribal groups of India also have some of their own traditional games and sports, which reflect their cultural identity and means of recreation and entertainment in leisure time. The Ao Naga and Sumi Naga are two very important Tribal groups of Nagaland, primarily dwelling in the Mokokchung and Zunheboto district of Nagaland respectively. They are autochthones of the region and they have multiple traditional cultures of their own and some unique ethnic games and sports as well. In this paper an attempt has been made to focus on the various ethnic games of the Ao Nagas and Sumi Nagas. The concerned people of these

villages are very much aware of their folk cultural traditions, particularly of their ethnic games and sports. This paper is an attempt to discuss about their different ethnic games; as well as the significance of such ethnic games among the concerned people.

Keywords: Traditional sports, cultural heritage, tribal games, Ao Naga, Sumi Naga.

Abstract 30

THE DIVERSE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES AMONG THE LIMBU TRIBE IN DARJEELING HILLS, WEST BENGAL

Trishala Subba and Rinzi Lama

Department of Anthropology, University of North Bengal, West Bengal, India

This paper intends to highlight the diverse and ongoing change in religious beliefs and practices among the Limbu tribal group residing in Darjeeling Hills. The traditional religious practice of the Limbus has been “Yuma Dharma” which believes in the almighty “Tagera Ningwaphuma” or “Yuma”. Mundhum is the oral tradition and scripture of the Limbus that form an integral part of their religious practice. However, in the past two decades, there has been an emergence of religious groups who have re-interpreted their religion and are seeking a distinct identity of Limbus and their religion in the context of Darjeeling.

There are Limbus who foreground their principles and practices on the teachings of Guru Phalgunanda, a guru from Nepal, an embodiment of Yuma. Unlike Yuma dharma, their religious practice known as “Satyahangma” or “Kirat Dharma” follows strict rules of purity pollution and advocates non-animal sacrifices among others. Apart from this, there is “Yuma Samyo” or “Yumaism”, whose religious beliefs and practices are based on the teachings of who they refer to as “Yuma”, a nineteen-year-old girl of Dharap, Sikkim. Meditation, prayers and chanting of bhajan (a devotional song) in both Limbu and Nepali languages form an integral part of their Yuma worship. The followers of Yumaism believe that their religion has evolved to enlighten the Limbus and free them of their “paap” (evil/wrongs) as they believe today the world is full of “paap”.

In and through the ethnographic description of these newer forms of religious practices among the Limbus this paper will try to understand the implication of the changes among the Limbu community in Darjeeling Hills.

Keywords: Limbu, religion, Yuma Dharma, Satyahangma, Yumaism.

Abstract 31

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND HEALTHCARE PRACTICES AMONG THE LIMBU COMMUNITY OF DARJEELING HILLS: INSIGHTS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Niten Chhetri and Somenath Bhattacharjee

Department of Anthropology, Nagaland University, Nagaland, India

Darjeeling, renowned for its rich biodiversity, is the ancestral land of the indigenous Limbu community. This research will explore locally available flora and fauna's profound cultural, ecological, and medicinal significance for the Limbu community. Their deep-rooted connections to nature and spiritual practices are intricately woven into their history and cultural development, particularly their relationship with the Khangchendzonga mountain range.

Incorporating a holistic worldview, the Limbu community relies on ancestral knowledge passed down through generations, emphasizing the vital role of older generations in knowledge transmission. Despite challenges to its continuity, traditional folk medicine remains integral to their way of life, bolstered by efforts from various organizations.

This study will investigate the Limbu community's indigenous healthcare beliefs and practices amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The prime objective of the paper is to understand ethnomedicinal practices, perspectives on COVID-19 vaccination, factors influencing traditional medicinal preferences, and its long-term implications during the pandemic.

Further, the paper will explore the role of traditional healers in providing healthcare services during the pandemic and their perceptions of COVID-19. The study will shed light on the Limbu community's traditional healthcare practices, the perception of illness and healthcare, quarantine rituals, and medicinal plant use during and before COVID-19.

This research will provide an emic perspective on the rituals of the limbus, offering insights into their cultural significance and scientific value through a qualitative approach. The research incorporates both primary and secondary data sources. It will underscore the enduring relevance of traditional knowledge in times of crisis and call for further exploration and preservation of these practices.

Keywords: Biodiversity, ethnomedicine, pandemic, healing, health.

Abstract 32

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND ECOFRIENDLY APPROACH OF RURAL HIMACHAL: REVIVAL OF PATAL CULTURE IN MANDI DISTRICT

Nancy Sharma¹ and Vikas Rana²

¹ICFAI University, Himachal Pradesh, India

²Panjab University, Punjab, India

The cultural traditions of a region truly represent love of the locals for their native environment and deep understanding of the geographical condition there. In the low altitude areas of Himachal 'taur' has been a multipurpose gift for the people as it provides them with edible seeds, cattle fodder, manure and well-known use of taur leaves as a plate known as 'Patal'. These lush green plates enrich with medicinal properties lost the charm in front of paper and thermocol plates and people associated with the collection of leaves and making of patal started disappearing. But the demand of patal has soared ever since the country banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single-use plastic items on July 1, 2022. To meet the demand Himachal Pradesh Forest Department handed over the Patal making machines to selfhelp groups, voluntarily groups of villages assisted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the project launched in 2018 for improving both forest ecosystem management and livelihood, especially to rural women. While interviewing locals of Mandi district they mentioned about patals being ordered by other districts and even by other state's people. The sturdier machine-made patals can fetch Rs 4 per piece in the market, while the manual one earns the maker only half that price. The making is less time consuming and plates last longer and at last after use patals decompose in soil.

Keywords: Cultural traditions, multipurpose use, medicinal properties, single-use plastic and use of machines.

Abstract 33

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS AND CHANGES OF THE TRADITIONAL HANDLOOM INDUSTRY AT DHANIAKHALI IN HOOGHLY DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

Supriti Malik¹ and Kartick Chakraborty²

¹Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

²Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, West Bengal, India

Dhaniakhali is famous for traditional handloom industry in Hooghly District, West Bengal. In this study researcher focuses on the structural and functional aspects of the traditional weaving industry, association between the economy and social-cultural aspects of a weaver's life, changes and their present situation. Handloom industry has its particular economic organization as well as social cultural aspects and associate ritual practices. The present study was planned for a mixed approach where both quantitative and qualitative data were used. In this study researchers tried to explore the traditional handloom industry in a holistic way that incorporates all the possible aspects of the production of sarees, the distribution system in local level as well as in broader stage, and the interrelationship among the different components of the whole system of economic organization of traditional handloom industry. The study also tried to find out the impact of the

economy on the other aspects of the social life of the weaver community, like how the gender role played by the members in the economic activities and how the marital bond gets effected by this economic organization itself. Here in the study a temporal progress is also taken into consideration to find out the changes occur in the field due to the incorporation of different technological developments in the field of weaving.

Keywords: Handloom saree, weaving process, caste endogamy, marital network, temporal changes.

Abstract 34

BUILDING UP RELATION WITH TELEVISION- AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON SCHOOL GOING ADOLESCENTS IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

Banhi Sanyal and Partha Chakraborti

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra, India

Anthropology of media is an area of study within social or cultural anthropology that emphasizes ethnographic studies as a means of understanding producers, audiences, and other cultural and social aspects of mass media. Media Anthropology is mostly seen as an emerging and evolving area of interest for both anthropology and media studies and not as a discipline within the social sciences. Television is a mass medium for entertainment, education, news, politics, gossip, and advertising which creates an impact on today's adolescents. The present study seeks to understand how far adolescent way of life has been impacted with the elements of modernization as well as global culture. The objective of this study is to determine the factors that influence choices of the programmes and to understand how the viewers import media effects in their lived practices, perceptions, emotions and the knowledge. The theories which may be related to this present are Social Surrogacy Hypothesis, Social Space and Habitus. Different methods/ techniques of ethnographic fieldwork are employed to collect the data through direct intensive observation. Those are Interview Method, Case Study Method, Narrative Method, Scheduled Method. Different methods of analysis are used to analyse the data- those are Narrative Analysis, Discourse Analysis, Thematic Analysis, Grounded Theory, Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and Quantitative Data Analysis with Descriptive statistics.

The study was conducted in the areas of North Dum Dum, Barasat and Duttapukur of the district North 24 Parganas.

The population profile analysis of the viewers reveals that the informants do hail from families with variegated socio-economic conditions. With the help of statistical analysis in the aspect of consuming media by the school going adolescents, it is perceived that they are more indulged in movies and entertainment programmes. Particularly they like to watch action & adventure and comedy genres of movies. Impact of advertisements can also be seen as they are getting influenced and buying the products which they are thinking useful to them. They also try to act like the characters they watch in their favourite TV programmes in their real life. But after the emergence of different types of OTT platforms on mobile phones, it is seen that gradually teenagers are shifting towards those platforms to watch their favourite shows and movies. These will reduce the viewers of television day by day.

Through this investigation some other things are also observed and perceived. TV watching is greatly affecting their study- schedule and the routinization in their life is deeply disturbed. Their mobility is also reduced in many cases resulting into lethargic habit in personal life; concentration of the informants is reduced, what they feel about and reading habit of them is also disrupted.

Keywords: Media anthropology, adolescent impact, television viewing habits, ethnographic fieldwork, OTT platforms and shifting trends.

Abstract 35

EFFECT OF CLIMATIC FACTORS ON RICE PRODUCTION LEVEL: AN INSIGHT OF RED-LATERITE AGRO-CLIMATIC REGION OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Rohit Pramanick and Biswajit Pal

Department of Rural Studies, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata, India

Climate change is an escalating global concern, with profound consequences felt across various sectors. Among these, agriculture stands at the forefront, as it is intimately linked with weather patterns, temperature fluctuations, and precipitation levels. About 40% of the total geographical area of India is considered semi-arid in nature. Erratic rainfall, water scarcity, low productivity, poverty, small land holdings, soil erosion, lack of economic opportunities are some of the well-known problems of this region. The objective of this study was to investigate the potential impact of climate on rice production levels in the semi-arid region of West Bengal. Considering the objective of the study, Random selected district Bankura of the semi-arid region especially located under the red-laterite agro-climatic region of West Bengal was selected for the study. Agricultural data on rice production for the period of 1992 to 2019 of Bankura district was collected from the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal. Data related to climatic variables like mean temperature, rainfall, relative humidity and vapour pressure during 1992-2019 were collected from the ERA 5 Reanalysis Climatic dataset of the Copernicus climate data store. Statistical techniques like Mann-Kendall test, Sen's slope estimator, and linear regressions were performed to get objective based results. The findings suggest that climatic variables significantly affect rice production in Bankura district. Among rainfalls has a profound impact on rice production. Additionally, there is a decreasing trend in Aus and Boro rice production in Bankura Sadar and Khatra subdivisions. Conversely, Bishnupur subdivision shows an increasing trend in Boro rice production. It is evident that rice production varies at the subdivision level. The results conclude that climate variability over 28 years has affected rice production in Bankura district. The dynamic nature of production in the region suggests, that apart from climate, there is potential influence of various factors like availability of natural resources, adoption of technologies and improved farming practices, farmer's perceptions, socio-economic conditions, and policy interventions. The sustainability in agriculture depends on environmental, social and economic factors. To make agricultural production sustainable, the policy implication should be focused on social inclusion, need-based extension programs and effective management of natural resources.

Keywords: Sustainable agriculture, environment, rice production, climate, red-laterite region.

Abstract 36

UNDERSTANDING PREMENSTRUAL SYMPTOMS AMONG THE UNMARRIED YOUNG ADULT GIRLS OF KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Kohena Santra¹ and Monali Goswami²

¹Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

²Department of Anthropology & Tribal Studies, MSCB University, Takatpur, Baripada, Odisha, India

Premenstrual symptoms are mostly physical, behavioural, and psychosomatic in nature and initiate during the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle. Every month, at a precise time before menstruation start, women may experience these symptoms. PMS affects the daily life of women as it impeded the daily routine work, study and the interpersonal relationships. The present study was an endeavour to assess the prevalence of Premenstrual symptoms (PMS) and examine its association with socio-demographic factors and menstrual characteristics among the Unmarried Young Adult Girls of Kolkata, West Bengal.

141 Bengali young adult women between the ages of 18 and 24 of Kolkata were included in this study. A pretested structured questionnaire was used to collect data on socio-demographic status, menstrual features, and physical and psychological symptoms of PMS and Dysmenorrhea. The data were analysed using SPSS.

PMS was prevalent among 96.4% of the participants. Within the three age groups, irritation (57.78%), lower abdomen discomfort (68.89%), and mood swings (77.08%) were the most predominant symptoms. No statistically significant difference was observed between age groups and menstrual characteristic, premenstrual symptoms and dysmenorrhea. Dysmenorrhoeal symptoms (vaginal discomfort and facial hair growth) showed significant association with age groups and PMS. But no significant association was found between premenstrual symptoms and socio-demographic factors or menstrual characteristics.

Thus, the present study showed that PMS has relationship with age and dysmenorrhea. This is a good attempt for the situational assessment of the unmarried young adult girls who are the future mothers, so that

government can take an active initiation through effective menstrual health programme, for the better improvement of these future mothers.

Keywords: Premenstrual symptoms, young adult women, socio-demographic factors, menstrual characteristics.

Abstract 37

MASK MAKING TRADITION OF CHHAU: INDIGENEITY VS MODERNITY – A CASE STUDY IN THE CHARIDA VILLAGE OF PURULIA, WEST BENGAL

Rajdeep Das and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, West Bengal, India

Chhau is an age-old traditional dance form of Eastern India that enacts episode from epic including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folk lore and abstract themes. The variegated masks as used in Chhau dance are popularly known as Mukhosh. The present study has been carried out in the village, namely Charida in Purulia. It is popularly considered to be the hub of the masks of dance form and has been known as 'Mukhosh Gram' (The village of Mask). In the village Charida, generations of families have been involved in making mask of Pala Chhau (Dramatic Chhau mask) and performing the Chhau. The mask forms or typologies include various Hindu gods and goddesses, animals, tribal men and women folk etc. But now-a-days, according to the demands, they make other forms like Kathakali, Sat-Asat, Pasupati etc. Basically, the mask makers are from the Sutradhars' (traditionally Carpenter caste by occupation) family in the area. It is also found that the mask making traditions and allied trait-elements are changing day by day due to the demands of market as well as the impact of tourism industry under modernization and the advent of globalization. The objectives of the present study are to observe the typo-technological aspects of mask making along with the domain of the co-existence of traditional and modern elements in this domain. The study finally will highlight the impacts of tourism under the purview of global modernization on the milieu of masks in the economic system. Therefore, as the masks and the dance form of Chhau, both being the tangible and intangible heritage of the folk culture of West Bengal bears a special attention to the present researchers. In order to sustain and maintain its co-existence of traditional identity and modernity, the study also has to suggest an initiative for proposing a strategy for future planning to sustain this culture trait of the district as well as West Bengal.

The empirical data have been collected through Participant Observation, Intensive Interview, Case Study, Structured Questionnaire, Genealogy, with few Audio-Visual recordings among the purposively selected informants and contexts. Moreover, relevant books, administrative reports, journals, internet resources have also been used as secondary data.

Keywords: Folklore, Chhau dance, mask makers, modernization, globalization.

Abstract 38

THE TRADITIONAL CHHAU DANCE OF CHARIDA, PURULIA IN TRANSITION: A CASE STUDY

Prithwish Mukherjee and Kaushik Bhattacharya

¹Post Graduate Scholar Post Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College

²Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Government of West Bengal

The Chhau, a masked dance, is an eminent form of folk ballet of Purulia, Saraikela, and Mayurbhanj of Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa separately. This regional identity of Chhau is called Chhau Tridhaaraa (the trinity of Chhau). This paper focuses on one of the most celebrated forms of Chhau Tridhaaraa, i.e., Purulia Chhau. In 1956 Purulia parted with Bengal and became one of its districts. Thus, Chhau Trinity is fundamentally distributed in these regions. The history of Chhau dance connected several religious festivals of the Shaivaaiiks (worshippers of the Lord Shiva). Particularly in the village Charida, Purulia, the Mahato community is the chief actor in Chhau ballet, and on the other hand, the Sutradhar community is the mask maker. These days, Chhau has changed its religious motive and turned into a secular object in the exhibition.

It is a tale of how an art form becomes a commodity in the art market. Chhau ballet represents a transition from sacred to secular identity. In recent times the folk form of Chhau ballet has been de-territorialised from its authentic folk base – both in terms of cultural and physical space – and finally has been reterritorialized to a newly evolved art market. At first, the appreciators and the audience were the local people, and now the viewers and connoisseurs of Chhau dance are mainly the members of the bigger art world. Due to unfathomable changes, the very folk identity of the Chhau dance is in question. This endeavour tries to document the journey of this eminent dance form of Purulia from its traditional practice to the present look in the light of commodification. This article also describes how this dance form emerged as a Chhau industry.

Keywords: Chhau dance, Chhau Tridhaaraa, deterritorialisation, reterritorialisation, commodification.

Abstract 39

THE ORGANISATION OF PRODUCTION AMONG THE ICE-CREAM FACTORY WORKERS OF BIRA BANDHABPALLY, NORTH 24 PGS: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Banasree Roy and Chinmay Biswas

Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra, India

The present study has been carried out on a small-scale local industry such as the ice cream factory, which is situated in Bira, North 24 Paganas, and W.B. There are three workers engaged in this factory. It has been a product since 2002. The workers of that factory are relatives to each other. It has been observed that daily production is 2000 and sells 1500 ice creams. Along with the three members, an extra five workers are also attached to them. These five workers are the only van pullers by whom they sell the ice cream to the market. The main focus of the study is to examine how people manage their work every day. And is the profit of the business satisfying their way of life? The study also intends to examine the economic condition of both owners and workers from an anthropological point of view.

Keywords: Small-scale industry, ice cream factory, daily production, economic conditions, anthropological perspective.

Abstract 40

PATACHITRAS, THE FOLK ART OF BANKURA AND PURULIA DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL: ITS SURVIVAL AND REVIVAL – AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

Pallabi Seal and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, West Bengal, India

Patachitra is a traditional art of Odisha, based on Hindu mythology and Jagannath culture. Though this form of art has spread from different place to different places. This paper attempt to present an anthropological discourse on the Patachitras practice as evident in Bharatpur and Majuramura village, Bankura and Purulia district, and how this tradition has been moving away from its position day by day and is on the verge of extinction. This art form is performed by Patuas who ramble from village to village, entertaining villagers through their particular song called Pater gaan and is rewarded by villagers with rice, vegetables and coins. They learn various types of scroll painting from their ancestors and sell it to different people and in different places. They use paper, cloth, natural organic colours, brushes (made of goat hair), palette like coconut shell and create various types of scrolls like religious related, mythology related, festival related, life style related etc. The study has been conducted using first hand anthropological field work methods among the Patuas settled in the villages. Direct Intensive Observation, Intensive Interviews and Case Studies have been used for the collection of empirical data, some texts in the form of Books, Journals, Administrative Materials etc. were also utilized as secondary data for the present study.

Keywords: Patachitra, Chitrakar, folk art, Patua, JaduPatua, Jom Pot, Pata.

Abstract 41

SOCIO-CULTURAL ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR, PERSONHOOD AND LAND: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY IN THE VILLAGE MALIKAPUR NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL

Baishakhi Roy and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, West Bengal, India

The study analyses the central role of agricultural labour in the construction of personhood, agrarian socio-economic milieu and land. It is an ethnographic study based on fieldwork in a small subsistence farming village Malikapur the Ichapur- Nilganj Gram Panchayet in Barasat, West Bengal. It employing a practice led approach and emphasising everyday labour, ambiguity and realities in its economic and socio-cultural issues among the agrarian communities under study.

During investigation it has been found that variegated socio-cultural issues surrounding agricultural labour, personhood and land are of an integral part and bears great significance in understanding the complexities of the agrarian system. In many societies agriculture is not just a means of livelihood but also deeply intertwined with cultural practices and social structures. In this setting agricultural activity, land, economy, fills and shapes the days and seasons throughout the year. The study finally examined the importance of land, tenants, and family farms within the tasks of the agricultural year and how these are crucial to the development of personhood, the mediating role of labour in claims to land and inter village relationship of reciprocity. Direct Intensive Observations, intensive interviews, and Case Studies have been used for collecting empirical data in the present study along with some secondary sources.

Keywords: Agriculture, labour, personhood, land, socio-cultural milieu.

Abstract 42

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LAND ACQUISITION IN WEST BENGAL

Arup Majumder

School of Languages and Linguistics, Jadavpur University, West Bengal, India

As we know land reforms on land acquisition is directly associated with different development. It aims to improve poor people's access to means of social welfare. In fact, India and West Bengal state is not an exception to the above rule and policies. For land reform and acquisition in West Bengal. In this research paper, an attempt has been made to cover various land displacements in Bengal. This research paper has been prepared mainly on the basis of primary and secondary data from it. Like other places, West Bengal has also seen the following effects of land displacement, such as in social life, in children, in women, and in employment, the opposite effect is seen. An attempt has been made to explain the impact of land displacement in various districts of West Bengal, where the common life of the displaced people has been particularly affected.

Keywords: Land acquisition, social impact, economic impact, development.

Abstract 43

PREVALENCE AND DETERMINANTS OF HYPERTENSION AMONG TWO SCHEDULED TRIBE GROUPS OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Bhubon Mohan Das¹ and Tanaya Kundu Chowdhury²

¹Department of Anthropology, Haldia Government College, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India

²Cultural Research Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

High blood pressure or hypertension is regarded as a leading cause of several non-communicable diseases and disability. The recent studies indicate, increasing prevalence of hypertension along with variability across different regions and ethnic groups. Here, Scheduled Tribes (STs) are more vulnerable with increasing prevalence but limited studies. In view, the present study aims to explore the prevalence of hypertension and associated concomitant variables among the Santals and Oraons of West Bengal.

Present cross-sectional study was conducted among two numerically dominant Scheduled Tribes of West Bengal viz. Santal and Oraon. A total number of 897 adults including 389 males and 508 females were recruited as study participants. Pre-tested questionnaire/schedules were used to collect data on socio-demographic, economic and behavioural aspects. Blood pressure and different anthropometric data had been measured using standard methods and instruments. JNC 7 classification has been used to categorize blood pressure level of study population. Suitable statistical tools were used to analyse the data.

Results indicate majority of the males and females were engaged as agricultural worker as well as daily wage earner. Around 30% individuals were hypertensive, of them majority (22%) belonged to Stage-1 hypertensive category. Another 42% of participants were pre-hypertensive. This prevalence is higher than the non-indigenous population of India but comparable with other indigenous groups in India. This prevalence varies across socio-demographic and economic factors. The association study demonstrates that socio-demographic, economic and behavioural factors play significant role in determining hypertension of the present study population. It seems awareness generation for frequent health check-up is required along with provision for medicine at a subsidized rate to reduce the burden among populations. Again, adoption of healthy lifestyle by people may halt and revert the increasing prevalence of hypertension.

Keywords: Blood pressure, indigenous groups; rural-urban areas, socio-demographic factors, substance use behaviour.

Abstract 44

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS SANITATION AND HYGIENIC PRACTICES: A STUDY ON RURAL WOMEN IN WEST BENGAL

Nivedita Som

Department of Anthropology, Vivekananda College for Women, Barisha, Kolkata, India

To understand the concerns (knowledge and attitudes) and practices towards drinking water use, urination, defecation and menstrual health management among women.

The present study was conducted in rural areas of Purulia and Howrah districts of West Bengal. Data collected on socio-demographic profile, toilet/latrine usages and practices, water facilities/usages and associated issues and menstrual hygienic practices using a pre-tested schedule.

In Purulia, all tribal households had toilet/latrine facility, 1/3rd of them had water sources for use, while the caste households mostly remained without facilities of water sources, latrine/toilet. Majority of caste participants went behind hut for urination and defecation, never used water for cleaning the places after urination and defecation; used water from nearby pond for drinking; used clothes during menstruation; washed those clothes into ponds/ nearby places. Majority of tribal participants went nearby ponds for urination and defecation, used to clean private parts daily, used water for cleaning places after defecation, used water from tube well for drinking; disposed sanitary pads properly. In Howrah, each household had latrine/toilet facility and water sources nearby or within premises. Majority of caste participants went to household toilets, nearby pond and behind the hut for urination and defecation, never used water for cleaning the places and private parts after urination. All the participants used water for cleaning the places and private parts after defecation. The participants mostly used water from both tube well and nearby ponds for drinking. The participants mostly used sanitary pads during menstruation and changed absorbents during menstruation twice a day, used to dispose sanitary pads into ponds/ nearby places.

The study reflects that there are conspicuous differences in sanitation coverage between Purulia and Howrah. Simultaneously, a distinction in knowledge and attitude towards sanitation and hygienic practices was noticed among rural women of these two locales.

Keywords: Sanitation, hygienic practices, rural women, Purulia, Howrah.

Abstract 45

ECOTOURISM IN GEONKHALI OF PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL: ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Soumi Dey

Department of Anthropology, Haldia Govt. College, Haldia, India

Ecotourism is regarded as the environment-friendly as well as economically profitable tourism that protects the ecosystem. Ecotourism confers social, economic and environmental benefits which are the three pillars of sustainable development. The (East)Medinipur coast (60kms) covers 27% of the West Bengal coastal tract extending along the west bank of Hooghly. Geonkhali is a transitional zone in between the Bay of Bengal and the curving coastal land of West Bengal, situated in between Tamluk and Haldia. It is located at the confluence of the rivers Hooghly, Rupnarayan and Damodar. This makes Geonkhali a very scenic and beautiful place where tourists can rejuvenate themselves in the spectrum of biodiversity. The present study makes an attempt to highlight the present status of eco-tourism in Geonkhali, an interior village and natural scenic tourist spot in the Mahisadal Block of Purba Midnapore district of West Bengal. Also, to focus on the potentialities and challenges of tourism as well as ecotourism in Geonkhali. The nature and the content of the present study have inclined the flow towards rapid ethnography assessments. In fact, to create a bridge between the inside and outside of a culture through traditional ethnography is both time consuming and expensive. Rapid Ethnographic Assessments differ from traditional qualitative as well as ethnographic research in that, more than one researcher is always involved often multidisciplinary team for interaction, and the results could be produced much quicker. Geonkhali has golden opportunities for the establishment of eco-tourism due to characterized by the different types of aquatic life, flora- fauna, river beaches, eye catching beautiful scenario, which has kept her doors wide open to established the eco-tourist destination. The constrain like river water level rise, coastal storms/cyclone, vulnerable erosion by fluvial processes (deposits and landform created by the river) and anthropogenic activities (over-exploitation, over-consumption, pollution, tree cutting and population growth) has create impact on the development of ecotourism.

Keywords: Ecotourism, coastal degradation, sustainable development, conservation.

Abstract 46

IMPACT OF DIGITALIZATION ON HUMAN HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON A SELECTED VILLAGE OF WEST BENGAL

Mitrajit Saha and Dr. Somenath Bhattacharjee

Department of Anthropology, Nagaland University, Nagaland, India

Digital technologies have a huge impact on society. Digitalization is affecting every area and has significantly raised our living standards. India is also participating in this process along with the help of government flagship of Digital India, which mainly consists of three components like universal digital literacy, delivering all government services to citizens digitally, and development of secure and stable digital infrastructure it's also aims to connect rural areas with highspeed internet networks.

This paper seeks to explore the impact of digital technology and internet on human health, healthcare facilities and awareness. The rural village Moutala of West Bengal had selected for the study. The data on the total 272 households consisting 1200 population have been collected. The nearby schools, cyber cafes, computer centre have taken into consideration during study. Primary data collection was done through sampling, Case study, Observation, Interview, Photography and recordings. Collected data was processed and analysed with several data analysis method.

It is found that in health care facilities digitalization helps to get rid from several ques but in rural societies it also found that majority of them prefer que instead of online healthcare facilities for several reasons. Digitalization also has impact on culture, law enforcement, art, education, religion and many more. Prolonged internet use is correlated with loneliness, children can be harmed in their development of memory skills, attention span, critical reasoning, language acquisition, reading and learning abilities. The study

further suggests that excessive use of digital technologies and internet can have both positive and negative impacts on human health, depending on the person and the circumstances. More research is however needed to draw more reliable conclusions and serious harmful effects of the internet on human health deserve more policy attention.

Keywords: Digitalization, health, livelihood, awareness, policy, healthcare facilities.

Abstract 47

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS AND ITS CHALLENGES AT A RURAL AREA IN COOCHBEHAR DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

Prabal Dey and Kartick Chakraborty

Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Empowering women is the cornerstone of establishing a morally upright and impartial society and nation. Since women constitute 48.5% of total population in India as per census 2011, it is crucial to utilize resources efficiently for the benefit of the nation as a whole and one's own family specifically. The participation of women in Self Help Groups (SHGs) made a significant impact on their empowerment both in social and economic aspects. SHGs can definitely enable women to make informed socioeconomic decisions, whether they pertain to activities within or outside the household. The present study has been conducted among 40 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in four villages of Gopalpur Gram Panchayat of Coochbehar II Block, West Bengal. The information required for the study has been gathered using Snowball Sampling and in-depth-interviews. In this study researchers have tried to highlight the role of SHGs in promoting women's empowerment through various socio-economic activities. Besides that the study attempts to analyze the major constraints faced by the members of SHGs to maintain the groups properly. The results revealed that the SHGs brought social empowerment than economic empowerment in the studied villages. Women faced several major problems to participate in income generation activities to run their families or households.

Keywords: Self-help groups, women empowerment, socioeconomic activities, Coochbehar, West Bengal

Abstract 48

CAPTURING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF A RURAL COMMUNITY IN WEST BENGAL THROUGH NGO INTERVENTION

Swastikasree Bose¹ and Shewli Shabnam²

¹Rural Studies, Kalyani University, Kalyani, India

²Department of Geography, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) operating in developing countries, such as India, play a pivotal role in fostering positive change and uplifting marginalised communities. Across every state, NGOs profoundly work to improve people's lives through their diverse schemes and initiatives. In this context, we will present a picture of significant socio-economic development in the Birgi village under Bhulaveda gram panchayat, Binpur-II block at Jhargram district, West Bengal, facilitated by the dedicated efforts and active participation of the NGO, PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action).

Our study investigates the transformative impact of the NGO PRADAN on rural low-income families by leveraging sericulture and promoting organic farming. Through two case studies and focus group discussions, we examine how PRADAN's interventions have catalysed socio-economic change and empowered marginalised individuals in rural areas.

We observed that PRADAN's empowering approach primarily focuses on rural women, fostering awareness and self-reliance through various initiatives like sericulture, organic farming, etc. As women gain confidence and autonomy in decision-making, they shape their agricultural endeavours independently. In this village, where most families depend on seasonal wage labour or migrate for earnings and face agricultural challenges due to unfavourable conditions, limited facilities and awareness, the intervention of PRADAN brought about

a significant transformation. PRADAN showed a sustainable and successful path to increase the income of many families by promoting sericulture. The NGO made the villagers believe that embracing organic farming is not just a choice but a path towards economic sustainability and a significant stride toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If the Government collaborate with NGOs and supports them, the organisations can work more effectively, instilling confidence and hope in rural communities, especially among marginalised women.

Keywords: NGO, sericulture, organic farming, agricultural challenges.

Abstract 49

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT OF THE RADHAGOVINDJIU TEMPLE COMPLEX OF ANTPURAT HOOGHLY DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL

Bhagyasree Bose

Department of Anthropology, Ramsaday College, Amta, Howrah, India

Cultural Resource Management gradually gaining very importance in the present world. The theme of preserving the cultural heritage of any community seems to be one of the duties rests on the shoulder of both the institutions like state and the citizens. The cultural history of any nation can be presented to the future generation through their proper preservation, documentation and spreading awareness. In the context, West Bengal is one of the richest states having great traditions of cultural history, exhibiting a vast variety of historical cultural heritage.

Antpur is such a village of West Bengal having historical significance. The most famous temple in Antpur is that of Radhagovindjiu with exquisite Terracotta carvings depicting mythical stories. These terracotta temples not only show a great artistic sign of work, rather store a rich cultural heritage within its structure. The present study is the result of a project sponsored and funded by Ramsaday College, Amta, Howrah. The aim of the present project is to study the architectural value of the structures and at the same time find out the social importance of these historical monuments in local as well as broader scenario. The study also tried to study functioning of the heritage management schemes in the site.

Keywords: Heritage, temple architecture, terracotta, CRM, Antpur.

Abstract 50

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON SOME ASPECTS OF RELIGIOUS RITUALS IN A SEMI-URBAN MULTI-COMMUNAL SETTING OF HOOGHLY DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL

Subhankar Das Sharma and Kartick Chakraborty

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Religion can be defined a “belief in Supernatural”. The religious practices in all societies show a set of believes and rituals. These rituals have a great importance in the study of the cultural scenario of any particular community in Anthropology.

The present study was aimed to explore in-depth situation in rituals practiced in a multi communal setting where most of them migrated from some other places of origin to a semi urban locality for their occupations. Here the study not only tried to get a detail picture of the mosaic character of different rituals having diverse origin but it also tried to explore the continuous changes occurred in the realm of the performance as well as associated ingredients. The factors for these changes in the light of the technical innovations and ‘development’ also taken into consideration of the present study.

A multi communal semi urban setting at Hindmotor area of Hooghly district is chosen for the present study as many communities resides here due to the job opportunities at the ‘Hindmotor’ motor vehicle factory and remain here inspire of the shutdown of the project. The present study mainly focuses on the different Hindu communities Staying in the selected area.

Keywords: Religion, multicultural setting, ritual in changing world, technological interference in rituals.

Abstract 51

THE AGEING PROBLEMS AND ROLE OF NGOS FOR ELDERLY CARE AT RURAL WEST BENGAL, INDIA.

Srikrishna Mondal

Department of Anthropology, Bangabasi College, Kolkata, India

The Indian aged population is currently second largest in the World, where as quality of life of the elderly has gone down. The migration, urbanization, westernization and globalization have severely affected the value system in India. In traditional Indian society elder people lived within multi-generational extended family comprising one or more adults, children, grandchildren and kin. The elder person has decision making responsibilities in economic, social, religious, social and political activities of the family. The family support system for elderly care has all most crumbled in India. There are six states viz, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh had more than millions of aged persons. The faster decline of states is also accompanied by considerable increase in life expectancy. The Bio-social problems of aged persons are found across every society i.e., tribal, rural, folk and urban. In rural West Bengal agro-economic situation and demographic transition took place due to decreasing agricultural land area, inhospitable agricultural activity, urbanization and globalization. There is marginal land holders' family suffered from multiple problems like poverty, small plot of lands, and unemployment of younger and migratory labour of younger generation. The relationship with younger generation is conflicting in nature and the aged person gradually become voiceless, powerless, loneliness in family. The aged person of marginal agricultural family seeks for alternative shelter to sustain livelihood. The aged person are reaping benefits from Central Government several scheme like IGNOAPS, NSAP, NOAPS, and Old Age Home, Day Care Centre at NGOs.

This paper has attempted to focuses on the empirical research concerned with physical and social vulnerability of aged persons who reside at 13 Old age home in NGOs premises of Purba and Pachim Medinipur in West Bengal. These NGOs are financially assisted by Central Governments to maintain infrastructure facilities and hospitality for aged beneficiaries. The total sample size is 325 which are selected stratified purposively and data has been collected through semi-structure and structure interview in depth and autobiographical sketch of life of aged person. The attempt has made to understand about role of NGOs to ameliorate misery and morbidity of aged persons.

Keywords: Agrarian society, geriatric problems, NGOs, old age home, elderly care.

Abstract 52

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON MENTAL HEALTH IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS OF NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL

Solanki Joarder¹, Chandan Paul¹, Nagma Parvin², Subir Biswas¹ and Premananda Bharati³

¹Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, West Bengal, India

²Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra, India

³(Formerly of) Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Government of India declared nationwide lockdown in 2020, as a result of covid-19 pandemic, restricted suddenly day to day life routine which has left impact not only physical health as well as our mental health by increased stress, anxiety, depression etc.

This study tries to find out the Mental health differences between urban- rural areas participants of North-24 parganas.

This study was conducted by e-question from 152 participants, 21-30 years. 80 participants are from urban areas (Barasat, Madhyamgram) 72 participants are from rural areas (Habra, Gobardanga, Kurulia) of North-24- parganas, through convenience sampling. Psychological distress was measured by using GAD-7 scale and PHQ-9 scale.

The result shows that the mean anxiety level found high among males 2.76(±1.26) than females 1.78(±0.87), high depression level is also found among males 3.26(±1.56) compare to female 1.95(±1.04), difference is

statistically significant. In urban area anxiety severity found high 2.37(\pm 1.26) than rural areas 1.81(\pm 0.85), the difference is statistically significant. In case of depression severity urban areas show high mean 2.75 (\pm 1.50) than rural areas 1.98(\pm 0.99) and the difference is statistically significant. The study also shows positive correlation between anxiety and depression-severity with age.

The study concludes that in rural area psychological effects of lockdown shows less in participants than urban area, the more age increased the level of anxiety and depression severity increasing.

Keywords: Depression, anxiety, rural-urban, male-female, COVID-19.

Abstract 53

WATER IN CULTURE: TRADITION VS. MODERNITY- A CASE STUDY AMONG THE ORAONS OF BARASAT, WEST BENGAL

Priyanka Paul and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, West Bengal, India

Water is one of the most precious resources not only for human being but also for all other living beings in the earth. Water has a diffusive influence on the diverse facets of human life & culture. In Anthropology water not only viewed as a substance that is used to cap the needs of the production, consumption and cleaning roles but also viewed in socio-economic and religious and metaphysical spheres. Water plays central role in different religious practices and beliefs of the community under study. The Oraon community as migrated from Jharkhand presently resides in Barasat for more than 60 years. Impacts of migration and influence of the neighbouring Bengali Hindu culture is notable in their religious practices. The present study highlights the continuity and change of the values of water in the ritualistic practices of the Oraons in Barasat. During investigation symbolic value of water delineate by the Bengali Hindu community is visible in the Oraons religious practices. The study reveals that the assimilation of the mainstream Bengali Hindu religious practices and value of Ganga water with their traditional socio-religious spheres as structured their religion in a diverse way. It is also visible that the community try to diminish the socio-religious difference with the neighbouring Bengali Hindu communities and become one of them. The empirical data have been collected through Case study, Intensive Interview, Non-participant Observation methods from different villages of Barasat, West Bengal. The relevant books, journals, administrative reports, internet resources were also been used as secondary data.

Keywords: Religion, water, traditional knowledge system, modernity, symbolism.

Abstract 54

DO BEHAVIORAL PATTERN EFFECTS GENETIC EXPRESSIONS? AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF OBESITY UPON THE PREVALENCE AND PROGRESSION OF NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE (NAFLD) AMONG THE ETHNIC POPULATIONS OF INDIA

Bijoy Bitan Saha, Diptendu Chatterjee and Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Obesity is a lifestyle disorder which is a major risk factor for metabolic syndrome worldwide. Asian Indians are found to be more susceptible to abdominal obesity and accumulation of visceral fat, which make them more vulnerable to metabolic syndrome. Obesity is associated with a spectrum of liver abnormalities, known as Non- Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD). More than 25% of the population worldwide is affected by NAFLD, a risk factor for T2DM, CVD and HCC. It has been estimated that in the future, Non- Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH), the most severe form of NAFLD, is going to be the most common cause of chronic liver disease and reason behind liver transplantation. Although a number of studies have been conducted to understand the progression of degenerative disease like diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular diseases among the ethnic populations worldwide but few studies have able to record the progression of NAFLD. The prevalence of adult NAFLD in India has been reported between 6.7% and 55.1%. Some of the clinical risk factors for metabolic syndrome such as hypertension and high glucose level are prevalent among the entire

population of India including the ethnic groups. The effect of cultural and economic disruption with prolonged food insecurity followed by rapid transition of food habit to more refined food are the factors held responsible for the high prevalence of obesity among different ethnic groups. Still there is a lacuna of data on NAFLD progression among the different ethnic population of India. Under such condition the aim of this study is to understand how behavioural pattern induce obesity and leads to NAFLD with special emphasis on the condition of ethnic groups in India.

Keywords: Obesity, metabolic syndrome, Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) hepatic gene-expression, food habit, urbanization, behavioural pattern, epigenetics.

Abstract 55

CAN GRANDPARENTING BE A KEY TO THE WELLBEING OF THE ELDERLY? A MULTI-SITED CROSS-SECTIONAL EMPIRICAL STUDY IN WEST BENGAL

Ankita Ray and Subhamay Kisku

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

In contemporary society, increasing life expectancy provides greater opportunities for more frequent and profound experiences in intergenerational relationships, resulting in enhanced affection and emotional closeness within families. In South Asian culture, elderly populations play a significant resource for rearing their grandchildren. Studies show that the relation between grandchild and grandparent has a significant impact on grandparents' subjective wellbeing though it gets mediated by some socio-demographic contexts. The purpose of this study was to understand the association of grandparenting on the subjective wellbeing of the urban, peri-urban and rural living elderly from West Bengal, India.

A multi-sited qualitative study was conducted in three administrative settings, i.e., urban, peri-urban and rural areas of West Bengal. Case studies and in-depth interviews were conducted with sixty participants aged 60 and above to harness the required data. A pre-tested questionnaire was used to collect the socio-demographic information. For thematic analysis, audio recordings were transcribed verbatim.

The findings revealed that the nature of grandparenting varies widely with living conditions, socio-demographic background, social interactions and physical environment in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. It depends on the intensity of inter-generational relationships and influences the physical, psychological and social well-being of the elderly. In urban areas, grandparent-grandchild interactions are more virtual in nature due to the living arrangements. The absence of a multi-generational family life strains the well-being of the elderly due to the physical absence of their grandchildren.

The existence of multigenerational households in peri-urban areas increases intergenerational interactions, which has important implications on well-being, albeit the consequences may vary depending on the contexts. The social networks of the elderly population also play a significant role in their well-being.

In rural areas, the traditional life ways of the community members and multi-generational households makes grandparenting more intensive. Thus, the wellbeing of the elderly seems to be more discerned by grandparenting along with social networks compared to the elderly living in other two set ups.

Keywords: Grandparenting, wellbeing, elderly, social support.

Abstract 56

CHANGES AND MODIFICATION OF URBAN ORAON: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC INSIGHT

Monosij Kumar Dutta and Chinmay Biswas

Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya college, Habra, India

The Oraon is mainly an agricultural tribe. The rituals of any community represent their occupational and social lives. The term 'Urban Oraon' is not a definition. It is a concept. This study is conducted in the hamlet of Oraon Para in the village of Bergum in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The present study is conducted on the Oraon community, which has lived for a long time in West Bengal. For the purpose and motto of the study, the data regarding rituals and festivals have been collected and analysed. This study has also interpreted how the changes and modifications of rituals and festivals have prevailed among Oraon

people due to external pressure and to maintain their ethnic identity. As we know, the environment shapes the culture, and culture helps to maintain the environment. This study mainly focused on rituals according to the Bengali calendar and on how modifications and changes help Oraon people maintain their own traditions and also help them accept modern days' large festivals. This study is also trying to find out the meaning of these rituals and festivals among the Oraon community and enlighten the practical implications of cultural ecology and the nature-man-spirit concept.

Keywords: Oraon tribe, rituals and festivals, cultural ecology, ethnic identity, modernization and tradition.

Abstract 57

AN ETHNOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF CHHAU MASK MAKING: SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Mandrima Biswas and Somosree Pal

Department of Anthropology, New Alipore College, Kolkata, India

Purulia Chhau Dance is a semi-classical traditional dance form originating in the Baghmundi region, Purulia district of West Bengal, India. It is a vibrant, colourful, and captivating dance combining martial arts, storytelling, and folk traditions. This dance form is an integral part of the intangible cultural heritage of the region and holds immense significance for the local communities. Through this cultural heritage traditions and values are passed down from one generation to another. The performances often take place during festivals and occasions, bringing communities together and fostering a sense of shared heritage. In the earlier days, the dance was performed by members of the Sutradhar community, but due to globalization and shifts in priorities, they are more associated with mask making. As society evolves and modernizes, traditional art forms like Purulia Chhau dance face competition from contemporary forms of entertainment and diverse economic options. Younger generations may be drawn to more popular culture, leaving traditional art forms in the shadows. This shift in priorities has led to a decline in the number of individuals interested in dedicating their lives to mastering the dance form. These circumstantial changes led the community to focus more on mask-making to sustain their livelihood. This paper intends to show an Ethno-archaeological study of the mask-making process and the impact of modernization on the Socioeconomic status of the Chhau mask-making community. The study also highlights the impact of globalization, new social media, and technological development on Chhau mask-making.

Keywords: Folk tradition, Chhau mask making, modernisation, socio economic status, globalisation, popular culture.

Abstract 58

FOLKLORES AND DISASTER NARRATIVES: A STUDY ON THE LEPCHA COMMUNITY OF THE SIKKIM-DARJEELING HIMALAYAN REGION

Clare Lizamit Samling

Department of Sociology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Indigenous and/or tribal communities having lived since time immemorial within an ecological setting, been able to amass a rich volume of knowledge that aids in their survival. This indigenous knowledge, apart from its varied uses, has also assisted the communities to prevent, prepare and mitigate, natural disasters. India has been recognised as one of the most natural disaster-prone countries in the world, due to its unique geo-climatic and socio-economic settings. As vulnerability of communities tends to differ, so does their resilience and coping mechanisms. Global and national commitments towards effective disaster risk reduction and management are now highlighting the efficacy of the indigenous knowledge systems and practices. The cultural heritage of India encompasses a diversity of communities, along with their rich repository of culture and traditional knowledge. The Lepchas are believed to be the original inhabitants of the Eastern Himalayas and in India, they are mainly concentrated in the Sikkim-Darjeeling Himalayan region. Based on the method of content analysis of Lepcha folklores, this study explores how the community has historically understood natural disasters, their representations, within the community and the knowledge communication of warnings and information about impending disasters within their ecological setting.

Keywords: Indigenous knowledge, folklores, disaster, Lepcha, Sikkim-Darjeeling Himalayan region.

Abstract 59

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Arun Makal

Department of Anthropology, Bangabasi Evening College, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Sustainable agriculture has been the focus of researchers for the past twenty-five years and has attracted much attention. This rapidly growing field of sustainable agriculture targets to produce food and energy for people today and future generations. Specifically, sustainable agricultural development (SAD) tries not only to preserve natural resources but also to develop them as upcoming generations would have much more demand quantity and quality wise for agricultural and food products. This SAD of every country depends on the careful mix of their available natural resources. Agriculture and Natural resources (ANR) is the largest contributing sector to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In this context, agriculture is the pillar of Indian economy. The role of agricultural sector in Indian economy can be seen during its contribution to GDP and employment. This sector also contributes much too sustainable economic development of the country. Keeping all these understandings in mind, this present analytical study attempts to explore the issue of sustainable development in agriculture and food security in India. It also tries to analyse the challenges facing sustainable agricultural development in India. This study has concluded that environmental, economic and social characteristics play very significant role to improve sustainability in Indian agricultural systems and to addresses rural development in an integrated manner. Finally, this study has recommended that the problems of Indian agricultural sector like institutional, structural and administrative need to be overcome for development in general and sustainable agricultural development in particular. Also, Indian agriculture must progress into an energetic sector contributing substantially to the growth of New Age Indian economy and for its sustainable development.

Keywords: Food security, gross domestic product, Indian economy, natural resources, sustainable agriculture.

Abstract 60

CULTURAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF ETHNOMEDICAL PRACTICES AMONG THE MUNDAS OF SUPURDI, PURULIA: A CASE STUDY

Dibyangshu Mandal¹ and Dr. Kaushik Bhattacharya²

¹Department of Anthropology, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Kolkata, India

²Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, West Bengal, India

Medical anthropology deals with illness-related experience, the cultural meaning of diseases, and human behaviour – classical epidemiology, on the contrary, is concerned with the clinical and medical reasons behind the diagnosis and distribution of diseases in a population. Cultural epidemiology – an interdisciplinary approach – holds the principles and methods of medical anthropology on the one hand and classical epidemiology on the other. In this endeavour, we tried to understand people's perceptions regarding the existing cultural meaning of different diseases among the Mundas of Supurdi Village, Begunkodar, Purulia. To understand the cultural meaning of the diseases, we employed specific techniques like the Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue (EMIC) and the Vignette Sampling Technique (VST). The Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue (EMIC) is a collection of open-ended query-based schedules that is an effective tool for a better understanding of the cultural meaning of various diseases. With the help of this tool, this endeavour effectively mapped the illness-related beliefs and associated practices. The vignette technique employed here is a story-based perception reader, which aptly records the views, ideas, beliefs, and perceptions of the villagers. In this village, with the help of the Vignette Sampling Technique (VST), we documented indigenous knowledge of the people about the illness and its perceived cause, the related help-seeking behaviours, and the villagers' responses towards the overall health condition of the village. This

endeavour focussed on three specific target groups – the affected person, the non-affected person, and the Health Care Providers (HCP). Further we categorized the health care providers into two groups – the first is the formal health care providers which consist of registered medical practitioners, and government health workers, and the second is the informal health care providers – the ojha, the gunins, and the traditional village healer.

Keywords: Medical anthropology, cultural epidemiology, explanatory model interview catalogue, vignette sampling technique, health care providers.

Abstract 61

DIABETES AND ITS MANAGEMENT AMONG THE ELDERLY OF AN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN SHIBPUR, HOWRAH DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

Kankana Basu

Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Diabetes is one of the prevailing non-communicable diseases worldwide. It has become an epidemic in India. Diabetes management is a very important issue as the number of diabetic patients is constantly increasing and its complications remain conspicuous without its proper control. Studies among the elderly diabetic patient appear to be scanty. Studies regarding clinical and behavioural management of diabetes among the elderly is also very rare. Dearth of studies in diabetes management particularly from the eastern region of India prompted us to conduct this study.

Objectives are (i) To evaluate sex differentials in the management profile of Diabetes Mellitus type 2 and ii) To examine the influence of socio-demographic factors (viz. education, occupation, income, family type), behavioural practices (physical exercise, dietary restriction, psycho-social stress), medication profile (oral anti-diabetic pills, administration of insulin, non-modern medicine for diabetes relief), co-morbidity profile (heart disease, kidney, neurological, renal diseases etc.), biological (anthropometric measurements, body composition, age etc) on diabetes and its management among the elderly.

This study has been conducted among 100 Bengali speaking older persons of both sexes aged 60 and above in an urban neighbourhood of Shibpur, Howrah district, West Bengal. Socio-demographic and lifestyle related data have been collected through pre-tested structured questionnaire. Random glucose was tested by glucometer (ACCU-CHEK). Data on dietary practices, use of medicines, and use of insulin injections were collected. Data on anthropometry were collected following standard procedures. Study participants have been selected by snowball sampling technique in this study.

Significant sex differences are observed in socio-demographic factors, physical exercise profile, co-morbidity experience and Perceive Stress Score (PSS), in one hand anthropometric variables, body composition measure on the other. Furthermore, it appears that random glucose level is influenced by physical activity and co-morbidity (osteoarthritis). It is revealed that Diabetes Mellitus type 2 is reasonably well managed by both sexes.

This micro-study demonstrates that the study population inhabiting an urban neighbourhood have been reasonably successful in managing and controlling diabetes.

Keywords: Diabetes Mellitus (Type-2), management, elderly, random glucose test, co-morbidity.

Abstract 62

IMPORTANCE OF SHEA FARMING: ROLE IN SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AMONG BAMBARA IN SANANKOROBA, MALI, WEST AFRICA

Mamadou Diakite and M. Kennedy Singh

Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, India

This anthropological study focuses on the importance of Shea (*Vitellaria paradoxa*), among the life of the Bambara people in Sanankoroba subdistrict of Mali, West Africa. The Shea has a significant inclusion as a part of traditional medicine and a tool to develop a farming community utilizing natural resources. The community has certain beliefs and practices associated with this particular natural substance. Conducting

ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation and interviews with the community members, the study has been able to document the role of traditional healers in the continuation of their traditional knowledge in Shea. The participation of farming practitioners utilizing the local knowledge system in another significant aspect in Bambara community development. Hence, the study portrays certain resource utilization and how this helps the community members assert their social solidarity and consolidation of the age-old social ties. From individual farming, presently the shea has been taken as a community development resource. Finally, the traditional use of shea butter and its compounds in medicine is still relevant, especially in rural communities where access to modern health care is often problematic. Therefore, the study will reflect the importance of homo-nature relation in the promotion of social integration.

Keywords: Shea, social consolidation, Bambara, traditional knowledge, healthcare.

Abstract 63

PREVALENCE AND SEVERITY OF MENOPAUSE AMONG BANGLADESHI WOMEN AGED 30-49 YEARS: A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

Abdul Awal¹, Jarin Sazzad², Momanin Mohammad Saqlain³, Asif Azizi⁴ and Md. Golam Hossain⁵

¹Department of Public Health, Varendra University, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

²Department of Microbiology, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

³USAID's Alliance for Combating TB, ICDDR, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

⁴Department of Community Medicine, Barind Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

⁵Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence and associated factors of early menopause among Bangladeshi married women.

Data was extracted from the 2017-18 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS-2017-18). BDHS-2017-18 collected data from overall Bangladesh using two stages stratified sampling. In this study, menstruation that stops before 45 years was considered as early menopause. Chi-square test and logistic regression models were used in this study.

This study revealed that the prevalence of early menopause among Bangladeshi married women was 10.80%. Multiple logistic models demonstrated that women living alone got early menopause 1.593 times higher than women who were living with their husbands ($p < 0.05$). It was found that women with higher education was less likely to get early menopause than uneducated ($p < 0.05$) and primary ($p < 0.05$) educated women. Women who had 6 or more children was more likely to reach early menopause than women having 2 or a smaller number of children ($p < 0.05$). Housewife was more likely to develop early menopause than service holder ($p < 0.05$). Hosmer and Lemeshow test (χ^2 -value=7.647, $p=0.469$) showed that our selected model was good fitted to data.

In this study, some modifiable factors were found as the important predictors of early menopause among Bangladeshi married women. These findings can help government and non-government organizations for taking initiatives to reduce the prevalence of early menopause in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Early menopause, married women, Bangladesh, logistic regression.

Abstract 64

ANALYZING DETERMINANTS OF MATERNAL HEALTHCARE SERVICE UTILIZATION IN BANGLADESH: INSIGHTS FROM A NATIONWIDE CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Farhana Hasan, Md. Kaderi Kibria, Md. Sabiruzzaman, Md. Monimil Huq, Abu Sayed Md. Al Mamun and Md. Golam Hossain

Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

The well-being of mother's and infant's hinges on effective maternal health care utilization, particularly in nations like Bangladesh grappling with high maternal and infant mortality rates. This cross-sectional study delves into the intricate interplay of demographic and socioeconomic facets influencing maternal health care service utilization among women of reproductive age in Bangladesh.

Leveraging the comprehensive dataset from the Bangladeshi Demographic and Health Survey, this study delved into the utilization of maternal health care services among women of reproductive age. Delicately examining variables such as division, maternal age, educational levels of both mothers and husbands, age at first birth, mode of birth, vitamin A intake during pregnancy, and the respondent's wealth index, the study employed advanced multinomial logistic regression analysis. This allowed for a nuanced understanding of how these multifaceted elements collectively influence maternal health care utilization.

Within the tapestry of divisions, Rangpur division stood out with an eloquent Odds Ratio (OR) of 2.56 (95% CI: 1.69 - 3.86) for desirable maternal health care utilization, while Dhaka division painted an OR of 1.09 (95% CI: 0.76 - 1.57) for moderate utilization, spotlighting regional nuances. Education, a beacon of empowerment, illuminated the narrative—higher education levels among women translated to heightened odds for both desirable (OR: 1.94, 95% CI: 1.35 - 2.78) and moderate (OR: 1.83, 95% CI: 1.36 - 2.46) utilization. The arc of maternal age and reproductive chronicles also played a symphonic role, with cesarean births commanding an eloquent OR of 17.56 (95% CI: 10.51 - 29.33) for desirable utilization. The urban narrative beckoned, as urban locales etched an OR of 1.45 (95% CI: 1.14 - 1.84) for desirable utilization. Amid these vignettes, the orchestra of socioeconomic strata played its part, as the middle wealth index resounded with an OR of 2.54 (95% CI: 1.57 - 4.10) for desirable utilization and the rich index composed an OR of 2.02 (95% CI: 1.61 - 2.52) for moderate utilization.

With brushstrokes of insight, this study reveals a chiaroscuro of determinants shaping maternal health care service utilization among women in Bangladesh. These revelations beckon forth the need for artful strategies, tailored and responsive, to bridge access gaps and harmonize utilization. A masterpiece of equitable maternal and child health beckons, extending beyond Bangladesh's borders to resonate in kindred contexts.

Keywords: Maternal health care, ANC Visit, logistic regression, Bangladesh.

Abstract 65

RISK OF CAESAREAN AMONG THE WOMEN IN THE RAJSHAHI REGION OF BANGLADESH: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Md. Masud Rana¹, Premananda Bharati², Abu Sayed Md. Al Mamun³ and Md. Golam Hossain³

¹Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh

²(Formerly of) Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India

³Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

The significant increase in the rate of caesarean sections (CS) is a major public health issue. The World Health Organization recommends CS rates not to be greater than 10% and no lower than 5%, as both of the indicated limits can adversely affect maternal and newborn health.

The study aimed to investigate influencing factors for selective CS among pregnant mothers and to determine the association for selective CS among mothers with selected socio-economic characteristics in the Rajshahi region of Bangladesh.

This was a health complex-based of Upazila level cross-sectional study. Data were collected from July to September '2022. A semi-structured questionnaire was used for collecting data; a total of 384 delivery mothers participated in Rajshahi division, Bangladesh. A descriptive analysis, the Chi-square test, and a binary logistic regression model were utilized in the present study.

The prevalence of lower-educated mothers for normal vaginal delivery (NVD) and CS delivery was 62% and 38%, respectively. The women in the age group ≥ 30 years (AOR = 115.491; 95% CI: 17.465-763.708) were more likely to have preferred CS delivery compared to the women in the age group ≤ 29 years, and these factors were statistically significant ($p < 0.01$). The businessman wife (businessmen's wives) (AOR = 0.255; 95% CI: 0.092-0.704) was less likely to have preferred CS delivery compared to their counterparts (farmer's wives), and these factors were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). The Muslim community people trend (AOR = 0.036; 95% CI: 0.001-0.891) was less likely to have preferred CS delivery compared to their counterparts, and these factors were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

The study revealed that a large number of lower-educated women preferred CS delivery. The major factors for preferring CS were to select socioeconomic and demographic factors, avoid a speedy recovery from the postpartum period, and be safer for their babies' and mothers' lives. This study strongly recommends increasing health education and making awareness among mothers about the disadvantage of CS. The health authorities of government and non-government organizations and electronic and print media can play a good role for the purpose.

Keywords: Caesarean delivery, associated factors, chi-square test, binary logistic regression model.

Abstract 66

ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF IRON-FOLIC ACID SUPPLEMENTATION INTAKE OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS OF BANGLADESH: SURVEY IN RAJSHAHI DISTRICT

Md. Reazul Karim¹, Md. Atiqur Rahaman², Nurun Nahar Shoma³ and Md. Golam Hossain³

¹Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

²Damien Foundation, Rajshahi TB & Leprosy Control Project, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

³DASCOH Foundation, Lutheran Mission Complex, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Iron-folic acid supplementation (IFAS) intake throughout pregnancy for the appropriate duration minimizes the incidence of anaemia and congenital abnormalities. In Bangladesh, anaemia is a widespread public health issue. Iron-folic acid supplementation is the major treatment and preventative method for anaemia. It endangers maternal and child life, and contributes to low birth weight, impaired infection resistance, poor cognitive development, and decreased work productivity.

This study aimed to determine the associated factors of IFAS intake among pregnant women in rural Rajshahi district in Bangladesh.

This cross-sectional study was conducted from October to December, 2016. Multistage sampling technique was used to select samples covering all the population from 9 sub-district in Rajshahi district with 233 community clinics. A total of 540 mothers were enrolled for the study. Descriptive statistics, χ^2 test and logistic regression model were used to analyse the data.

This study revealed that 90.6% mothers received IFAS through their pregnancy periods. Multinomial logistic regression analysis showed that older (age ≥ 35 years) pregnant women were more likely to receive IFAS than younger (≤ 25 years) pregnant women (AOR= 13.327; 95%, CI: 1.131-157.081, $p < 0.05$). Poor household pregnant women were less likely to intake IFAS than ultra-poor household pregnant women (AOR= 0.297; 95%, CI: 0.099-0.893, $p < 0.05$). Pregnant women whose husbands had primary (grade I-V) education (AOR= 4.091 CI: 1.015-16.492; $p < 0.05$) and secondary (vi-x) education (AOR= 5.225, CI: 1.145-23.843; $p < 0.05$) were 4 and 5 times more likely to receive IFAS than those whose husbands were uneducated. Pregnant women age at ≥ 20 -29 years at birth of their present children was found to be less likely to receive IFAS than younger (age < 20 years) age pregnant women (AOR= 0.116; 95%, CI: 0.014-0.991, $p < 0.05$). Pregnant women's children who faced health problems during delivery were found to be less likely to receive IFAS compared to pregnant women whose children didn't face any problems (AOR= 0.446; 95%, CI: 0.207-0.963, $p < 0.05$).

We found that some modifiable factors were associated with the influence intake the IFAS such as the husband's educational status, the pregnant women's age, and poverty status. The study's results can help to the Bangladesh Government and non-government organizations in enhancing their health policies to improve the health outcomes of pregnant women and their children in the country.

Keywords: Iron-folic acid supplementation, pregnant women, Bangladesh.

Abstract 67

PERCEIVED STRESS LEVEL AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES

Saqib Salah Afi¹, Md. Abu Reza², Md. Ariful Haque³, Md. Nurul Islam⁴ and Md. Golam Hossain⁴

¹Rajshahi Diabetic Association General Hospital, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

²Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

³Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

⁴Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Diabetes is a chronic disease that poses a significant global health concern. As a lifestyle disorder, psychosocial and behavioral aspects are crucial for its management, with stress playing a significant role. Stress is a major contributor to the onset or worsening of diabetes.

The objective of the study is to evaluate the perceived stress scale and associated factors in Type 2 Diabetes patients.

This was a cross-sectional study of patients at the Rajshahi Diabetic Association General Hospital in Bangladesh. From June to August 2023, 250 persons with type 2 diabetes mellitus were included using purposive sampling based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Face-to-face interviews with a semi-structured questionnaire were used to collect data. The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS)-10 was used to assess the patients' stress levels.

Patient age ranged from 31 to 80 years with a mean age 51.18 ± 11.10 . The majority (31.11%) were between ages 51-60 Years, followed by the age group 41-50 Years. The least number of respondents were from the age group of 71-80 Years, which was only 5.93% of the total respondents of the study. Total (45.93%) were female and 54.07% were males. Gender ($p < 0.05$), type of residence ($p < 0.05$), sleep disturbance ($p < 0.05$), and HbA1c ($p < 0.05$). Other factors such as age, education, occupation, type of family, and monthly expenditure had no significant association with the patient's stress levels ($p > 0.05$). The Odd ratio is comparatively higher in types of residence 1.162. Diabetic patients, there was a significant association of Low PSS with HTN and DM years. The Odd ratio is comparatively higher in HTN 3.947. Diabetic patients had no significant association of PSS with exercise, diet, medication, GDM, and complications. The Odd ratio is comparatively higher in GDM 6.59 and sleep disturbance 6.59 in low-level PSS.

More than half of the DM patients in this study reported significant stress levels. Stress management approaches should be included in diabetes healthcare systems. Large-scale and well-organized scientific studies on this subject are required to evaluate stress's effect on DM patients.

Keywords: Type 2 DM, stress, perceived stress scale, associated factors.

Abstract 68

EFFECT OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT DURING TREATMENT OF MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS IN RAJSHAHI DIVISION, BANGLADESH

Md. Abu Sayem¹, Md. Ashaque Husain², Md. Mojibur Rahman³ and Md. Golam Hossain³

¹Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

²International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Dhaka, Bangladesh

³Department of Epidemiology, Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a public health crisis throughout the world including Bangladesh due to its complexities in diagnosis, longer treatment, and adverse drug reaction. Nutritional supplementation has significant impact on patient's optimum weight gain which is a biomarker of treatment response. The objective of this study was to measure body mass index (BMI) progress among MDR-TB patients in different phases of treatment.

A prospective observational study was conducted from March 2010 to July 2015 in Chest Disease Hospital (CDH), Rajshahi and different communities of Rajshahi division, Bangladesh. A total of 233 confirmed MDR-TB patients were selected from CDH who received treatment and nutritional support from ongoing national TB control program (NTP). They received free diagnosis, follow up tests, treatment and nutritional

support as regular diet as well as cash amount of BDT. Intensive phase per month in CDH was 1000 Taka for four months. Along with treatment, they also received only cash amount of BDT. 1500 per month as nutritional support at community for five months as continuation phase of treatment. Weight measurement was taken at regular interval from enrolment to completion of treatment. Chi-square, paired t-test and linear regression were used in this study.

The baseline prevalence of undernourished (BMI < 18.5 kg/m²) was 82.4%. After two months of treatment, 14.5% underweight patients gained weight and reverted to normal BMI. Regression analysis showed the decreasing tendency of BMI progress with increasing age which was significant among male patients ($p < 0.05$). We observed reversely that patients gained more BMI in intensive phase (in hospital) than continuation phase (in the community) of treatment. The cohort results demonstrated that the treatment success rate was lower (<83%) among initially underweight patients than their counterparts (>92%).

Nutritional support has synergistic effect on treatment response. Adequate nutritional support with proper treatment would help to get better outcomes particularly at community level. Gender issue should also be addressed at household level.

Keywords: BMI progress, MDR-TB, nutritional support, Bangladesh.

Abstract 69

ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF SUICIDALITY AMONG MARRIED ADULTS IN RAJSHAHI CITY OF BANGLADESH

Md. Abdul Wadood¹, Md. Rezaul Karim², Sheikh Md. Abu Hena Mostafa Alim³, Md. Masud Rana³, Md. Nurul Islam³ and Md. Golam Hossain³

¹Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

²Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

³Department of Psychiatry, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Suicide is a public health problem all over the world including Bangladesh. To understand and prevent suicide, the study of SI and SA is necessary because about 9% of the patients admitted with suicidal ideation (SI) or suicide attempt (SA) later complete suicide. The issue is poorly documented in Bangladesh. Therefore, we designed to study suicidality (SI and SA) among married adults in Rajshahi City of Bangladesh.

We selected 708 married adults for this household cross-sectional study by a multi-stage random sampling technique. Suicidality was measured by a combination of SI and SA that were determined by answers of the respondents to two separate questions regarding SI and SA during last one year. We used frequency distribution, Chi-square test, and logistic regression model for data analysis.

The prevalence of suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, and suicidality was 5.8%, 3.4%, and 8.3% respectively. The risk factors of suicidality were (i) joint family (AOR = 0.310, $p < 0.01$), (ii) ≥ 26 years of age at the first marriage (AOR = 0.379, $p < 0.05$), (iii) twice or more marriage (AOR = 0.214, $p < 0.01$), (iv) conjugal life of ≥ 16 years (AOR = 0.410, $p < 0.05$), (v) having no child (AOR = 6.343, $p < 0.01$) and (vi) having 1–2 children (AOR = 6.190, $p < 0.01$), (vii) medical comorbidity (AOR = 0.421, $p < 0.01$), (viii) mental comorbidity (AOR = 0.253, $p < 0.01$), (ix) stress-anxiety (AOR = 0.311, $p < 0.01$), (x) family history of mental disorders (AOR = 0.059, $p < 0.01$), (xi) family history of suicide/suicide attempt (AOR = 0.009, $p < 0.01$), (xii) substance abuse (AOR = 0.065, $p < 0.01$), (xiii) poor relationship with spouse (AOR = 0.209, $p < 0.01$), and (xiv) poor relationship with other family members (AOR = 0.347, $p < 0.05$).

The prevalence of suicidality among married adults was remarkable in Rajshahi city of Bangladesh. The government, non-government, social and cultural agencies should undertake measures for preventing and reducing suicidality with special focus on the vulnerable groups.

Keywords: Suicidality, adults, associated factors, Bangladesh.

Abstract 70

EXTINCTION OF TRIBAL CULTURE BY THE TRANSFORMATION OF TRADITIONAL WAY OF SUSTAINABLE WATER CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Reethu Das and Rahul NR

Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, India

This paper examines the transformation of a traditional way of water conservation and its associated deterioration of a culture. Wayanad, one of the most tribal populated districts in Kerala, stand on the southern tip of the Deccan plateau under the Nilgiri biosphere. Some tribal communities of the district practice a unique method of preserving ground water by sustainable way of consumption called the “Keni”. Keni is a kind of watershed made by them for water management and purification. The watersheds have a depth of three to five feet and are constructed of palm wood. It is constructed in the wetlands nearby forests or paddy fields. The watershed is regarded as sacred, and this is reflected in the communities' customs, traditions, and ceremonies. The sacred water marks the beginning and conclusion of a person's daily existence as well as ceremonies for marriage, death, birth, puberty, and other life events. Nowadays some changes are happening in the water conservation and management in the community. Fear of water scarcity is one of them. The groundwater level has been decreasing for past few years and thus people are not able to access the water from Keni. In this context, initiatives have been taken by the local administrative body with the consultation of the community people to transform the Keniwatersheds into round wells. Sometimes people from the community take initiatives for themselves. Wells are made more wider and deeper than the Keniwatershed. This type of well can hold a huge amount of water and also pipelines are installed in community and non-community households. These wells are de-stabilising the sustainable water management and these transformations are directly or indirectly altering the tribal culture in the district.

Keyword: Water conservation, Wayanad, Keni, sacred, scarcity, wells, transformation.

Abstract 71

FOLK DANCE OF WEST BENGAL: AN EXOTIC FIELD OF TRIBAL CULTURE

Susmita Bhattacharyya

Department of Sociology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Folk culture is associated with specific locational and socio –economic attributes in the context of particular group. Conceptualization of folk culture can be materialistic as well as non-materialistic comprising customs, values, norms, skill, dress and holistic aspects of way of life of a small, homogeneous community. Rich cultural tradition of West Bengal has its origin in diversified presence of folk culture. Dance is inseparable sector in Bengal folk culture encompassing myths and mythologies, religion and magic, customs and age-old tradition. The glorious tradition of folk Dance of Bengal can be distinguished in relation to purpose and mode of execution with respect to regional variations. The major recognized forms are Mask Dance, Ritual Dance, War Dance, Festival Dance, Secular Dance and so on. The study is based on a small group study of thirty respondents who are directly connected to folk dance of Bengal. For analytical purpose the present researcher has to depend on secondary data including books, journal and so on. The study has two objectives --- 1] to identify the nature, value and expression of Folk dance of Bengal considering the socio—economic specification and 2] to focus on the process of transformation in the arena of Folk dance of Bengal. Understanding the periphery of Folk dance, the consideration should focus on folk music, instrument as well as attire on the basis of cultural specificity. Thus, folk dance of Bengal has reached to international platform as exotic field of tribal culture.

Keywords: Folk, culture, dance, tribe and group.

Abstract 72

RISING CASES OF HYPERTENSION AMONG THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS IN NORTH-EAST INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

Sudipta Ghosh

Department of Anthropology, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India

This review paper aims to understand the influence of ethnicity and gender on the prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors among the indigenous populations of northeast India. Thirty-one articles were retrieved using Pubmed, NCBI, and Google Scholar. The articles were based on the rising cases of hypertension among twenty-four different indigenous populations located in all eight districts of northeast India, including north Bengal. Participants were all adults from both sexes. Blood pressure, both systolic and diastolic, was reported for each population, along with their nutritional status through body mass index (BMI) in some cases. Results indicate a high prevalence of systolic diastolic hypertension (SDH) among most populations in northeast India. In particular, Mizo shows a very high prevalence in both males and females (78% Male vs. 61% Female), followed by Liangmai (77% Male vs. 62% Female) and Ao Naga (45% Male vs. 41% Female). A very high prevalence of isolated diastolic hypertension (IDH) was observed among the Angami Naga (67% Rural vs. 68% Urban). However, in BMI, low percentages of Angami Naga (14% Rural vs. 20% Urban) were found to be obese. In most indigenous populations, males are more susceptible to developing CVD risk factors-related vulnerabilities than their female counterparts. This prevalence needs to be understood from an evolutionary approach of genetic adaptation and physiological mechanisms toward nutritional transition in the indigenous populations of northeast India.

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease risk factors, ethnicity, gender, indigenous populations, Northeast India.

Abstract 73

BODY SIZE AND WEIGHT STATUS AMONG HINDU AND MUSLIM INDIAN MALES BORN IN THE 1890S THROUGH THE 1950S

Grażyna Liczbińska¹, Rajesh K. Gautam², Premananda Bharati³ and Robert M. Malina⁴

¹Institute of Human Biology and Evolution, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

²Department of Anthropology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India

³(Formerly of) Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India

⁴Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, University of Texas, Austin, USA

This work aims to compare body size, weight status and estimated secular changes among Hindu and Muslim Indian men 18–84 years of age. Data are from Anthropological Surveys in the 1970s. Height, sitting height and weight were measured among 43,950 males 18–84 years (birth years 1891–1957). Leg length was estimated and the BMI and sitting height/height ratio were calculated. Heights of men 35+ years were adjusted for estimated height loss with age. Weight status was classified relative to WHO criteria for the BMI. MANCOVA with age and geographic region as covariates was used to compare Hindu and Muslim men. Linear regression of height on year of birth was used to estimate secular change in each group. Heights, weights, and BMIs tend to be greater, on average, among Muslim than Hindu men at most ages, while distributions by weight status between groups are negligible. Sitting height is greater among Muslim men but estimated leg length does not differ; the sitting height/height ratio thus suggests proportionally shorter legs among Muslim men. The regression analyses suggest negligible differences in secular change between groups across the total span of birth years but suggest a decline in adjusted heights in both groups born in 1891 through 1930s and little change among those born in the 1930s through 1957. Heights, weights, and BMIs tend to be greater among Muslim than Hindu men at most ages, suggesting variation in dietary habits between groups. Negligible secular differences in height between Muslim and Hindu men likely reflect economic, social, and nutritional conditions during the interval of British rule and transition to independence.

Keywords: BMI, height, weight status, religion, nutrition, social roles.

Abstract 74

HUMAN BODY AND EMBODIMENT OF CULTURE; A CASE STUDY AMONG THE FISHERFOLK OF JALDHA AND NRANDIYA, DIGHA, PURBAMEDINAPUR, WEST BENGAL

Aninda Ojha and Kaushik Bhattacharya

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, West Bengal, India

Human body and its conscious or unconscious exhibition have specific symbolic meaning in different cultural contexts. In the reference of time and space, human body confers its obvious identity as an object, but, on the other hand, it associates a subjective meaning as well. This subjective meaning is cocooned by the cultural practices of that particular society. This paper tries to establish a cognitive relation in the context of occupation, livelihood practices and physicality of body (deliberate exhibition of gesture and posture) among the fisherfolk community of Jaldha and Narandiya villages adjacent to Digha, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. It also tries to throw light on the natural orientation of body, that is, being a body, and on the other hand the nurture bearings of the same, that is, having a body (deliberate exhibition of the body by the set of cultural experience). Therefore, this paper deals with human body as a cultural space where social norms, values, ideas, beliefs, power-dynamics are embedded – embodiment of culture. In this endeavour the main three foci are – community identity and body relationship, utilization of body as resource, and the body as an agent of power.

Keywords: Symbolic, cognitive relation, being a body, having a body, embodiment.

Abstract 75

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MANAGING STRATEGIES OF THE SITE LAKRIDUNGRIPURBISINGHBHUM DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND

Debjani Mahato and Debasis Kumar Mondal

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

The hillock Lakridungrī situated just beside present day Galudih police station in Purba Singhbhum district of Jharkhand is a very rich prehistoric site. Evidences of Pleistocene environment is till date freshly imprinted in the form of different stratigraphical layers at the site. The hillock and its adjacent area have yielded remains of human settlement in forms of artifacts of Lower Palaeolithic Period. Archaeological research work was initiated at the site during 2010 by a group of M.Sc. students from Anthropology Department of West Bengal State University under the guidance of Dr. D.K. Mondal. Since then, studies have been carried out here at several intervals till present year.

It has been noticed in recent years due to numerous factors serious concerns have arisen that might lead towards the complete extinction of this prehistoric site. The present work focusses to identify such anthropogenic and natural factors threatening the existence of the site and finally to suggest probable remedies in order to protect further destructions of prehistoric cultural heritage preserved at the site Lakridungrī.

Keywords: Stratigraphy, artifacts, anthropogenic threats, protection, heritage.

Abstract 76

INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT IN FORMATION OF GENDERED SPACE: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION AT DAKSHIN MRIDHAGHERI VILLAGE IN KUMIRMARI ISLAND IN SOUTH 24 PARGANAS OF WEST BENGAL

Rupam Mandal¹ and Sankha Priya Guha²

¹Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, West Bengal, India

²Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

In anthropological terms, a gendered space refers to a physical or social environment that is designed, structured, or perceived in a way that reinforces or perpetuates gender differences and inequalities. They are constructed by societies to reflect and perpetuate norms, expectations, and power dynamics related to gender. These spaces prescribe gendered roles, behaviours, and expectations, limiting and defining

individual's experiences and interactions based on their perceived gender. Such spaces can be public or private, ranging from physical locations like workplaces, schools, or domestic spheres (such as kitchens or nurseries), to social or cultural domains like religious institutions or recreational areas.

The present study is an empirical exploration, examining the nuanced interpretations of gendered meanings associated with various domains, spanning from the domestic sphere to the public realm, within the Dakshin Mridhagheri village located on the Kumirmari Island in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The study also aims to understand the impact of the environment on the formation of gendered spaces in the village, which is located in the fragile ecology of the Sundarbans. Employing first-hand anthropological fieldwork methodologies and techniques, such as interviews, questionnaires, observations, in-depth case studies, and insightful interviews, the study effectively achieves its research objectives. In conclusion, the study sheds light on how various spaces within the studied locale acquire gendered meanings and how the environment (both social and physical) plays a crucial role in shaping gendered spaces.

Keywords: Gender, space, culture, environment.

Abstract 77

A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF HEMP CULTIVATION IN UTTARAKHAND

Madhushree Barik

Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, India

Environmental anthropology has consistently challenged and reconfigured the conceptual divisions between humanity and nature, engendering new understandings of human society in the process. Plants engage in elaborate forms of perception, interpreting and responding to their immediate environments and the other forms of life which they encounter in the course of daily life. Plants interact differently in relation to different species, like human beings, for sharing resources and coordinating actions. Rather than looking into plants only as a species for decor and background wallflowers, plants can be viewed from a different lens as ethnographic subjects because we modern subjects being human-centered undergo an inability to notice and ponder about plants. Hence, the boundaries of traditional ethnographic research conducted from an anthropocentric viewpoint now need to be pushed and directed "beyond the human" towards sessile plants which unequivocally possess parallel capacity for socializing and sensing. The theory of "affective ecologies" by Hustak and Myers encompassing plant, human and multispecies interaction demonstrates the interdependence and involution of seemingly unrelated life forms. Planthropology can help us to make allies with these green beings and also to document the affective ecologies taking shape between plants and people. This study highlights the intriguing possibilities and future perspectives of hemp cultivation and uses of hemp-derived products in Uttarakhand. To make allies with this intentionally disguised plant and to document the affective ecologies taking shape between hemp plants and people along with assemblages with multiple species, a plant-centred anthropological analysis of hemp has been done by concerning hemp plants as the ethnographic subjects.

Keywords: Affective ecologies, environmental anthropology, hemp, multispecies.

Abstract 78

END-OF-LIFE CARE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE: CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES

Sayantani Banerjee and Somenath Bhattacharjee

Department of Anthropology, Nagaland University, Nagaland, India

End-of-life care for the elderly is a complex and pressing concern in the aging world. This research paper delves into the multifaceted landscape of end-of-life care, aiming to shed light on its challenges and best practices. With an increasingly elderly population, understanding and improving this healthcare facet is a paramount. The paper begins by establishing a foundation, defining end-of-life care, and presenting the demographic shifts that underscore its significance. It then explores the challenges in this domain, from access and quality issues to the intricate legal and ethical considerations surrounding decision-making.

Palliative and hospice care are crucial components of end-of-life care, showcasing their roles in enhancing the quality of life for elderly individuals with serious illnesses. Best practices in providing end-of-life care are highlighted, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration among healthcare professionals and presenting innovative care models. The paper also underscores the pivotal role of family members and caregivers in supporting elderly individuals during this sensitive phase, acknowledging their challenges and strategies to support them effectively. Cultural competence is explored as an essential aspect of providing care to diverse elderly populations, respecting cultural beliefs and practices surrounding death and dying. As a forward-looking endeavour, the paper provides recommendations for improving end-of-life care for the elderly, touching on potential policy changes, healthcare system enhancements, and the role of technology. It concludes by emphasizing the need for continuous research and improvement in end-of-life care to ensure that elderly individuals receive the compassionate and high-quality care they deserve.

Keywords: Elderly, palliative, hospice, healthcare, caregivers.

Abstract 79

HEALTH, HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE LODHAS OF SUNDERBAN, WEST BENGAL

Nabanita Goswamy and Somenath Bhattacharjee

Department of Anthropology, Nagaland University, Nagaland, India

Lodhas, the Primitive tribal group in West Bengal, is living under utter deprivation in the hamlets of Pathar Pratima block, South 24 Parganas district. Their livelihood is deeply related to the surrounding natural resources. The present paper is focused on understanding the perspectives of the studied people related to their concept of health, disease and treatment. The socio-economic factors predominantly influence the health care system of any ethnic group. Their belief system determines how they conceptualize health, disease, and illness. As illness is subjective, how the concerned people conceive different natural and supernatural causes of diseases is one of the prime objectives of the present paper. Their perception of different types of Diseases and their quantification, patient-healer dependency will be addressed.

Moreover, the research will focus on the various stakeholders providing treatment to the community people. It is necessary to study the different locally available ethno-medicinal resources, along with magico-religious healing practices. Finally, the success rate or the result of treatment for the concerned people becomes significant in addressing the health-seeking behaviour.

The paper is based on primary data which are collected through empirical fieldwork by applying appropriate anthropological methods.

Keywords: Health, illness, ethno-medicine, treatment, belief.

Abstract 80

ANGULAR PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE CRANIOFACIAL PROFILE AND ITS INHERITANCE PATTERN: A STUDY IN BENGALEE HINDU CASTE POPULATION OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Arkopala Bose, Aditi Banerjee, Srishti Mondal, Sumit Maitra and Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Craniofacial morphology is orchestrated by additive effects of gene and environment with multifactorial inheritance pattern. Prior studies mostly from abroad participants involving twin and family have demonstrated that heredity significantly influence the development of the craniofacial architecture of an individual. Due to their predictive value for craniofacial features, these data may provide crucial information on personal identification, familial inheritance and can have imperative contribution in forensics. In this background, the present study is a maiden attempt to understand the familial inheritance pattern of different craniofacial angles from Indian context.

The objective of this study was to estimate the correlation and heritability values of craniofacial variables between parents and their offspring through angular photogrammetric analysis.

This cross-sectional study was undertaken on Bengalee Hindu caste among 80 families (240 adult participants) with each family comprising father, mother and son/daughter. Five angular measurements (Naso-Frontal angle, Naso-Mental angle, Naso-Labial angle, Nasal Tip angle and Naso-Facial angle) were made on the standardized digital images of the profiles of the participants. Interfamilial correlations and heritability (h^2) values were estimated among father-son, father-daughter, mother-son, and mother-daughter pairings.

Significant ($p < 0.05$) sexual dimorphism has been found in all angular measurement among the parental generation but in offspring generation significant ($p < 0.05$) sexual dimorphism has been found only in Naso-Frontal and Naso-Mental angle. Father-offspring pairing demonstrated significant ($p < 0.05$) positive correlation compared to those of mother-offspring pairing. Most of the angular measurements exhibited moderate to high heritability indicating higher gene(s) aggregation. Furthermore, coefficient of determination (r^2) and heritability values (h^2) implied a crisscross pattern of inheritance among the studied population for angular craniofacial variables.

This work suggests, rather than the sons, the daughters' craniofacial angular characteristics are more hereditarily determined with father-daughter pairing showing the strong values of correlation and heritability.

Keywords: Heritability, angular measurements, photogrammetry, family study.

Abstract 81

ASSOCIATION OF ANTHROPOMETRIC AND PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIABLES WITH BONE MASS AND HEMOGLOBIN LEVELS: A STUDY AMONG TRIPURI AND CHAKMA POPULATIONS OF TRIPURA AND BENGALEE HINDU CASTE POPULATION OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Sumit Maitra, Arkopala Bose, Diptendu Chatterjee and Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay
Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

An ample number of studies related to bone mass and other variables have revealed that bone mass is an extremely important factor that determines several factors of the human body. Peak bone mass attained by early adulthood, is influenced by genetic and lifestyle factors. Haemoglobin (Hb) is the iron-containing oxygen-transport metalloprotein in the red blood cells. Prior studies have also revealed that hematopoietic and osteogenic cells are known to affect each other's functions.

To unravel the association of several anthropometric and physiological variables with Bone mass and haemoglobin levels among Tripuri and Chakma of Tripura and Bengalee Hindu Caste population of West Bengal.

The present study revealed that in Tripuri, bone mass is negatively correlated with Age, Percent body fat (PBF) and oxygen saturation ($r = -0.581, -0.190, -0.021$ respectively). Whereas haemoglobin levels are positively correlated with all anthropometric and physiological variables. In the case of Chakma, bone mass is positively correlated with Height ($r=0.215$), Haemoglobin levels ($r=0.251$), Fat-free mass (FFM) ($r=0.242$), Oxygen saturation ($r=0.073$) and Lung volume (0.073). Whereas Hb level is negatively correlated with age ($r= -0.333$), Fat mass (FM) ($r= -0.308$), BMI ($r= -0.135$), and visceral fat (VF) ($r= -0.144$). Furthermore, in Bengalee Hindu caste population, bone mass is positively correlated with all anthropometric and physiological variables except for Age ($r= -0.307$), oxygen saturation ($r= -0.013$) and PBF ($r= -0.131$). Whereas Hb level is negatively correlated with Age ($r= -0.119$), BMI ($r= -0.023$), PBF ($r= -0.254$) and FM ($r= -0.098$).

The present study reveals no significant differences in the bone mass and Hb level between the three populations. Moreover, Age and PBF are negatively correlated with Bone mass among all three populations.

Keywords: Bone mass, haemoglobin, correlation.

Abstract 82

ROLE OF SELF-HELP GROUPS IN TRIBAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY FROM WEST BENGAL

Ananya Acherjee and Kasi Eswarappa

Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, MP, India.

God helps them who help themselves- this is the hidden essence of Self-help groups (SHGs). There is a plethora of literature on SHGs both by social scientists in general and anthropologists in particular. SHGs has a long history. It was started in Bangladesh by Professor Mehmud Yunus. In India it was developed by Iiasben Bhat through a Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad. Further, NABARD has initiated it to uplift poor women and children of the rural areas. Later, government of India encouraged all the states to start it to involve women in the nation building process.

SHGs have an objective to rebalance society and rectify the imbalance in the social, economic, and political spheres. It follows a humanist model which can cooperate with the Integral Rural Development Programme (IRDP), which identifies the problems of rural people and helps the survivability and sustainability of the economically weak sections. It aims to mobilize people and give them a voice which helps them to overcome their hurdles. Social theorists stress the ability of individuals to control their own actions. Economically weaker sections are also able to control their life, take decisions regarding their immediate family and society, and articulate their future. In this state, they can empower themselves through SHGs. This paper intends to select Bolpur region of West Bengal as our study area, in order to investigate the uneven success of SHGs by using the critical rating index tool developed by NABARD. In order to collect data from Santal women of the study area, we use observation, key informant interviews and case study methods and also follow published literature.

Keywords: SHGs, IRDP, NABARD, tribal women, empowerment, empirical study.

Abstract 83

EXPLORING TRADITIONAL APPROACHES AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM PHASES

Harshita Shukla

Discipline of Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU

Traditional methods employed during and post pregnancy encompass cultural rituals, beliefs, and customs that have been passed down through generations. This study delves into the diverse array of practices and traditions linked to pregnancy and the postpartum phase in the urban and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh. By examining the distinctive cultural norms and practices, the research aims to unveil the valuable insights embedded within these well-established practices rooted in local wisdom.

These customs encompass a range of aspects including dietary patterns during and after pregnancy, such as the consumption of warm foods and the avoidance of oily foods after childbirth. They also encompass practices related to the confinement period following delivery, the utilization of herbal remedies and plants for maternal and child care, and rituals designed to protect both the mother and child from negative influences. Additionally, this paper underscores the integration of indigenous knowledge with contemporary healthcare practices, highlighting how this fusion contributes to optimal care for both mothers and infants.

Keywords: Traditional methods, pregnancy and postpartum phase, cultural rituals, scheduled castes communities, Indigenous knowledge.

Abstract 84

JEWS IN MAHARASHTRA

Shruti Hiremath

Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, India

Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world and is known for its ethical monotheism. The religion has its origins in the Iron Age Kingdom of Judah. The location of its origin can today be traced in what is called the Middle East, precisely Israel. The people who follow Judaism are termed as Jews and its foundation text is Torah.

Jews are one of the first foreign religions to arrive in India. It contributes to less than 0.01% of the total Indian population. In addition to Jewish expatriates and recent immigrants, there are three major Jewish groups in India, viz., Cochin Jews, Bene Israel, Baghdadi Jews. In addition to these two new emerging Indian groups who started practicing Judaism are Bnei Menashe and Telugu Jews. In India Jews have historically lived without any instances of antisemitism from the local majority populace.

Objective of present research is to study the migration of Jews in Maharashtra, history of Judaism in Maharashtra, the survival and the hardships and marginalization, if any, faced by them, impact of Maharashtra's culture on the culture of Jews. The fieldwork was conducted among Jew population in Maharashtra state. The data was collected by using informal interviews, and empirical observations. Analysis has been done according to anthropological perspective. The Synagogues in the Pune city and Mumbai city, several Jewish families and a Family of Rabbi were included in the study.

Though the study has been conducted in Maharashtra, but through the observations and testimonials of Jews in the city we can have an overall view of the people following Judaism all over the country. The study shows cultural and traditional values of this ancient religion are still imbibed in the Jews in India.

Keywords: Judaism, monotheism, antisemitism, marginalization.

Abstract 85

CHANGES IN CULTURAL PRACTICES AMONG THE JUANGS OF KANTABAHAL VILLAGE, PALLAHARA, ORISSA: A CASE STUDY

Soumabha Ghosh and Susmita Chowdhury

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Changes from tradition to modernity through time are somewhat of an evident social process. The Juangs of Orissa, one of the members of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), is not the exception. In British India, around the 19th century, the Juangs migrated from Keonjhar and settled in several other parts of neighbouring districts, namely Angul and Dhenkanal. The original Juang inhabitants of Keonjhar are termed Thaniya Juang and the migrated population who resides in the adjoining areas is called Bhagudia Juang. This paper focuses on the Bhagudia Juangs in particular. Being jungle dwellers, they practised slash-and-burn cultivation. But, nowadays in the place of dependence on the forest and shifting cultivation, the Bhagudia Juangs have become more reliant upon wage-based occupation. Such changes in livelihood practices impact their settlement patterns, family composition, and kinship usage. Changes in the kinship organization - particularly kinship behaviour, intra and inter-village relationships and the socialization process influence their cultural surroundings. A few decades earlier the Juangs placed Majang, the youth dormitory, in their village. But today, none of them can be seen. These apparent changes have several underlying social causes and interactions of various social factors. This paper tries to find out the answers to several fundamental questions – why such changes take place, how these changes impact their cultural and social identity, and how they adapt to the altered external social surroundings.

Keywords: Juangs, PVTGs, Majang, changing tradition, kinship behaviour.

Abstract 86

THE STORY OF 'TANTI KAHINI': AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF CHANGING AND PROBLEMS ASPECT OF WEAVER COMMUNITY AT BEGAMPUR IN HOOGHLY, WEST BENGAL

Kiran Ghosh

Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, West Bengal, India

The study and the work are to focus on why the Begumpur sarees and handloom is in the face of destruction even though it has so much traditional demand. While going through the detailed works, several reasons came up for this downfall. Power loom industry-wide apparently looking it seems to be the only reason for the destruction of this tradition, but actual fact is this is not the sole reason behind. The jointly merger of multiple industries may have prevented Begumpur's handlooms from bottoming out. Although everything has changed with the passage of time, the economic condition of the weavers has not changed. Although the prices of essential raw materials have risen, there has been no change in production wages, these shortages have fuelled the exodus. Weavers got many False promises of many organizations. Handloom industry can no longer accommodate under the complexity of power loom production. Power loom also couldn't hold its own place as the production is large but the demand is low so their market is also down. Besides this, a different religious belief has been created around this industry. Four aspects have been studied to better understand their economic aspect, they are production, distribution, consumption and organization. Besides, the reasons for this huge change are also sought in my study.

Keywords: Begumpur sarees, handloom industry, power loom, economic condition of weavers, false promises.

Abstract 87

COMMERCIALIZATION AND THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY IN A COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL INDUSTRY: A CASE OF WEST BENGAL

Kundan Ghosh

Mahishadal Girls' College, Purba Medinipur, India

Traditional craft base cultural industries are linked with the specific local community where craft products create an economic, regional, and cultural identity of the community. In a family-based business, identity is constructed through family histories, knowledge, and skill of craft. Sholapith craft is a traditional ritualistic, seasonal, and festive craft that is associated with the ethnic identity of Malakars of West Bengal. The present ethnographic study focuses on the 'commercialization' of this craft and craftspeople from the perspective of change and transformation of traditional craft as it undergoes globalization. Commercialization forced Malaklars to hire other people as labour beyond their community. On one hand, the involvement of wage laborers helps them expand their market and brings some challenges, competition, and politics in the family-based cultural industry. The present paper tries to capture issues of transition in the production process of cultural goods like construction of the market network, circulation of products, competition, and politics prevalent among various stakeholders in the extended market. By addressing these issues, the present study attempts to answer the larger question-still caste identity matter in the commercialized community-linked cultural industry? This research study analyses the problems of insecurity and identity attached to transformative craft production.

A total of eleven workshops from Surul have been purposively selected for the present study. The techniques of primary data collection were observation methods and semi-structured interviews. The present study reveals multiple layers of commercialization of craft products and their impact on various stockholders directly involved in this commercialized craft. Shola craft is no longer considered an ethno-craft as it exceeds the habitual boundaries of an economically confined social group. The study also revealed various factors responsible for the success in the market and how they cope with this situation by adopting various resilience strategies.

Keywords: Commercialization, cultural industry, identity, labour, Malakar, Sholapith craft.

Abstract 88

MAN AND ENVIRONMENT: PEOPLE'S ANTHROPOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Dipak Piplai

Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Development, Kolkata, India

Emergence of Man on earth through evolution is a gift of nature. But the Environment of the world today is largely controlled and perverted by (hu-)man activities. Geographical and cultural, all sorts of environment, now a days, are affected to a great extent by the activities of Homo sapiens sapiens.

Perception of 'man' should be re-defined by People's Anthropology. May the men, who destroy a hole human civilisation within a minute, by pressing a single bottom, be considered as 'Man'? Only the Physical appearance alone is not enough to recognise a 'man' by People's Anthropology.

The environment is gradually destroying the whole biosphere in general and anthroposphere in particular. Global warming by human activities is probably leading the human civilisations towards the final days of its existence! The rapid melting of Antarctica is an alarming example. Incessant nuclear blasting across the globe also to be remembered.

The unprecedented ethnic clashes at present-day Manipur and the conflict between State and the indigenous ('tribal') population at Deucha-Pachami coal belts (Birbhum), are two contemporary Indian examples of man-made environmental problems for a decent human living.

The Environment, in its entirety, of numerous countries continuously being subverted by 'developed world' for more than 100 years. Military interventions through atomic bombing, cluster bombing, use of chemical and biological weapons, mass killing of millions of people, assassination of various political leaders, destruction of invaluable material creation(s) of human civilisation etc. made normal and healthy human existence miserable at global level. Coastal area, sandy desert, icy desert, forest, high altitude, plains, nowhere is safe abode for human habitation today!

Man-Environment reciprocity is a serious concern of People's Anthropology. Anthropologists should not ignore or underestimate the danger of disrupting man-environment reciprocal relations. Man upset the natural harmony of environment through their activities, and as an opposite reaction, human existence is being threatened. Nature will not forgive the misdeeds of Homo sapiens sapiens.

Keywords: People's anthropology, human-environment reciprocity, global warming, man-made environmental problems, threats to human existence.

Abstract 89

KNOWLEDGE, BELIEFS AND PRACTICE ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE, HEALTH CARE BEHAVIOUR AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS: A STUDY AMONG THE WOMANFOLK IN NANDIGRAM, WEST BENGAL

Tanusree Shaw¹ and Soumi Dey²

¹Department of Anthropology, Bangabasi College, Kolkata, India

²Department of Anthropology, Haldia Government College, India

This study is an outcome of a free medical camp organised by an NGO at Nandigram village of Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. This aimed to assess menstruation hygiene knowledge, beliefs, related practices, and explore menstrual health care behaviour, with the associated factors influencing menstrual health among womenfolk's of Nandigram village, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. In many rural villages of India, discussing menstrual hygiene management is still frowned upon. Menstruation-related cultural taboos, such as eating certain foods or being untouchable, negatively affect females' subjective well-being (particularly who are in adolescent), health, and educational opportunities. Upright menstrual hygiene practice is critical to the overall health of teenage girls and women. The study was conducted among 60 female participants who are within age group of 12 to 50 years. The study participants were selected through purposive sampling, who have visited the gynaecologist during the free medical camp. Mixed method was used to collect and analyse the data. The study revealed that the socio-economic condition in terms of education and income of the family has an impact on menstrual health. The prevalence of adverse social and religious

beliefs on menstruation, it is vital to intensify the School Health Education Programme for both students and their parents particularly in rural areas of West Bengal.

Keywords: Menstrual hygiene, menstrual health, health care behaviour.

Abstract 90

BROTHEL BASED CHILDREN FACILITIES IN BANGLADESH: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Sheikh MoinUddin¹, Asif Azizi², Md. Masud Rana³, Md. Sabiruzzamanand⁴ and Md. Golam Hossain⁴

¹TB and Leprosy Control Project Faridpur, Damien Foundation, Bangladesh

²Department of Community Medicine, Barind Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

³Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh

⁴Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Brothel based children are extremely marginalized in Bangladesh society. A number of reported brothel-based children are living in the southern part of the country with their mothers situated at Faridpur and Rajbari districts though a major portion of brothel-based children are growing in different shelter homes, but another estimated number of children are living in brothels. These children mental, physical and social wellbeing is always barrier to develop skill human resources. Their focus is towards anti-social and terrorist activities after become adult. On the other hand, daughter child has great opportunity to become sex worker like as her mother in brothel.

The study's goal was to assess the present real situation of brothel-based female sex workers children in brothel related with fundamental rights. The specific objectives: (i) to learn about the discrimination, (ii) to investigate right to life facilities, (iii) to see residence facilities, (iv) to examine health facilities, (v) to look education facilities, (vi) right to environmental facilities, and (vii) violence against the children of female sex workers at the brothel.

A qualitative study was conducted to assess knowledge and identify gaps in the threats to the health and fundamental rights of brothel-based female sex workers' (BBFSW) children through focus group discussions with mothers of these children and other stakeholders who were engaged to provide minimum ensured services. We developed nine targeted groups from three local NGO's, which included NGO personnel, BBFSW, and children over the age of ten. In each group, there were three NGO employees, three BBFSW, and three children over the age of ten.

The selected respondents' socioeconomic profile was 18-40 years old (100%) and their children were over 10 years old (100%). Female sex workers in brothels are marginalized and stigmatized for their occupation. Most of children are suffering from discrimination. Engage sex trade in front of children in one room. Right to life facilities are very poor than other. There are no education facilities in brothel. Very congestive room and no cross ventilation. Other sex workers were witnessed having sex with their sons who were verbally, physically, and sexually assaulted. Their way of life is not tolerated in this culture. Most of the children of BBFSW do not have a national identity and hence do not have access to essential rights like as health, education, work, housing, legal assistance, family and community support.

With the direct aid from INGO's through some local NGO's with very limited range trying to provide suitable conditions for children of BBFSW. Most of the children were born in Brothel without any health care. Daughters of BBFSW are at an extremely high risk of becoming a BBFSW. In this context, should take the initiative for the benefit of better human rights for children of BBFSW.

Keywords: Brothel based female sex worker, Children, Health Facilities, NGO.

Abstract 91

TULU LANGUAGE: ORALITY AS COMMUNICATION MEDIA

Mouparna Roy

Centre for Media Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Language is mostly related with orality and how it has been transmitted where different aspects of the same, have been associated with orality. Debates surrounding the supremacy of orality versus writing systems, has been one of the most acknowledged points of enquiry in the anthropological study of language and culture. Jack Goody (1997) has posited a very important insight on this topic by differentiating orality with writing system where he creates taxonomy between them and argues that the former one is less developed and it creates a very simplistic living condition a social institution based of basic needs, whereas the later helps in developing new cognitive capabilities and helps in developing complex social structure. Furthermore, even in general opinion, orality has always been associated with 'backwardness' and subpar social abilities. Scholars like McLuhan (1964) and Havelock (1963) have also supported this theory by presenting an evolutionary aspect of language and its discourse. However, other scholars came up with different concepts of orality. According to Walter Ong, writing system is just another technology invented by the mankind just like printing press and computer whereas orality is the basic form of communication which is inherited by mankind naturally. According to Innis, orality fares higher as being more flexible and pluralistic as compared to writing systems which he deems as being impersonal and rigid (1972). In the light of this debate, the question arises when one investigates the evolutionary arc of a language like Tulu, which has sustained its sociocultural impact despite the nonexistence of any script. This paper tries to delve into the universe of Tulu speakers and map its progression towards the 'new orality' keeping their rich 'oral tradition' alive while maintaining an equal status with the neighbouring languages with their own scripts and analyse the same with respect to the various sociopolitical and anthropological currents it was influenced by.

Keywords: Orality, writing systems, language evolution, tulu, sociocultural impact.

Abstract 92

MOYON TRADITION AND CULTURE: UNDERSTANDING THE FEAST OF MERIT

Rangya Gachui

Department of Anthropology, Visva- Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India

The feast of Merit formed a central feature of the tradition and culture Moyon practice which conferred social status to a person. The practice which took years to culminate or almost a lifetime to complete was a series of feast, each one more lavish and socially important. It is said to assure honour for the promoter in this lifetime and in the after world. The philosophy behind the performance of feast of merit is that the performer is honoured when he is alive and remembered after death. Today, they no longer practice the feast of merits though the practice has become a thing of the past, the families of those, who have completed the series of feast in any Moyon village are still command respect. A lot of changes have taken place in their cultural life ways. Christianity brought tremendous change in the mental attitude of the Moyon. This paper explores on the feast of merits, the study is purely qualitative one employing both primary and secondary sources of data collection. An active participant observation was employed to have in depth face to face interaction with the informants so as to construct the social realities.

Keywords: Change, honoured, lifetime, pre-Christian, promoter.

Abstract 93

TECHNOLOGY OF TEACHING IN SCHOOL: TRADITION VS MODERNITY -- AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY IN BARASAT, WEST BENGAL

Nabanita Dhar, Shreya Chakraborty and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Kolkata, India

It is a known fact that the paradigm of teaching has changed as a result of liberalisation, globalisation, modernization, and digitization in the educational system. Through the use of multimedia-based technical tools, it transforms the traditional chalk-and-talk method into a digital pedagogical or techno-pedagogical approach to teaching. While only the three R's (Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic) were prioritised in the traditional educational system, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary learning are now given importance across subject boundaries. This change contributes to the development and expansion of students' knowledge bases as well as the potential of teachers. The students become more competitive on a global scale. Every teacher needs to be globally engaged, digitally transformed, collaborative, creative, skilled with human resources, and quick to accept change in order to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Three factors—educational technique, educational purpose, and educational focus—determine how these two educational approaches differ from one another. The present ethnographic study has been undertaken among the teachers, students and parents of pupils of three private schools which are situated at Barasat, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The prime objective of the study is to throw light on the advantages and disadvantages of modern education and traditional education methods along with the allied technological issues. The present researchers try to list and compare two methods of teaching and associated teaching aids. The study is based on primary data as collected through Participant Observation, Intensive Interview, Case Studies, along some analyses by descriptive statistics. The secondary data have been collected from books, journals, internet sources, administrative reports of the schools, etc.

Keywords: School, technology, teaching methods, tradition, modernity.

Abstract 94

EMPOWERING HANDLOOM WEAVERS? AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND SOCIAL WELFARE INITIATIVES IN BEGAMPUR REGION

Abharadip Banerjee

Department of Anthropology, Government General Degree College, Singur, India

Handloom weaving has long been a vital source of livelihood for the weavers of the Begampur region. This anthropological inquiry explores the transformative journey of the handloom weavers of the Begampur region through the lens of technological development and welfare measures. By studying the historical context of the craft and the challenges faced by weavers, the study tries to shed light on the pivotal role of technological advancements. It showcases how technological modernization, despite possessing the potential to enhance weaving efficiency, often brings differential impact on different groups involved with cotton cloth production and marketing. Invariably, it puts the local artisans in front of disjuncture and juxtapositions, where everything hangs on the dilemmatic choices of either "going for technological modernization" or "clinging on to the age-old tradition". The study also tries to evaluate the welfare measures that have so far been taken for the betterment of the handloom weavers in the Begampur region. Needless to say, it includes some of the very recent efforts as well, including the ones undertaken by Begampur Handloom Cluster Society to highlight their socio-economic impact on the lives of handloom weavers. Finally, while trying to pre-assess the pros and cons of Geographical Indication (GI) registration of the Begampuri saree, the study tries to showcase the important role that handloom weavers' cooperatives in the region can play in this regard in safeguarding the interests of the handloom weavers. Thus, this inquiry may provide a pathway for preserving cultural heritage, improving livelihoods, and fostering sustainability within the handloom industry, as well as its broader implications for similar artisan communities worldwide.

Keywords: Handloom-weavers, Begampur, technological modernization, welfare measures.

Abstract 95

KNOWLEDGE AND SELF-CARE OF TYPE 2 DIABETIC MELLITUS (T2DM) AMONG GERIATRIC AGE PEOPLE IN MADHESH PRADESH, NEPAL: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Nitendra Kr. Chaurasia¹, Md. Abu Sayem¹, Ripter Hossain¹, Premananda Bharati² and Md. Golam Hossain¹

¹Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

²(Formerly of) Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) poses a significant public health challenge in Nepal, particularly in the Madhesh Pradesh region, driven by rapid urbanization and lifestyle changes. As per a 2019 report by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), Nepal had an estimated diabetes prevalence of 8.1%, equating to roughly 1 in 12 adults in the country. This study aims to assess the knowledge and self-care practices related to T2DM among the geriatric population in Madhesh Pradesh, Nepal.

A cross-sectional epidemiological study was conducted using a multistage random sampling technique, targeting individuals with T2DM residing in two districts of Madhesh Pradesh. Data collection involved face-to-face structured questionnaire interviews with the participants.

A total of 120 T2DM patients participated in the study, with 35% falling within the geriatric age group. Among the geriatric participants, the mean age was 67 years, with 58% being male and 42% female. Specifically, within the geriatric group, 62% were male, and 38% were female. The study revealed that knowledge about diabetes and self-care was categorized as poor in 57.1% (24) of cases, moderate in 33.3% (14) of cases, and good in only 9.52% (4) of cases.

This epidemiological study provides valuable insights into the current state of knowledge and self-care practices related to T2DM among the geriatric population in Madhesh Pradesh, Nepal. The findings highlight a prevalent lack of knowledge and suboptimal self-care practices, which contribute to a heightened risk of diabetes-related complications in this age group. As a result, targeted interventions and healthcare strategies are needed to improve knowledge about diabetes and enhance self-care practices, ultimately reducing the burden of diabetes-related complications in the geriatric population.

Keywords: Knowledge, Type 2 diabetic mellitus, geriatric age, Nepal.

Abstract 96

ASSESSMENT ON DISABILITIES AND SELF-RATED HEALTH STATUS OF OLDEST-OLD POPULATION: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Parikshit Chakraborty¹, Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay² and Sutapa Chaudhury²

¹Cultural Research Institute, Kolkata, India

²Department of the Anthropology, University of Calcutta, India

The term 'oldest old' was coined in 1984 during the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to denote elderly population above 80 years of age; in India, these elderly people categorized as 'Super Senior Citizen'. Presently, India's oldest-old population is world's second large stand 21st century is witnessing a serious health concern emerging out of unprecedented population ageing. Currently 5% of the elderly population having different types of disabilities out of total (27 million) disabilities people in India.

Disability can be defined identical physical inabilities and mental conditions. Sometime, disability may arise different types of health conditions. Self-rated health status is one of the most important areas which concern with their perceived health condition.

The present paper intends to assess the Assessment on Disabilities and Self-rated Health Status (SRHs). Here disabilities defined different physical inabilities such as vision problem, hearing problem, speaking problem, walking problem and self-rated health status based on the question proposed by WHO, 2002. Data was collected among 450 oldest-old respondents who were living in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, India by using of pre-tested structured questionnaire schedule.

The present study revealed that among the total number of respondents across both the genders majority were suffered from speaking problems and minimum respondents were suffered by walking/ locomotion problem. The study also exposed that the different types of physical inabilities and participants age group were not significantly associated but SRHs and physical inabilities were significantly associated ($p < 0.05$). Finally, this cross-sectional study stated that the self-rated health condition of oldest-old people not only dependent on their disability's status; there have some other cause which also denotes their self-rated health status, for which this study also suggest to future researcher for further research.

Keywords: Oldest-old population, disabilities, self-rated health status (SRHs).

Abstract 97

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT ON MAJOR HAEMOGLOBINOPATHIES IN INDIA, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA

Priya Dey

Anthropological Survey of India, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Haemoglobinopathies are one of the leading causes of child mortality worldwide, although with a variable geographical incidence. A reliable estimate of the prevalence of the disease is necessary for reducing its burden (Nagar et al., 2015). Hemoglobinopathies are the most common human single-gene disorders. An estimated 7% of the world's population carries a potentially pathological globin gene variant, and over 300,000 affected infants are born yearly (WHO 1989). Environmental factors, such as – certain lifestyle variables, different climatic conditions, etc. play an important role in interacting with certain genetic factors to increase the severity of a genetic disease (NIH,2020). Sickle cell anaemia (SCA) is by far the most common haemoglobin disorder (Ware et al., 2017). Sickle-cell anaemia is particularly common among people whose ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, India, Saudi Arabia and Mediterranean countries, mainly due to migration (WHO,2006). SCA causes acute and chronic illness, and median life expectancy is reduced by at least 30 years in all countries, with greater reductions in low-income countries. Environmental factors have a significant effect on the natural history of SCD, there is a wide spectrum of severity, with some patients having no symptoms and others suffering frequent, life-changing complications. Despite increasingly sophisticated genetic studies, much of this variability is unexplained (Tiwari et al., 2015). Different climatic variables, Home Environment, Socio-economic Factors and Physical Activity these environmental effects are likely to be far greater than those attributable to genetic factors. This study aims to understand what are the main environmental determinants and how they are behind the major prevalence of SCA in certain regions of the world.

Keywords: Sickle cell anaemia (SCA), environmental determinants, haemoglobinopathy.

Abstract 98

DETERMINANTS OF NEONATAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN BANGLADESH: SURVEY IN RAJSHAHI DIVISION

Md. Monimul Huq, Md. Ripter Hossain, Farhana Hasan and Md. Golam Hossain

Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, the neonatal mortality is very high. Effective breastfeeding may reduce neonate's morbidity and mortality. So, we examined the determinants of neonatal morbidity and mortality in Rajshahi division of Bangladesh. A cross sectional study was conducted with a pre-tested structured questionnaire. A total of 475 mothers were interviewed with their neonates by multi-stage simple random sampling. First interview was carried out after the delivery during first 3 days of the neonates. A follow up was taken after 28 days of the first interview and found that 6 mothers did not respond to phone calls, 10 mothers lived in remote areas and 9 mothers reported that their child was died. Chi-square test and binary logistic regression model were employed for finding the associated factors of neonatal morbidity. It was found that exclusive breastfeeding was 70.9%, Colostrum's feeding was 90.0%, initiation of breastfeeding was 35.8%, pre-lacteal feeding was

12.2%, neonatal morbidity was 53.3%, the neonates who were non-morbid was 46.7%, morbidity for exclusively breastfed neonate was 48.6%, morbidity for non-exclusively breastfed neonate was 64.9%, neonatal mortality was 1.9%. It was found that educational backgrounds of the mothers influence the colostrum's feeding of the neonates significantly. It was also found that the neonates of the educated mothers had less suffered by morbidity. The neonates who were given pre-lacteal feeding suffered more by morbidity. The neonates who were exclusively breastfed gained larger weight than those who were not exclusively breastfed. Those who were breastfed more times (9-11times) gained larger weight than those who were breastfed less times. It was also found morbidity was higher among the low-birth-weight neonates. The incidence of morbidity was lower among the neonates who were exclusively breastfed than the neonates who were non-exclusively breastfed. The mothers who were breastfed their neonates within one hour, morbidity percentage were lower than the mothers who were breastfed their neonates after one hour.

This study confirmed that exclusive and early initiation of breastfeeding in the neonatal period is the main element for reducing neonatal morbidity and mortality. So, authorities should provide basic education on exclusive breastfeeding by educating mothers, and organize more campaign on initiation on breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding to reduce the rate of neonatal morbidity and mortality which is an important indicator under sustainable development goal (SDG-3.2.2).

Keywords: Breastfeeding, neonates, morbidity, mortality.

Abstract 99

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF SAHAJIYA CULT OF BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL

Sri Palash Mandal¹ and Ramanuj Ganguly²

¹GGDC Gopiballavpur-II, Jhargram, West Bengal, India

²Department of Sociology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, India

Sahajiya cult is a sub-tradition of Vaishnavism. It is known as Sahajiya due to its adherence to the Sahaj, or the simple path. According to this philosophy, every object has an external and internal form. The internal form is eternal, to feel the eternity, one has to feel his/her own internal form or self. The Sahajiya cult believes that the simple and direct way is the best way to feel the self. The sect gives utmost importance to body; it thinks that body retains the universe and self-attainment can be obtained by bodily love. The knowledge of self-attainment can be acquired only by following the advice of the Guru and practicing the Sahajsadhana.

Virbhadra, the son of Nityananda, who hailed from Garbhabas, Birbhum had converted Tantric Vajrayana and Sahajyana Buddhists into the Nityananda Sampradaya. He had also taken the Tantric minded Vaishnavas into his fold and popularised the Sampradaya. These three different religious groups had assimilated due to their similar theology and created a new sect as "Vaishnava Sahajiya".

Sahajiya Vaishnavism played a significant role in the popularization of the Bhakti movement in Bengal, incorporating various traditions into its fold. This religious movement had a profound impact on the socio-cultural formation of present-day Birbhum, as well as undivided Bengal. Despite scattered descriptions of the cult in various literature, our endeavour here is to provide a comprehensive and systematic account by analysing these diverse sources.

Keyword: Sahajiya, Vaishnavism, Sahajiya Vaishnavism, Bhakti movement.

Abstract 100

ROCK ART OF EASTERN INDIA: AN INTERPRETATIVE ANALYSIS

Rupa Biswas

Department of Anthropology, Vivekananda College for Women, Barisha, Kolkata, India

Rock art sites in eastern India are located in the Chotanagpur Plateau, the north-eastern projection of the Indian peninsula. Rock art in eastern India has a rich history, with many sites displaying ancient paintings and engravings on rock surfaces. These artworks provide insights into the lives, beliefs, and cultures of

prehistoric societies once inhabited the region. Some prominent rock art sites in eastern India include those in Odisha, Jharkhand, southern Bihar and a few from West Bengal states. The art often features depictions of animals, human figures, hunting scenes, and symbols, showcasing the artistic expressions and activities of the people from that time period. The rock art reported so far in eastern India may be just the tip of an iceberg and there must be many more sites still hidden in the remote, inaccessible and vast forested Chotanagpur hills, awaiting further extensive explorations. An in-depth study of rock art in Eastern India reveals a prevalence of distinct thematical, motivational and stylistic trends quite different from other Indian rock art regions, especially Central India. Unlike other rock art regions subject-matters here mainly consist of symbols, geometric signs/intricate designs and ritualistic scenes right from The Upper Palaeolithic period to the early historical era. This type of subject -matter indicates that the primary motivation for producing rock art here was ritualistic in nature. The rock art of eastern India and especially southern Bihar and Jharkhand also contains some unique and rare features such as predominance of symbols, intricate designs and geometric signs, selection of only one rock shelter out of the entire cluster of several rock shelters for executing paintings, frequent depictions of ritualistic scenes, paintings in blue colour, engraved figures of humped bulls as well as hump less cattle, depiction of insects, reptiles and plants and ancient rock inscriptions in Kharoshti, Kharoshti-Brahmi, Brahmi and shankha . With these distinct features, the rock art of eastern India occupies a very important and unique place on the world map of rock art.

Keywords: Pictographs, ritualistic, symbol, inscription, human vandalism, ethno-archaeology.

Abstract 101

RURAL AREA DEVELOPING BY TAGORE FOUNDATION IN BOLPUR SANTINIKETAN

Sanjoy Mura

Department of Anthropology, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India

In the West Bengal, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan established by the Gurudeva Rabindranath Tagore and it is an educational institution and its main speciality is open learning campus for the students and this place is connected with the natural environment, where the students learn by freely and this idea was implemented by Rabindranath Tagore. In this institution various departments are connected with scattered like in Bolpur-Santiniketan and Sriniketan. So, for these evidences of Tagore, all Indians and international visitors come to this place for observing because the Tagore foundation is famous for us of his works and his Nobel Prize in literature. So, the people come to the Santiniketan for known about the scenario of place and culture, and also people visit into the neighbouring site scene of the Santiniketan. In this areas, one important place is Sonajhuri and this place is natural and their major speciality is market and this market decorates by different shops of the handicrafts and khadi products for the people, where the visitors buying their products and also take entertain with the Bauls or tribal songs and dances, generally, the female visitors' legs match with the tribal dances and the visitors feels very happy for the open market. Presently, the Sonajhuri market known as famous for the tourist spot and visitors must be come into this site. As a student of anthropology, I observed on the rural market, handicrafts products, folk culture, and why this place is important in the people and how the rural area developing by the Tagore foundation?

Keywords: Man, Tagore foundation, tourist place, market, development.

Abstract 102

TRANSFORMATION OF TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE TO SMART HEALTHCARE – BENEFITS AND HAZARDS IN RESPECT OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Sarnali Dutta

Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, West Bengal, India

Health is a prerequisite for human development and is an essential component for the wellbeing of the mankind. The common beliefs, customs, practices related to health and disease in turn influence the health of the human beings. Despite remarkable world-wide progress in the field of diagnostics, curative and preventive health, still there are people whose medical system is structured on the lines of herbal and

psychometric treatment. Faith healing has always been a part of the traditional treatment. World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that about 80% of the world's population depends on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs. Today's healthcare system recognizes the advantages of using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to improve the quality of healthcare, turning traditional into smart healthcare. The key concept of smart health includes eHealth and mHealth services, electronic record management, smart home services and intelligent and connected medical devices. Some of the innovations are recasting the public health and medical sciences. There is drone delivered medical supplies which had a remarkable recognition due to its utility in COVID-19 where social distancing and worldwide lockdown was persistent. Data tools has been developed to keep record of trillions of data points of million volunteers. It can also scour research papers, clinical trial results and other sources of biomedical information in search of previously overlooked relationships between genes, drugs and disease. No one can predict the future, but it can at least be glimpsed in the dozen inventions and concepts above. And like the people behind them, they stand at the vanguard of health care. Although the Internet of Things can be of great benefit to healthcare, there are still major challenges to address before full-scale implementation. Security and privacy, risk of failure, integration and cost of healthcare in long-term are some of the threats and disadvantages of using connected devices in healthcare.

Keywords: Traditional, primary, smart, healthcare, faith healing.

Abstract 103

PREVALENCE OF MULTIMORBIDITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG AGEING PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF BANGLADESH

Md. Abu Sayem, Md. Nurul Islam and Md. Golam Hossain

Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Multimorbidity or the presence of two or more chronic illnesses simultaneously, is frequent and is linked to a lower quality of life and a higher risk of dying. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of multimorbidity and its associated factors among ageing people in the Northern part of Bangladesh.

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 540 ageing people in the Northern part (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions) of Bangladesh by using a multistage random sampling strategy. The outcome variable was self-reported prevalence of multimorbidity and the independent variables were socio-demographic characteristics and health variables. Data was collected using a standard questionnaire. Descriptive statistics, Chi-square test and logistic regression were applied to find the frequency distribution for categorical variable, association between two categorical variables and impact of independent variables on outcome variable respectively.

The overall prevalence of self-reported multimorbidity was 89.07%. Prevalence of multimorbidity was 85.01% for males and 94.42% for females. The multiple binary logistic regression model showed that overweight elderly compared to under weighted elderly [AOR=7.830, 95% CI: 1.022-59.966; $p<0.05$], disabled elderly compared to not disabled elderly [AOR=2.032, 95% CI: 1.345-3.069; $p<0.01$], elderly who have fair health compared to healthy elderly [AOR=2.765, 95% CI: 1.405-5.440; $p<0.01$], unhealthy elderly compared to healthy elderly [AOR=6.711, 95% CI: 1.999-22.538; $p<0.01$] had more chance of suffering multimorbidity. Elderly whose family members were 5-10 compared to less than 5 family members [AOR=0.445, 95% CI: 0.208-0.950; $p<0.01$] had less chance of suffering multimorbidity.

The study revealed that some modifiable factors were related to the propensity of suffering multimorbidity. Policymakers and healthcare providers can consider our findings for overcoming the psychological problems of ageing people for achieving the sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Multimorbidity, chronic illnesses, ageing people, logistic regression.

Abstract 104

SEMBLANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON VILLAGE VOLUNTEER SYSTEM FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Kasi Eswarappa

Department of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India

The state of Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has initiated a village volunteer system in order to take the government services at the doorstep of the stakeholders. Under the system, a volunteer has to take care of the 50 households in a village and provide all the services of the government. The token monthly honorarium of Rs. 5000/- is paid to the village volunteer. The services include delivery of ration to below poverty line (BPL) card holder, providing pensions to widows, elderly people and persons with disability and other disease people, creating awareness camps against superstitions, campaigning government programmes and schemes, organizing group level meetings to health and sanitation staff, and other services which are initiated by the state. An attempt is made in the paper to find out the services of the village volunteer while interacting with the beneficiaries of the select villages during my recent visit to these villages of Pedda Tippa Samudram Mandal, Shri Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh. The paper draws its inferences primarily based on the ethnographic fieldwork in Eguva Cheruvupalle and Diguva Cheruvupalle villages of Pedda Tippa Samudram Mandal, Shri Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh. The paper also depends on the secondary data collected from the published accounts of the village volunteer system in different regional newspapers and booklets and pamphlets published by the state government. The concept of village volunteer system has become very successful and neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh are also showing keen interest to start the same in their states for the better service delivery to the poor and needy. An Anthropological attempt is made to showcase the concept of village volunteer system by keeping in view of the political anthropology perspective of decentralisation of village administration in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Keywords: Governance, village volunteer, case study, political anthropology, Andhra Pradesh.

Abstract 105

BREWING RESILIENCE: ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO TEA GARDEN CLOSURES IN WEST BENGAL

Shima Saha

Department of Tribal Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, Jharkhand, India

The closure of tea gardens in West Bengal has been a recurrent issue, with severe implications for the socio-economic fabric of the region. This study examines the social resilience mechanisms that have arisen within the communities affected by tea garden closures, offering insight into the adaptive strategies, social networks, and community-led initiatives that contribute to resilience. The closure of tea gardens in the region has posed significant challenges to the livelihoods and well-being of the affected communities. However, this study sheds light on the dynamic social processes and strategies that have emerged as responses to these challenges, illuminating the resilience of the communities amidst adversity. A qualitative approach was employed like, interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys conducted within the affected communities of closed tea gardens. Our findings indicate that the resilience of these communities is rooted in their ability to forge new livelihood strategies, revitalize traditional knowledge systems, and engage in collective action. The role of community networks, local leadership, and cultural practices emerges as pivotal factors in bolstering resilience. This research not only contributes to the understanding of social resilience within the unique context of closed tea gardens but also sheds light on broader themes of rural adaptation to economic and environmental shocks.

Keywords: Social resilience, closed tea gardens, marginalized communities of Bengal.

Abstract 106

GIRLS IN SPORTS: ISSUES AND CONSEQUENCES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS- A CASE STUDY IN ASHOKNAGAR, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL

Debjani Bhattacharya and Abhijit Das

Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata, India

Socio-economic factors play an important role in shaping any phenomena. The present study was conducted in two soccer training centres at Ashoknagar, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal with female trainees. The study examined the socio-economic background of female trainees who train there. The objectives of the study were to look at the socio-economic background of parents, their educational qualifications, occupation, income, motive behind participation. The study tries to explore the role of gender in the same. It was found that the socio-economic background varied among the female trainees along with educational background and income of the parents. The main motives were making the girls physically & mentally fit and energetic, be in professional game in future, different levels of participation that might help in getting a public sector job in the future. The socio-economic status along with some domestic and cultural factors affect their participation in the sport event. The present economic conditions play an important role in their present participation and continuation in future. The methodology used for the present study are semi-structured In-depth interview, Focus group interview, Case study and Photography.

Keywords: Soccer, recreation, mental health, physical health.

Abstract 107

SOME ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ETHNO-MEDICINAL PRACTICES AMONG THE SANTAL COMMUNITY IN THE AJODHYA HILLS AREA, PURULIA DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

Sohini Chatterjee and Bedprakash Ray

Department of Anthropology, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra, India

Ethno-medicine broadly refers to the traditional medical practices concerned with the cultural interpretation of health, diseases, and illness that address the health care process and healing practices. India is inhabited by indigenous tribes with rich knowledge of wild flora and fauna to manage or cure diseases. Most rural people primarily depend upon medicinal plants found in their surrounding locality for the treatment of various diseases. This paper deals with the importance of the effect of ethno-medicine on tribal society, the time of use, and the type of medicinal plants used in the case of any disease. The present study shows that the medical plant is important in tribal health care. It also discusses the indigenous system of knowledge about the collection, preparation, and medicinal practices. A study was conducted among the Santal people in village Tahadungri, District Purulia, West Bengal. During this study, information was collected through interviews with the Santal tribe peoples of this village and Ojha, Kabiraj. The study reveals that different plant species are used by the Santal tribe to cure different diseases. While leaves were noted as the most used plant part, followed by roots, bark, the whole plant, and flowers. The efficiency of the medicine depends on the extent to which the healers properly followed the rules for the collection of medicinal plants, drug preparation, and application. Now some people will learn this tradition for the future.

Keywords: Anthropology, ethno-medicine, santal, medical plants, practitioner-seeking behaviour.

Abstract 108

PROSPECTIVE OF DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION OF PREHISTORIC SITES: A CASE STUDY OF TWO SITES BANTOLI AND TOYONTOLI IN RANCHI, JHARKHAND

Soumya Ghosh and Debasis Kumar Mondal

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Cultural heritage management is the preservation and protection of the cultural heritages which includes both human and natural environments bearing information of past human activities. These heritages are

resources that include architectural complexes, archaeological sites, rural heritages, cultural landscapes and many other things that help us know about man's cultural evolution. Cultural resource management as a part of heritage management develops and maintains programs designed to investigate the process of site destruction and to preserve and protect them. In recent times digital preservation techniques have been frequently used as a non-destructive technique for preservation of the cultural resources. In Eastern India, many prehistoric sites are under threat due to natural and artificial causes. Two Upper Palaeolithic sites of Bantoli and Toyontoli of Gumla and Ranchi districts of Jharkhand state of India are chosen for the present study. The study was done to identify the ways of the destruction of these two sites and to develop some preservation strategies to minimize the destruction of the sites. Both intensive and extensive surveys were done. The nature of the sites, the distribution of artefacts and the process of destruction occurring in the two sites were observed. Suitable digital preservation strategies were then framed based on the types of destruction occurring in the two sites.

Keywords: Heritage management, cultural resources, indian prehistory, site destruction, digital preservation.

Abstract 109

PREHISTORIC IMPOTENCE OF SEASONAL RIVER VALLEY OF EASTERN INDIA: A REVIEW

Sukanya Guha Niogi

Department of Anthropology, Delhi University, India

In Eastern India especially Chotonagpur plateau is originating centre for a number of seasonal rivers like-river Damodar, Kasai, Subarnarekha, Gadhewari, Ajay Mayurakhski. A good amount of ancient cultural evidences has been found in the bank of these rivers and the tributaries of these rivers. In this paper here, we have tried to make a comprehensive and updated review of the literary resources of the related archaeological study. For this work literature are collected from online resources like- Google scholar, other websites, from author themselves via email, university online library system offline resources like- books, articles and journal from library and some other sources. The maps observation has done with the assistance of google earth. This study aims to understand the overall idea regarding distribution of prehistoric sites, prehistoric cultural chronology of the studied area and reveals variation of prehistoric antiquities with respect to lithic industry in a part of eastern India that tries to show cultural contribution of prehistoric man who lived different river valleys of West Bengal and Jharkhand in antiquities of prehistoric of India. In this study we can give a possible culture chronology of take an idea of the research gap of the studies like unstudied area of eastern India, probable pattern of human evolution and migration in the studied part of Indian subcontinent, possible sites of Eastern India in different river valleys.

Keywords: Prehistory, East India, seasonal river valley, archaeology.

Abstract 110

TRACING THE EXTANT ANTHROPOMORPHIC SURYA ICONS AND WORSHIP IN THE UDAIPUR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

Koel Ray

Department Of AIHC & Archaeology, Utkal University, India

We, as humans have a natural inclination to venerate that which is either most beneficial to us, or that which we may be afraid of, simply to placate those entities and protect our future generations from their adverse effects. One such celestial entity that has been revered across cultures is the Sun. This paper explores the historical and cultural significance of Sun worship in Rajasthan, particularly during its transient phase from the 11th to the 15th century CE. The Sun holds a paramount role in sustaining life on Earth, being the ultimate source of energy for all living organisms. In the Vedic period, the Sun, known as Surya, was considered a significant deity with various names such as Savitri, Pusan, Bhaga, Vivasat, Mitra, and even Vishnu. These names reflect the multifaceted aspects of the Sun's influence, from stimulating life to distributing wealth. The archaeological record often holds clues to transitional processes in culture and belief

systems of man. In this paper, through fieldwork a number of main and subsidiary temples dedicated to Surya have been traced and recorded besides even the stray icons that may be found at various tanks, forts, temple complexes and museums. This paper primarily aims to document and interpret the anthropomorphic forms and related temples of Surya within the modern territory of the Udaipur district, Rajasthan in order to investigate the transition in iconography and the process of decline in the sole worship of Surya while seeking the reasons behind his loss of status as a primary solar deity. It sheds light on the historical, cultural, and architectural aspects of sun worship in Rajasthan during the early medieval period, which in turn contributes to the preservation of a rich cultural heritage that continues to thrive in the harsh semi-arid landscapes of Rajasthan.

Keywords: Surya, iconography, transition, sun worship, early medieval.

Abstract 111

TAMANG INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM: TRANSITIONING FACTORS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS IN WEST BENGAL

Lipika Nath

Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Indigenous practitioners and their practices occupy a wide range of knowledge with required expertise in the traditional ways of knowing, being and doing in a specific community. This paper aims to identify the homonature interactive practices among the Tamangs, one of the tribal communities living in different parts of Darjeeling, West Bengal. Based on a reflexive account, the study establishes the practitioners as the custodians of their socio-cultural heritage on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), ethno-medicines and healthcare practices and how they have won a specific local set of knowledge on the surrounding environment. Based on the data collected during ethnographic fieldwork, an anthropological discourse has been made to discuss the present-day situation of the transitioning phase of the knowledge system subjected to various socio-environmental challenges over time and space. It has encountered the significant process of enlarging their own choice for developing themselves to sustain a decent standard of living. Thus, this article contributes to the wide and diverse range of Tamang indigenous knowledge system and documenting the role of the community holders, who are securing and protecting the knowledge by exercising it in multi-purpose ways.

Keywords: Indigenous knowledge system (IKS), Tamang, development, sustainability, traditional practitioners.

Abstract 112

THE WAYS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: NEGOTIATING SPACE AND COEXISTENCE AMONG A MULTIETHNIC COMMUNITY IN KOLKATA'S CHINA TOWN

Syed Ayaan Alama and Valerie Dkharb

Department of Anthropology, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

Since the beginning of human evolution, man has relied upon nature for its existence. As eras passed, they have learned to manipulate nature and utilized the environmental resources to their favour. However, ever since the primitive man formed groups, conflicts between these groups have always been a part of human history. It is through conflicts that they won over space and resources around their surroundings. Yet, as the societies civilized, mechanisms of conflict management and resolutions became crucial for a healthier coexistence. In modern context, such conflicts still occur, especially in multiethnic and multicultural societies. However, peaceful cohabitation in such societies can be achieved by minimizing those conflicts that require certain intra-ethnic and inter-ethnic compromises and mutual adjustments, especially regarding 'space'. Now the 'space' itself is an umbrella term covering a broad spectrum of commonalities, where each section requires individual attention to avoid potential clashes between groups. On the other hand, a hostile environment in the social system brings about a chaotic society that hinders its perpetual growth. Hence, reducing scopes for conflicts through adjustments and negotiations, becomes a given for any multiethnic

society. Likewise, the Chinese neighbourhoods of Kolkata are not an exception, where communities of various ethnicities currently co-exist within the same physical space in harmony. By delving into the relationship dynamics among the communities within the neighbourhood, this paper attempts to understand the variation in the common sphere that exists within the neighbourhood's social space. It also endeavours to look into the ways people negotiate such spaces and unearth factors through which the boundaries of these spaces are drawn.

Keywords: Negotiating space, Chinese diaspora, multiethnic community, conflict resolution, ethnic entrepreneurship.

Abstract 113

TRIBAL CULTURE IN INDIA

Tina Barma

Department of Economics, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

Tribal studies initiated by Colonial British administrators and researchers and continued by the Anthropological Survey of India (ASI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) of State governments in the post-colonial period reflect the profound diversities in their cultural traits, distinct for each tribe. Presently, they are at different phases of transformation from isolated, community-based, subsistence socio-economic orders to striving to integrate into the individualistic, market-based mainstream social structure. Among the vast repertoire of tribal culture, the study focuses on the specific area -Terai Dooars of North Bengal, anthropologically known as 'mini-India' in respect of composition of people speaking as many as 101 classified mother tongues divided into four families-Austic, Tibeto-Chinese, Dravidian and Indo-European. Unlike in other states of India, these tribes are not in absolute majority and live interspersed among the non-tribal population, hence have cultures that have evolved to include multi-ethnic dimensions and identities. Their cultural contours are being immensely influenced by the mainstream consumerist pattern, thus changing their modes of production, consumption, and distribution. Yet these societies remain at the margin (spatial, economic, and political), entrenched in poverty, indebtedness, and social obscurity. The lack of their ability to have elementary opportunities and the loss of their capability to maintain the traditional cultural lives and behavioural priorities is a matter of concern not just for the Adivasis themselves, but for all the people in the wider society.

This brings into focus the nature and reasons for their alienation (in terms of political representation, land access benefits) and presents an area of enquiry into the wide gap between the objectives of state sponsored developmental activities and their implementation. The study forwards a strong case for a more participatory approach, a two-way dissemination integrating traditional wisdom with formal education that protect tribal culture while creating opportunities that will allow the narrative to move past displacement and insurgency.

Keywords: Tribal studies, Terai Dooars, cultural transformation, marginalization, participatory development.

Abstract 114

HOUSE AWAY FROM HOME: A CASE ON MIGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF BIHARI COMMUNITY OF WARD 15 OF DUM DUM MUNICIPALITY, IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL

Upasana Pandey and Sankha Priya Guha

Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College, Kolkata, India

The word "House" signifies a covered materialistic place constructed for people to take shelter in while the word "Home" signifies an abstract space, where one can have a feeling of belongingness. The concept of "Home" is somewhat inscribed within us.

The present paper is an outcome of the Post – Graduate dissertation project of the first author. This paper examines the concept of House and Home for the Migrated Bihari community settled in Ward 15 of Dum Dum Municipality of North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal. The study has been conducted using first hand anthropological field work techniques such as observation, case histories, schedules and interviews.

Through observation and interpretation of the material traits, social relationships and supernatural practices, this paper tries to exhibit the delicate balance of the Biharis in between their so-called traditional cultural practices of Bihar and the new socio-cultural environment amidst the Bengalis in West Bengal. This paper reveals the way the Biharis in West Bengal have established community sentiments, which enables them to continue their traditions in multiple domains. Simultaneously they have also shown significant adaptability, embracing Bengali customs and forming cultural bonds with the neighbouring Bengalis.

The study exhibits the dynamic nature of identity amongst the migrant Bihari populations. This paper lucidly illustrates the deep attachment of the Bihari community to their traditions and customs which have not faded away even after migration and they have produced their space amongst Bengali Population. The simultaneous importance of “Home” and “House” in the lives of the migrated Bihari population is the predominant finding of this paper.

Keywords: Migration, house, home, Bihari community.

Abstract 115

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PATRILINEAL AND MATRILINEAL SOCIETY IN INDIA- A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Sreeparna Banerjee¹ and Chaiti Sharma Biswas²

¹Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, India

²Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India

Domestic violence is a significant issue that affects millions of women around the world, and India is no exception. In India, domestic violence is prevalent and deeply rooted in cultural norms, leading to widespread abuse and violence against women. Irrespective of religion and caste or tribe the status of women is depressing in the male dominated patrilineal society of India, where females are assumed to secure lower status. Unlike patrilineal society, tribal women in matrilineal society enjoy higher status. Based on the project funded by ICSSR, present study is an endeavour to find out the status of violence against women in the patrilineal and matrilineal society and locate the factors responsible for violence against women if any. Apart from the framed questions, we have asked women about the reasons of violence against them. Addressing these reasons appeared from the bottom level, may help the policy makers to take right and effective measures to tackle this social crime. It is found that the degree of domestic and outside violence is relatively less on the women of Meghalaya than West Bengal but it is not nil against them. The current study is going to examine the causes, its consequences, manifestations, and nature; we will comprehend the magnitude of domestic violence along with the implications of its on societal structure.

Keywords: Domestic violence, patrilineal, matrilineal.

Abstract 116

RAGA MUSIC THERAPY: A UNIQUE HEALING APPROACH

Dhrubajyoti Chakraborty

R & D. Department, Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA), Kolkata, India

Music -the innate quality of mankind, is a unique attribute. Apart from its communicative and entertaining role in the cultural and aesthetic realms, it is responsive to brain activities which regulate and control the nervous systems.

Music Therapy' --a very common and popular term, now a days, is being coined with its ongoing empirical applications for the improvement of the quality of life which includes physical, psychological and social aspects.

RAGA MUSIC, i.e., the Indian classical music, an age-old indigenous knowledge tradition, has a strange universal appeal. The theory and axioms of it had been described in the ancient Vedic scriptures, Ayurveda and in the Sanskrit literature. About more than 2500 years ago Charaka and Sushruta had applied the RAGA MUSIC THERAPY for treatment of patients and had suggested its utility for recovery of various diseases.

These facts prove that the abundance of therapeutic use and practice of this Music trend in this subcontinent dates from antiquity.

Experiments conducted later on, ascertained that RAGA MUSIC instigates secretions of the hormones like Adrenaline, Cortisol, Norepinephrine, Oxytocin, Dopamine, Serotonin etc. which help to reduce stress and work for remedying many other abovementioned psychosomatic ailments.

During recent years exercises of both active and receptive RAGA MUSIC THERAPY (RAGA CHIKITSA) are effectively being applied for upgrading the Intelligence Quotient, to ameliorate cognitive, communicative, educational, motor skill ability etc. of the CWSN, for abandonment of drug addiction, for pain management and to accelerate recuperation of the lifestyle disorders and mental retardation like Schizophrenia, Parkinson's Disease, Depression, Insomnia, paranoia, Hypertension etc.

The study of healing potential of RAGA MUSIC needs a considerable knowledge orientation in respect to Indian Musicology as well as expertise in Anthropology and Biology. Hence, pertinent research is possible only by dint of the collective effort constituting a consortium of the aforesaid multifaceted adeptness in the concerned arenas.

Thus, the present study involves Ethnomusicological structural functional analysis ie. how far the structured bias of RAGA MUSIC could be functional or could be used as an aid for healthcare. Simultaneously psychological tests i.e., examinations for standardisation, norms, reliability, development and validation etc. and the other medical and pathological tests have been taken into consideration, too. A time taken continuation of the research is necessary in this regard to accumulate more information for the benefit of humankind.

Keywords: Raga music therapy, ethnomusicological analysis, psychosomatic ailments, healthcare aid, therapeutic potential.

Abstract 117

INTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM: A STUDY ON SELECTED VILLAGES OF BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL

Arpita Chattopadhyay

Development Professional, Independent Researcher

Local history is the great source of information about the traditional knowledge system of communities. Especially in a former colonial nation like India, it is even more important to preserve every bit of our culture, given the unrequited love we have for the West and its modernization. Traditional knowledge system is struggling with other popular dominating cultures. Few villages of West Bengal, indigenous people have managed to continue their traditional cultures. As part of the study, two tribal populated villages Nityanagar and Baromesia in Rajnagar block, Birbhum of West Bengal were chosen. They are close to the Jharkhand borders. So, there has been a significant mixing of people through migration, marriage, and other social parameters. This gave a unique sample to interact with. In these areas tribes are mainly represented by Kora, Murmu, and Marandi. Most of them are involved in agriculture in one way or the other. Some work in quarries and mines. Even fewer people work in nearby towns. The primary objective of this paper is to establish the relationship between local tales, riddles that have been passed down orally over centuries with the traditional knowledge system like livelihood, farming etc. This study highlights how local people use folktales, riddles in managing and conserving natural resources. With the help of a local NGO and SHGs, I talked with village elders, working men and women to collect and record stories, riddles and later those folk tales, collected riddles and pieces on local history have been documented. This study is also an attempt to incorporate of references of one's own tradition in our education system to increase student retention in Government schools.

Keywords: Traditional knowledge system, oral stories and riddles, local NGO, public education system.

Abstract 118

VIOLENCE STUDIES: AN ANTHROPOLOGIST'S TAKE

Suman Nath

Department of Anthropology, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Government College, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata

Despite of global phenomenal presence of political violence, there is a lack of ethnographic attention towards this issue. Using major published literature of political violence in the last twenty years (2000-2023) which includes analysis of 64 articles and 29 books, this article attempts an operational understanding of the various studies. In doing so, it divides existing literature into three broad categories, viz. institutional studies, inequality studies and instrumental studies. It shows that agency-based studies and approach are quite limited and fragmented. It further illustrates that the lack of interest in this ethnographically vibrant field of research is creating crucial vacuum in global understanding of formation, maintenance and continuation of violence. Through this intensive secondary literature study, I argue that without the grassroots knowledge of violence it is nearly impossible to formulate an effective peace restoration process. I conclude with methodological challenges and opportunities that an anthropologist would be facing if s/he takes up the research on political violence by citing a few of my own ongoing field narratives.

Keywords: Political violence, violence, agency, ethnography.

Abstract 119

ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A CASE OF TRADITIONAL STONE CARVING ECONOMY INTO A GREEN ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Subhamay Kisku

Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India

Human beings and the environment have had a very intricate relationship since time immemorial. Human being has established their dominance on earth by harnessing the resources of the environment. With the increased pressure of the human population on Earth, the climate has been changing rapidly. Since 1992, sustainable development has been the predominant goal of the international community after organizing the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The concept of a Green Economy has been proposed as a means of supporting sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-15 has been targeted to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of “terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. Conflicts between human activities and biodiversity conservation are a global phenomenon. The SDG-8 promotes “sustained, inclusive, sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all”. This is also a double burden of sustainable development goals where the environment and economy must be simultaneously addressed.

At present, in the context of sustainable development, traditional artisans living on their nature harnessing skills are on the verge of occupational changes or economic transition. So, the preservation of their traditional knowledge must be emphasised while transforming the economic changes. Here, various stakeholders have their roles to perform. Since, academia is responsible for research and innovation, and government is responsible for policy-making and implementation. An attempt has been made to scrutinize the possibilities of using anthropological knowledge in the green economic entrepreneurial skill enhancement model for policy making. A case of stone carving artisans of West Bengal was considered here to exemplify the model.

Keywords: Anthropological approaches, sustainability, SDGs, green economy, entrepreneurship.

Abstract 120

A GEO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH TO THE PREHISTORIC INVESTIGATION OF THE LOWER SUBARNAREKHA VALLEY, JHARGRAM DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

Avick Biswas

Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal, India

Recently late Acheulian artifacts consisting of handaxes, choppers, pointed picks, and scrapers etc. made on quartzite and quartzitic sandstone have been discovered in ferricritised alluvial fills between Gopiballavur and Rameswaram temple covering a stretch of about 30km of the lower Subarnarekha River valley, Jhargram district, West Bengal. Artifacts occur in stratified context, about 8 to 10 km below the fill surface and about 5km south of the present bank of the river. Stratigraphically, the basal bedrock is a strong ferricritised boundary cobbly bed (FBCB) without any artifact. The FBCB is unconformably overlaid by brownish-grey mottled clay (BGMC) with lenses of ironstone bands, deposited in the fluvial-lacustral environment. The BGMC is conformably covered by the cobbly pebbly moderately ferricritised gravel with late Acheulian artifacts. The weathered nature of artifact-bearing gravel, and its present location, about 5km away from the modern channel indicates the relict nature of the fluvial fill. On the other hand, the site near Rameswaram temple with flake artifacts in the Palaeo-gravel bar capped by ferricritised alluvial fill (10m thick) 20 m above the present channel of the Subarnarekha probably suggests that late Acheulian activity in Palaeo-Subarnarekha is most likely to be the middle Pleistocene age. As the lower Subarnarekha River is not far away from the Bay of Bengal, these surfaces with Acheulian and Middle-Palaeolithic artifacts, seem to have developed under three main factors i.e., i) Humid and sub-humid seasonal climate, ii) Fluctuating sea level or transgressive- regressive phases of Bay of Bengal, iii) Tectonics involving uplift and subsidence. The present course of the Subarnarekha River has only exposed Pleistocene sediments and it seems from observation that it was never semi-arid as we observe in later late Pleistocene. Thus, combining geomorphic and lithic evidence from differently exposed stratigraphy will help paper presenter to understand the palaeoenvironment, climatic changes and site formation processes of the focused landscape in this paper.

Keywords: Geomorphology, stratigraphy, ferricrete, palaeo-environment, artifact, acheulian.

Abstract 121

CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

Gopal Chandra Mandal

Department of Anthropology, Bangabasi College, Kolkata.

The 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a reviewed report, published on an annual basis by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. It is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, national and regional levels, reflecting multiple dimensions of hunger over time. GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger - "0" is the best score (implies no hunger) and "100" is the worst. The 2023 Global Hunger Index reported that India ranked 111th out of 125 countries which were studied and stands at 28.7 score, categorized as "serious" on the GHI Severity of Hunger Scale. This indicates that India has a level of hunger that is serious. Neighboring countries, such as Sri Lanka (60th), Nepal (69th), Bangladesh (81st) and Pakistan (102nd) scored better than India. Each country GHI score is calculated based on a formula that combines four indicators that together capture the multidimensional nature of hunger. They are, undernourishment, stunting and wasting among children and also child mortality. Concerned about these facts, the Government of India has adopted several Food Supplementation Programs. Of these the most important is the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) which started on 2nd October, 1975 for preschool children. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) for primary and middle school children started from 15th August, 1995.

Similar food supplementation programs have been undertaken in several developing countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan with an aim to reduce the prevalence of undernutrition among children. Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) was started in 1995. While in Sri Lanka, National Nutrition Policy (NNP) was started much earlier in 1986. Besides all these countries, in Bhutan, the school meals started in 1960s much earlier than the arrival of UN World Food Programme in 1974. Nutrition International has been working in Pakistan since 2001 to improve the health of people in need, especially women and children, through better nutrition.

The way of calculating GHI score is not fully acceptable to the countries like India and others, because of its small sample size, more focus on child health not population as a whole. Besides, others are opined that, the stunting as well as wasting are outcomes of various complex factors, including sanitation, genetics, environment, and food utilization, and are not solely attributable to hunger. Furthermore, child mortality may

not solely be an outcome of hunger. So, this GHI score erupts controversies in favour as well as against the position of countries like India. It not only helps to combat the nutritional and health aspects but often becomes the tool to raise the various agenda in political issues.

Keywords: Global Hunger Index, consequences, India, neighbouring countries.

Abstract 122

REBO: AN INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGICAL ENIGMA OF THE CHANGPAS OF CHANGTHANG VALLEY

Banita Behera

Anthropological Survey of India, SRC, Mysore

Indigenous people all throughout the world have preserved distinctive understandings that govern relationships among humans, non-humans, and other species in particular ecosystems. These understandings are anchored in cultural experience. These perceptions and connections make to a body of information that is generally referred to as indigenous knowledge, also known as traditional knowledge or aboriginal knowledge. The purpose of present research article is to learn more about the Indigenous knowledge of Changpa nomads of Changthang valley, their culture and cultural significance. The Changpas have retained several types of traditional knowledge and continue to practice them, just like other tribal tribes around the world. The Rebo, a traditional tent of Changpa is one of the indigenous technologies which is sustainable to survive in a harsh climate. The Changpas, who have inhabited this region for thousands of years, have adapted to the local environment and established a living by subsisting off the soil. The livestock raised by the Changpas, as pastoral nomadic population travels throughout Changthang while residing in Rebos (traditional tent). Since the beginning of time, this group of individuals have weathered Changthang's harsh elements, including the cold, snow, high altitude, and changeable weather. Indigenous knowledge of the Changpa must be included into research and development initiatives. Respect for traditional pastoral systems can be increased by paying attention to nomads' indigenous knowledge and by fostering collaboration for problem-solving. A more sustainable future for the socioeconomic and environmental well-being of Changthang Ladakh's nomads can be created with better recognition of their knowledge system.

Keywords: Nomads, indigenous knowledge, cultural practice, anthropology, tribe, culture, vernacular architecture.

Abstract 123

BETWEEN NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONS: SITUATING RURAL LANDSCAPES THROUGH AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL LENS

Rajat Sanyal

Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

According to most recent research on the history of colonial art in India, elements of a 'picturesque' landscape have been specifically subjected to aesthetic interrogations by the community of British artists. Certain components of the 'biota' of India's rural landscapes, as represented in the works of these British artists of India are, thus, argued to have not only shaped the 'global audience' of the British empire but further captured the layered temporalities and linkages of the Indian landscape (here I am specifically referring to the recent seminal work of Romita Ray titled *Under the Banyan Tree: Relocating the Picturesque British India*, Yale University Press, 2013). Unfortunately for ancient India, this landscape remains essentially elusive, though narratives on the components of landscape are not scanty in transmitted textual tradition of early India.

Unlike the transmitted texts, the extensive corpus of early medieval epigraphic texts, particularly the sets of copperplates from different parts of the country, offer a unique piece of evidence in the form of narratives, called 'boundary clause' in epigraphic terminology, on rural settlements. The geographical region of historical Bengal (consisting of West Bengal in India and the whole of the Republic of Bangladesh) is no exception to this. The boundary narrative/s and copious references to essentially varying and heterogeneous landscapes, appearing on these inscriptions, offer some unmistakable hints to understanding the spatial and 'compositional' facets of rural settlements in the region (for a recent preliminary study, see Rajat Sanyal and Suchandra Ghosh, 'Boundary Clauses in Bengal Inscriptions: Revisiting Sources', *Copper, Parchment, and Stone: Studies in the Sources for Landholding and Lordship in Early Medieval Bengal and Medieval Scotland* (eds. John Reuben Davies and Swapna Bhattacharya, University of Glasgow (Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies), 2019, pp. 99-150). Probing into the material milieu of these historical settlements with an inroad through epigraphic sources might also lead one to undertake a further study of how the markers of

natural and built environs in rural India interacted with their anthropogenic neighbours. The present 'field situation' of these elements hardly represents the image of a 'picturesque past', but do we find a trace of it once we couple the textual narrative with the material process? This paper is aimed at raising this question, underlining the possible implications the question might, at least implicitly, embody.

Keywords: Built environ, rural settlement, archaeological feature, early medieval, man-environ interaction.

IAS CONF. 2023