

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCENARIO OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN BARIND REGION, MALDA: A CASE STUDY ON MAHAJIB NAGAR VILLAGE**

Swapnasudha Chakraborty

M.A. in Geography, Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal, India

### **ABSTRACT**

Tribal community is the oldest resident in India. Unfortunately they are neglected and most suppressed community in the country still today. Barind region is rich in the concentration of five tribes (Santal, Munda, Malpaharia, Kora and Mahali). Their socio- cultural and economic activities are different from the other tribal groups. This paper is an attempt to focus on the tribal concentration of the Barind Region, where spatio-temporal distribution, socio-economic status of tribes are analysed followed by the case study of *Mahajib nagar* village. It is a predominantly tribal village residing three tribes i.e. Santal, Munda and Mahali. Government has declared many policies, schemes for those but how and where these schemes are being used or implemented properly and people get fruitful advantages from these are still relevant debatable questions. In spite of all these development initiatives the tribal in this region are still threatened by severe poverty. As problem of the economic, literacy, livelihood are rampant, the development of Barind region is unthinkable without tribal development.

**Keywords:** Tribal community, Socio-economic status, severe poverty, Government Schemes, Tribal development

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

India is the home of a number of tribes i.e. groups of indigenous people. According to Census 2011 there are 705 individual ethnic groups in India constituting 8.6% of the total population (tribal population 10.43 crore). In India West Bengal constitutes 5.1 percent of tribal population (2011). In total there are 40 notified Scheduled tribes in the state. Silent rich and varied cultures of tribal communities and identities have enriched India's culture.

Tribe is a group of people claiming indigenous to the soil, inhabited in forest and high regions, having subsistence level economy, common ancestry, strong in-group ties, traditional, religious and cultural practices and a feeling of strong identity (Mishra, 2003).

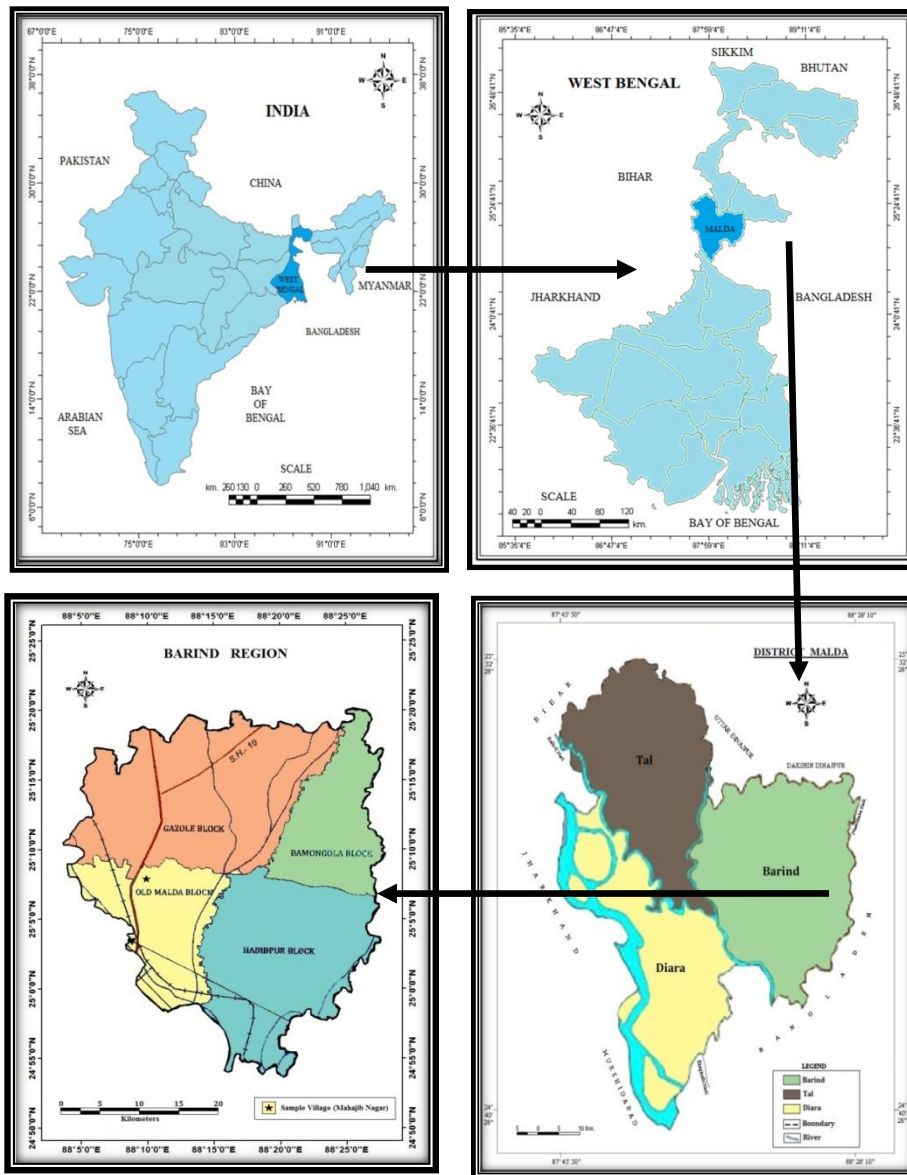
**Objectives:**

- To study the socio-economic status of tribal communities in Barind region, focusing on the village Mahajib Nagar.
- To understand the effects of selected schemes proposed by the Government for their development in the study area.
- To analyse the implementation of these schemes on the tribal communities of Mahajib Nagar village.

**Area of the study:**

Malda district is the gateway of North Bengal. It is a low-lying plain region. On the basis of topography, soil and drainage pattern, physiographically the district can be divided into three regions i.e. *Tal* (north portion above river Kalindi), *Diara* (southern portion below river Kalindi) and *Barind* (eastern part of river Mahananda).

Within Malda percentage of tribal population is highest in Barind region i.e. 58.11 percent (2011). Barind region consists of 4 blocks viz. Old Malda, Gazole, Bamangola and Habibpur. From Barind region one village (Mahajib Nagar) is selected as case study based on the highest tribal population (90 percent tribal population to total population in 2011). The location of Barind region is given in Map 1.



Map 1: Location map

***Characteristics of Barind Region and Mahajib Nagar Village (2011)***

		District	Barind	Mahajib Nagar Village			
Area (Sq Km)	Total	3733.00	1330.90	3.637			
	Rural	3646.91	1317.79	3.637			
	Urban	86.09	13.11	-			
<b>No. of Villages</b>							
No. of Villages	Total	1771	835	-			
	Inhabited	1613	772	-			
	Uninhabited	158	63	-			
<b>No. of Towns</b>							
No. of Towns	Total	29	10	-			
	Statutory	2	1	-			
	Census	27	9	-			
<b>No. of Households (Including Institutional and Houseless)</b>							
		846991	188802	364			
<b>Population</b>							
Total			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
	Persons	3988845	854800	21.43	1690	0.197	
	Male	2051541	435472	21.23	854	0.196	
	Female	1937304	419328	21.64	836	0.199	
<b>Rural</b>							
Rural			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
	Persons	3447185	797294	23.13	1690	0.197	
	Male	1768336	406144	22.97	854	0.196	
	Female	1678849	391150	23.30	836	0.199	
<b>Urban</b>							
Urban			Number	Percentage			
	Persons	541660	57506	10.62	-	-	
	Male	283205	29328	10.36	-	-	
	Female	258455	28178	10.90	-	-	
<b>Scheduled Caste Population</b>							
Scheduled Caste Population			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
	Persons	835430	20.94	355313	42.53	148	0.041
	Male	432744	21.09	183330	42.09	77	0.042

	Female	402686	20.79	171983	41.01	71	0.041
Scheduled Tribe Population		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total	Persons	313984	7.87	182411	21.34	1527	0.837
	Male	157528	7.68	89575	20.57	769	0.858
	Female	156456	8.08	92836	22.14	758	0.816
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Rural	Persons	307625	7.71	181457	21.23	1527	0.837
	Male	154156	7.51	89105	20.46	769	0.858
	Female	153469	7.92	92352	22.02	758	0.816
		District		Barind		Mahajib Nagar Village	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
Urban	Persons	6359	0.16	954	0.11		-
	Male	3372	0.16	470	0.11		-
	Female	2987	0.15	484	0.12		-
Percentage of Urban Population			13.58		6.73		-
Population Density (Persons Per Sq Km )			1069		642		465
Population Growth Rate (2001-2011 )			30.10 percent		15.38 percent		19.43 percent
Sex Ratio (No. of Females Per 1000 Males )	Total		944		963		979
	Rural		949		963		979
	Urban		913		961		-

**Source : District Census Handbook Maldah and Primary Survey**

**Data Base and Methodology:**

The present study is based on both primary data and the secondary data. Primary data is generated from the field with the help of structured questionnaire. Fifty households are surveyed or interviewed randomly. The sample households are selected by stratified random sampling method. The main respondents are the head of the households. Data collected from the field survey are compiled, analyzed and presented in the form of tables, charts, maps and graphs by applying appropriate statistical and cartographic techniques.

On the other hand the secondary data is collected from different sources like Census Report, District Census Handbook (Maldah), District Gazetter, different books, web sites etc.

**II. TRIBAL CONCENTRATION IN BARIND REGION**

The region of mature alluvium that had given North Bengal its old historical name ‘*Barendri*’ is known today as ‘*Barind*’. The land made of old sedimentary rock between Rajmahal hill in west, Garo hill in east is presently known as *Barendrabhum* or *Barind* of Maldah district. The soil is approximately 50 lakh years old.

According to 2011, Barind region have 182411 tribal population with 89575 males and 92836 females. Out of 835 villages in Barind 63 uninhabited, 712 tribal and the rest are non-tribal village. Comparing the number of villages between 2001 and 2011 we find that number of tribal villages has been increased and number of non-tribal and uninhabited villages has been decreased.

**Table 1: Number of Villages in Barind Region**

Name of the Block	No. of Villages (2001)				No. of Villages (2011)			
	Uninhabited Village	Inhabited Village		Total Village	Uninhabited Village	Inhabited Village		Total Village
		Tribal	Non-Tribal			Tribal	Non-Tribal	
Gazole	5	252	36	293	5	265	21	291
Habibpur	58	209	21	288	54	221	12	287
Bamangola	4	124	17	145	1	136	5	142
Old Malda	3	80	35	118	3	90	22	115
Barind Region	70	665	109	844	63	712	60	835

Source : Census of 2001 and 2011

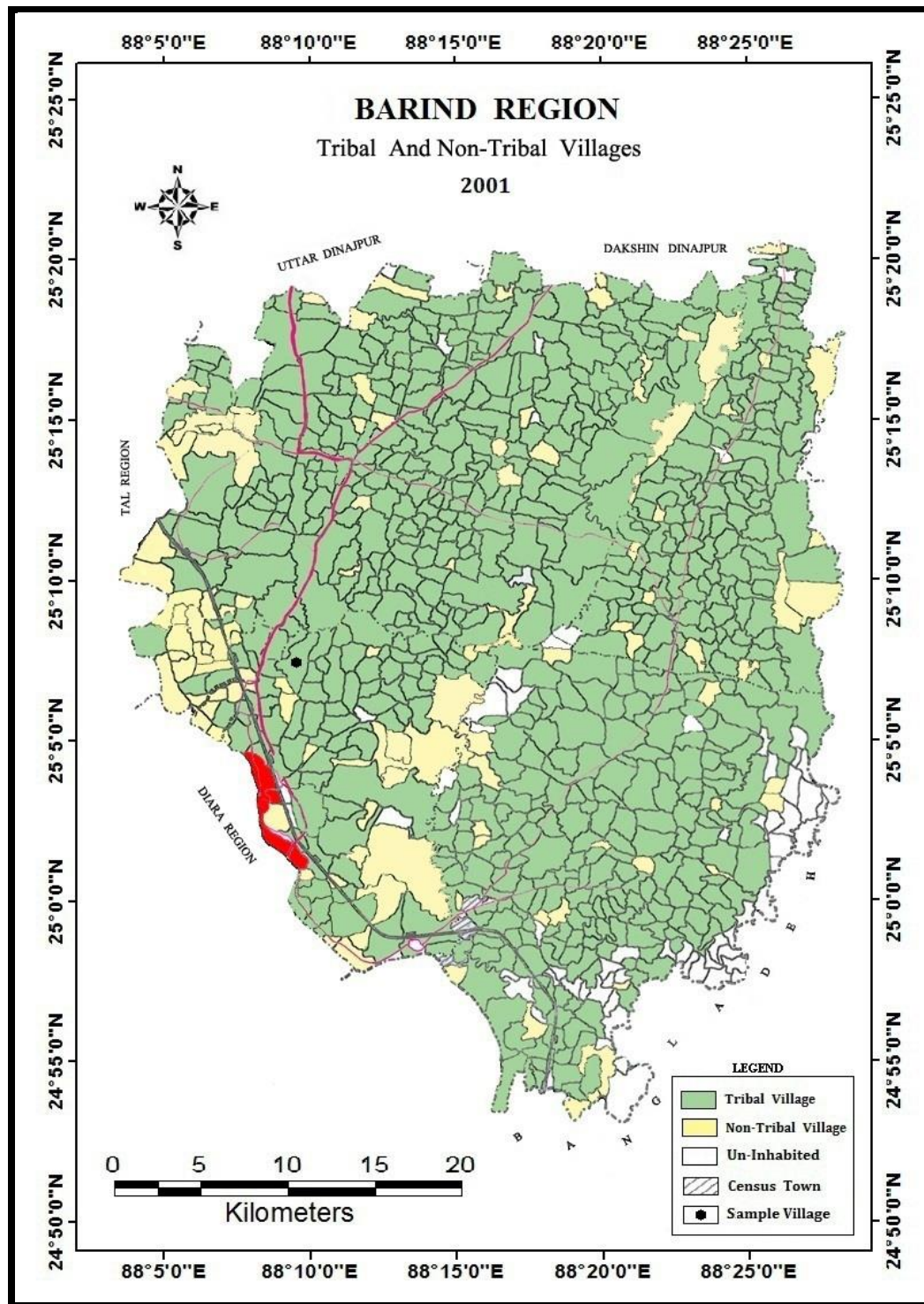
**Table 2: Tribal Concentrated Village of Barind Region in 2001 and 2011**

Name of The Block	No. of Tribal Concentrated Village ( Tribal Population Above 50 Percent )		No. of Tribal Concentrated Village (Tribal Population Above 75 Percent )	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Gazole	70	74	24	24
Habibpur	99	97	55	60
Bamangola	19	19	5	5
Old Malda	31	29	14	16
Barind Region (Total)	219	219	98	105

**Source : Census of 2001 and 2011**

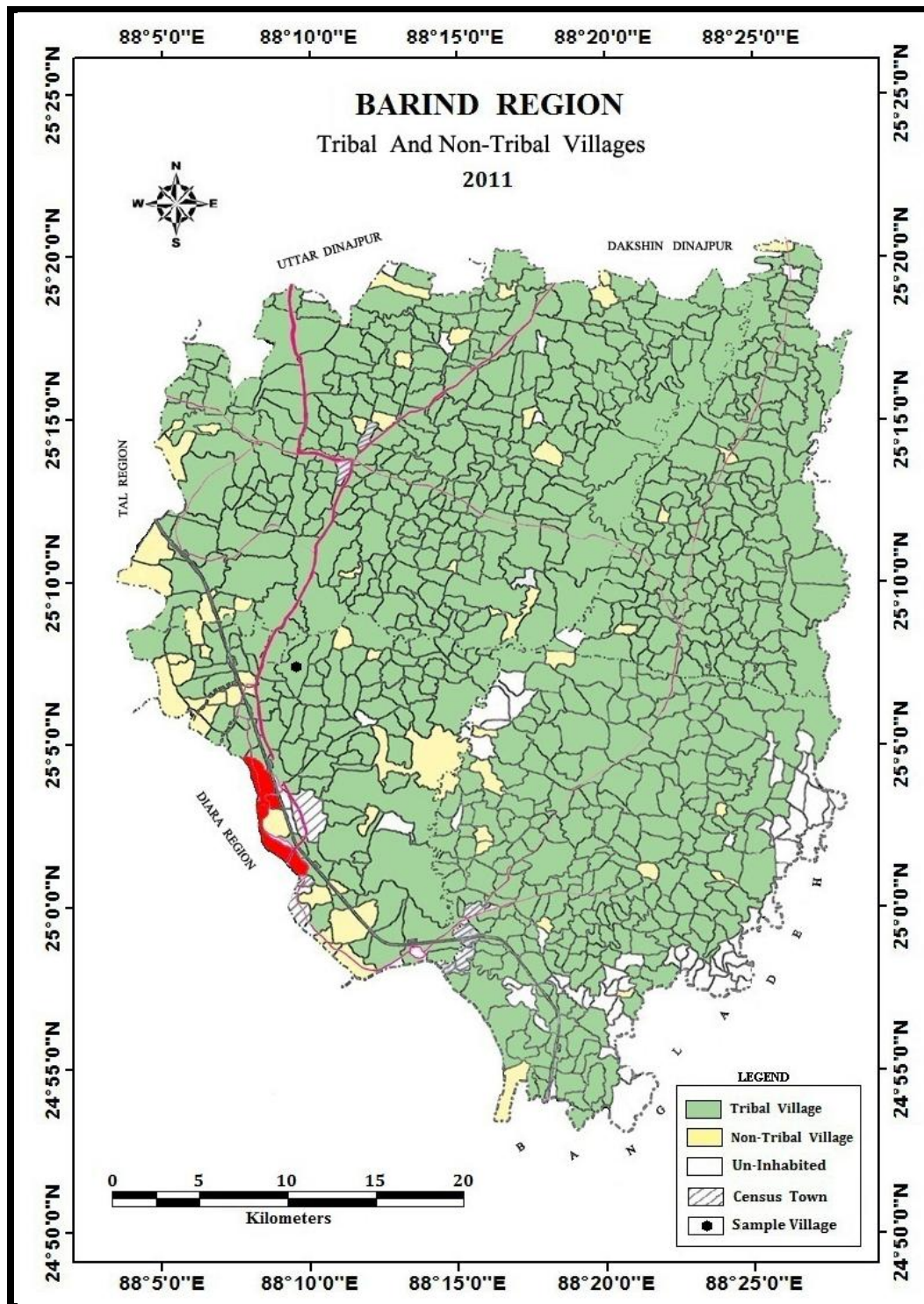
In 2001 out of 665 tribal villages 219 villages have tribal population above 50 percent and in case of 2011 out of 712 tribal villages' 219 villages have tribal population above 50 percent. Number of villages having tribal population above 75 percent increases from 98 in 2001 to 105 in 2011.



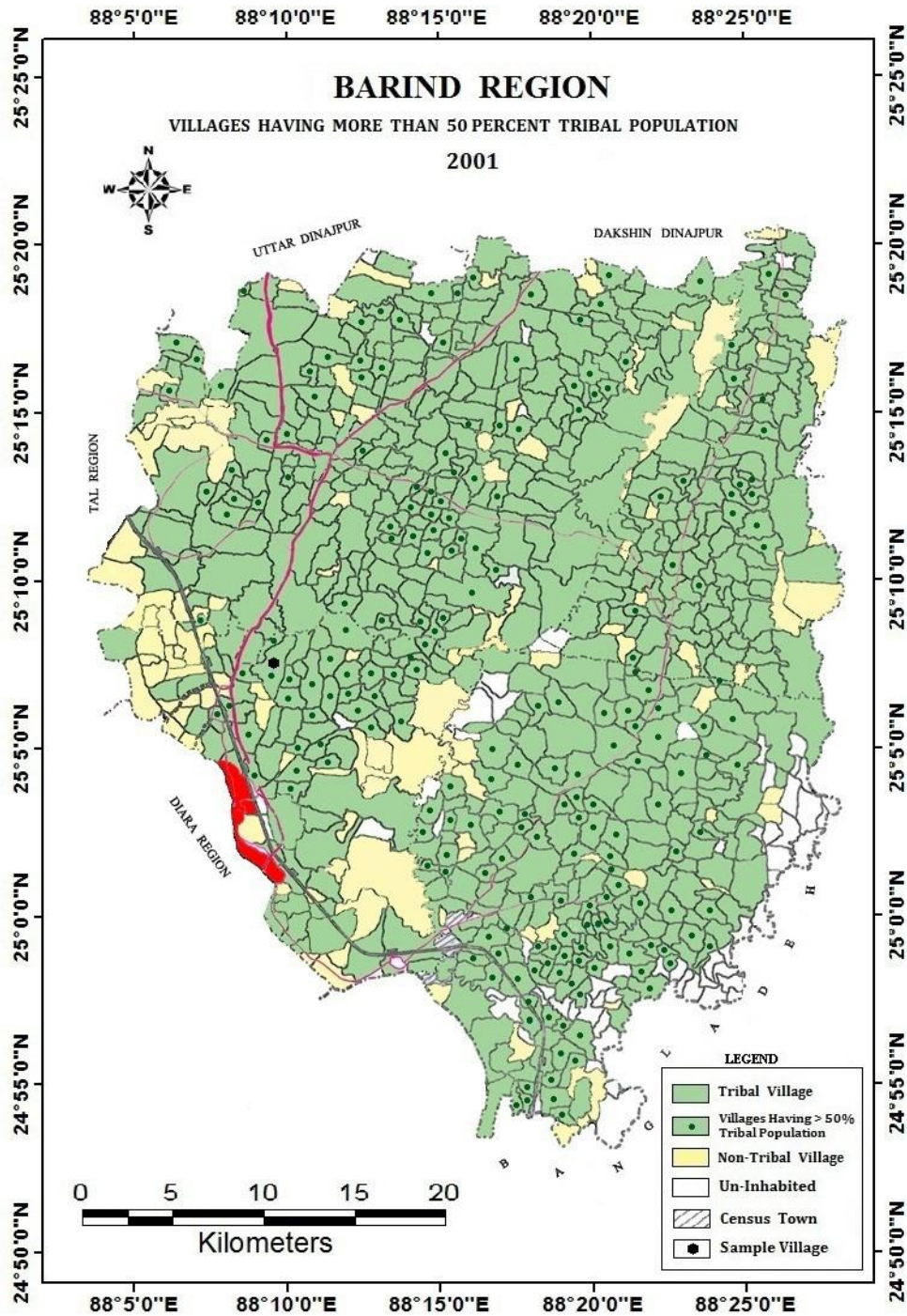


Map 2: Tribal and Non-tribal villages of Barind Region (2001)



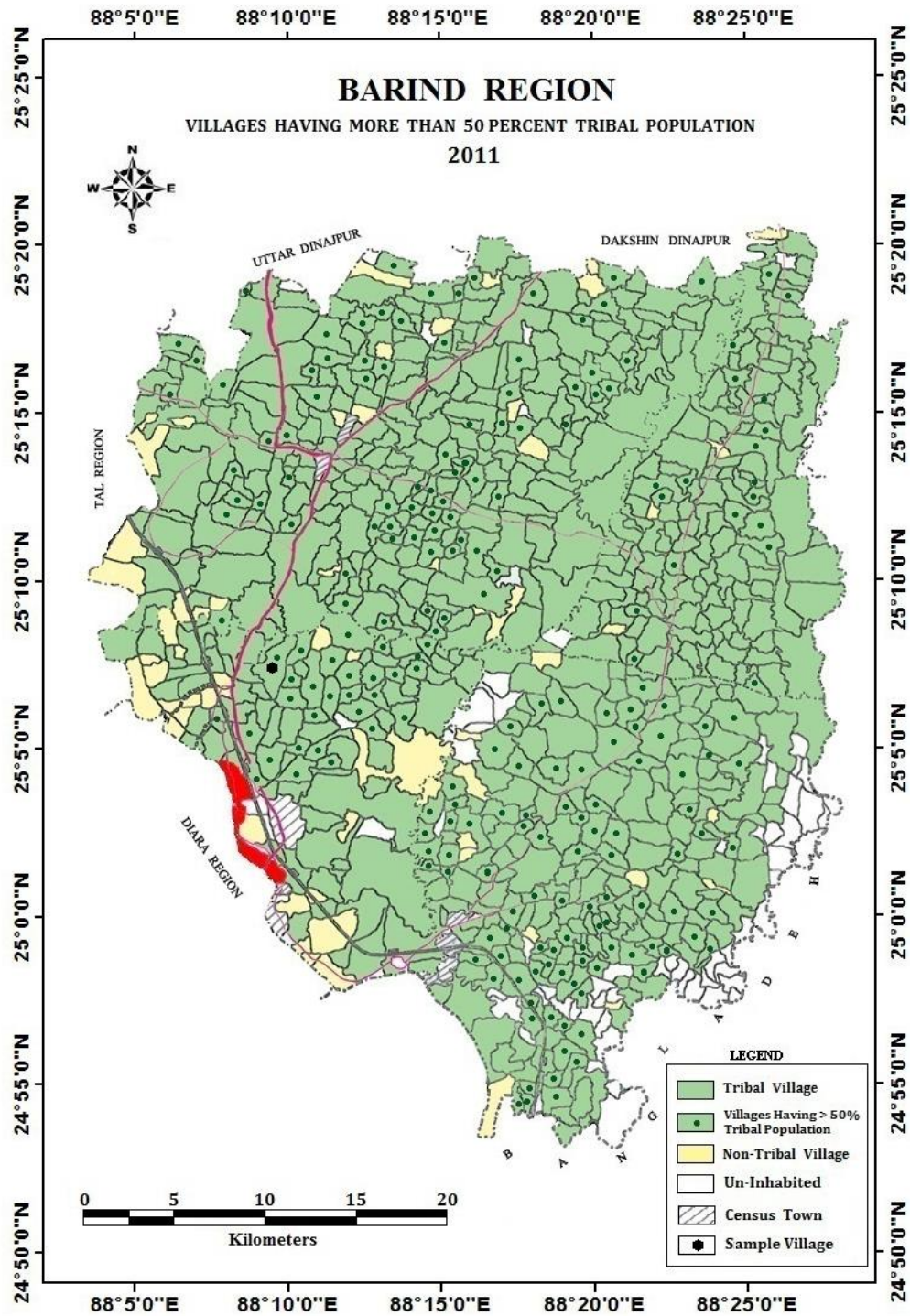


Map 3: Tribal and Non-tribal villages of Barind Region (2011)

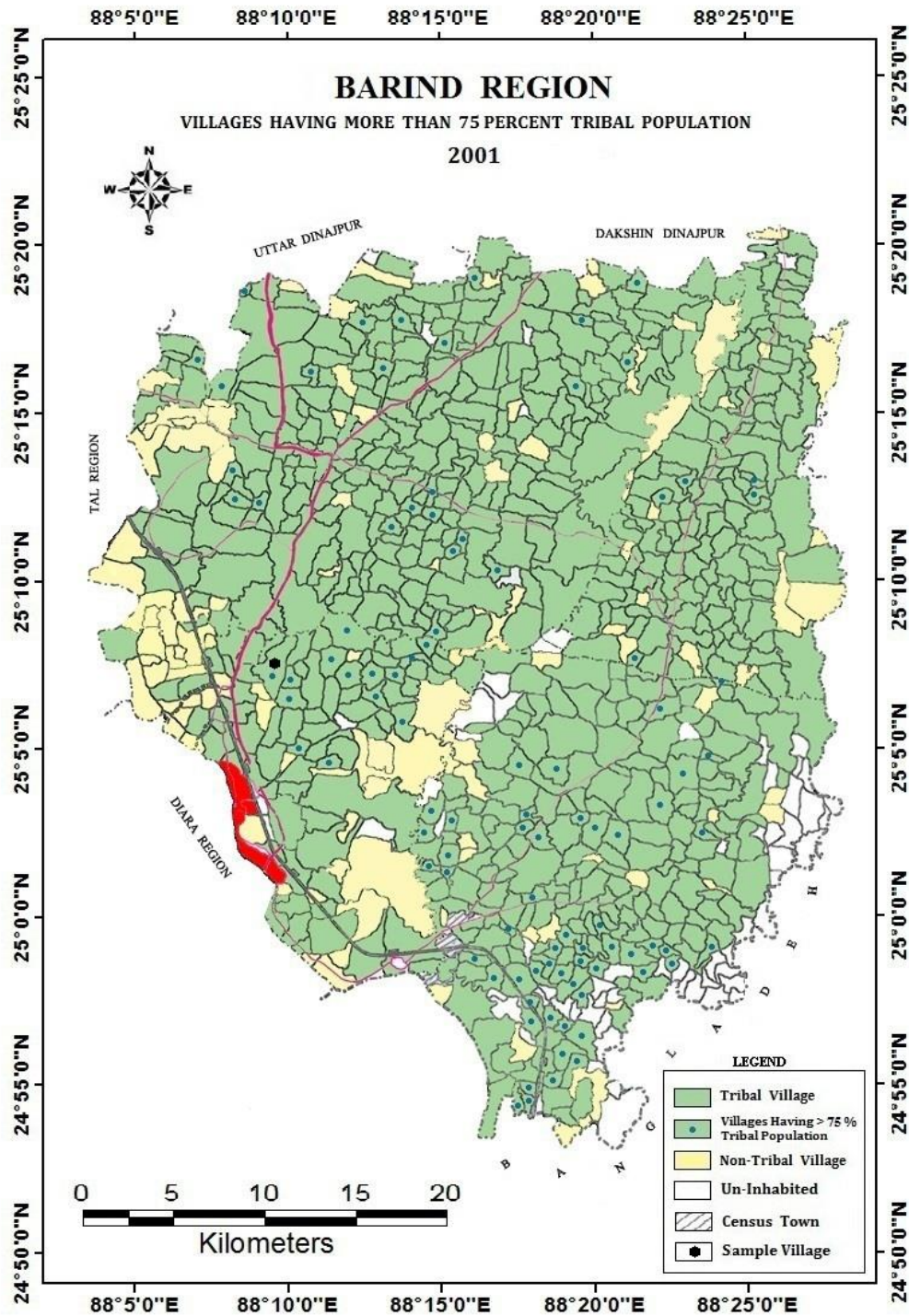


Map 4: Tribal villages of Barind Region Having More Than 50 Percent Tribal Population (2001)



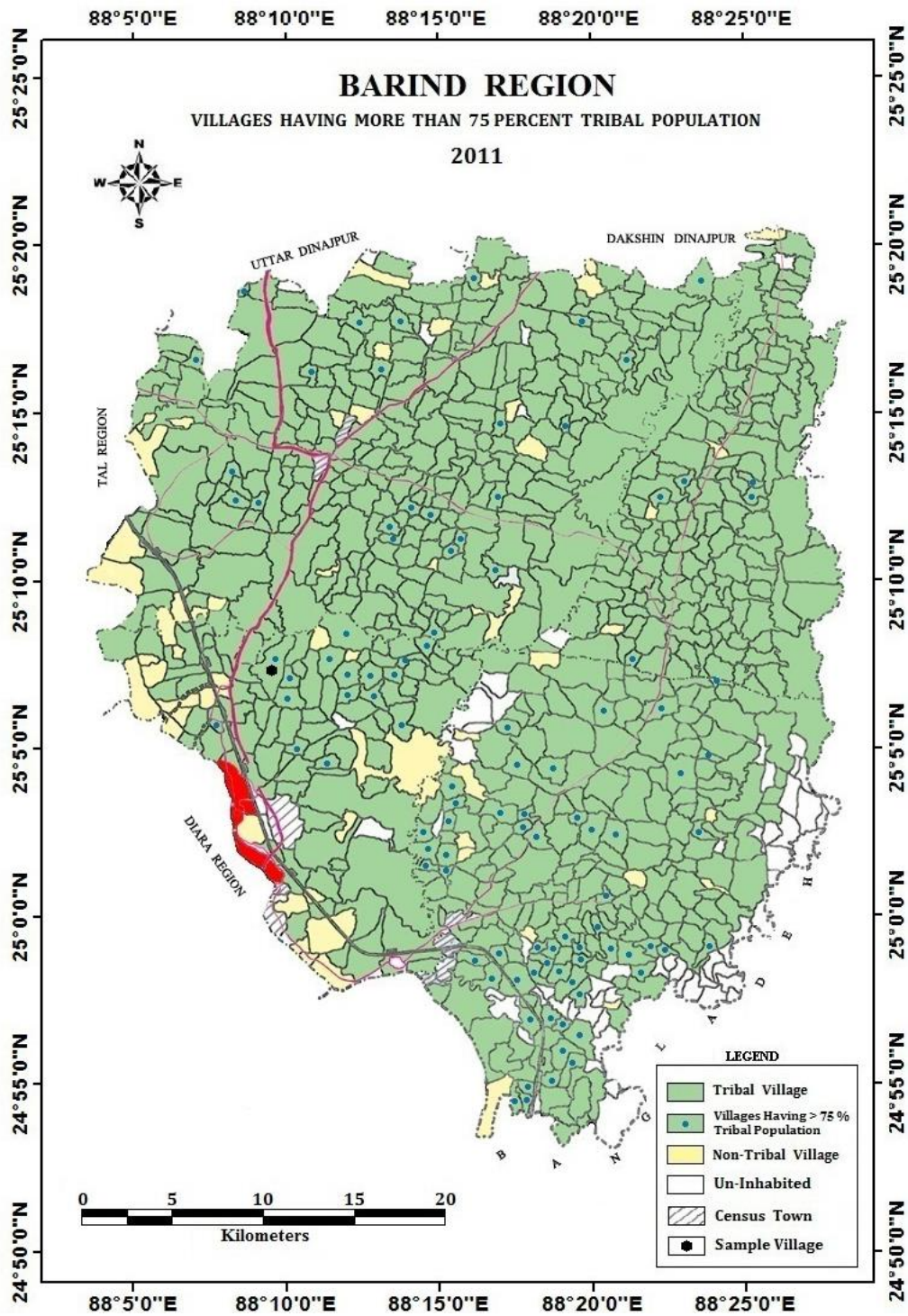


Map 5: Tribal villages of Barind Region Having More Than 50 Percent Tribal Population (2011)

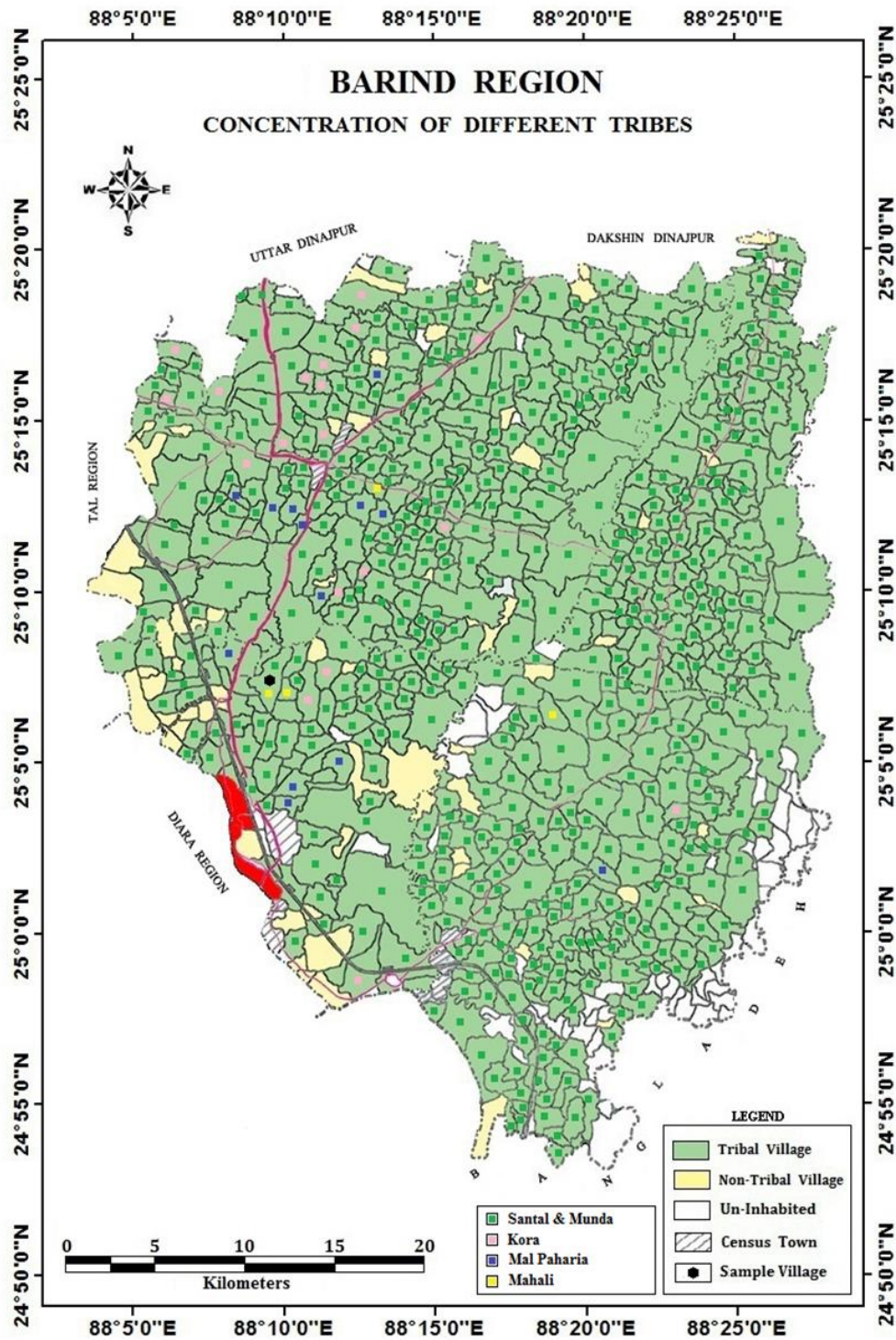


Map 6: Tribal villages of Barind Region Having More Than 75 Percent Tribal Population (2001)





Map 7: Tribal villages of Barind Region Having More Than 75 Percent Tribal Population (2011)



Map 8: Concentration of Different Tribes in Barind Region (2011)

There are 40 tribes in West Bengal, among them 8 major tribes ( Santal, Kisan, Oraon, Kharwar, Kora, Munda, Mal Paharia, Mahali ) are found in Malda and out of these 8 tribes 5 tribes (Santal, Munda, Malpaharia, Kora, Mahali ) are found in Barind region.

**Table 3: Concentration of Different Tribes in Barind Region (2011)**

<b>Tribes</b>	<b>Place of Concentration</b>
<i>Mal Paharia</i>	Janjhra, Katabari, Masaldanga, Goalpara (Old Malda block); Bakdighi, Valukdanga, Majlisbag, Ranipur, Fatepur, Ghaksol, Mirjatpur, and Sukandighi (Gazole block)
<i>Mahali</i>	Rangamati, Jahuri (Old Malda block); Alampur, Ekandar and Chirakuti (Gazole block)
<i>Kora</i>	Mallikpur, Paharibhita, Amlitala, Kagasura, Dakshin Maldanga, Molladighi, Nijgram, Atgram, Uttar Mahinagar, Kalipukur, Tulsidanga, Sankarpur, Sarakandar, Matail, Katna, Durgapur (Gazole block); Nemua, Kamat, Tuladangi, Saiyadpur, Purba Banchapara (Old Malda block) and Simuljuri ( Habibpur block )
<i>Santal</i>	Rest of the villages of Gazole, Habibpur and Bamangola block
<i>Munda</i>	People are not concentrated in particular village, they are scatterly distributed in the Barind region

**Source : Maldaha Jelar Itihas by Dr. Prodyot Ghosh**

### **III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN BARIND REGION: A CASE STUDY ON MAHAJIB NAGAR VILLAGE**

In order to understand the socio-economic conditions of the tribe in Barind region a tribal village is selected namely Mahajib Nagar. According to history, tribal people from Jharkhand migrated in this area and they were settled by the local landlords to carry out agricultural operations as agricultural labourers. With time, some of the residents have been absorbed in various other occupations and the livelihood of the people in the study area is changing gradually.

Mahajib Nagar is a predominantly tribal village constituted 90 percent tribal population. The population of this village comprises three main groups of people, the Santal, the Munda and the Mahali. The area is divided into six hamlets namely: Arjuntola, Baliatola, Damontola, Saklepara, Bathan, Jahuri Mundapara. Among the six hamlets Saklepara and Jahuri Mundapara are



dominated by Mahali and Munda tribe respectively. In rest of the hamlets majorly Santal tribes are found.

**Household Characteristics:**

Different social aspects like – house types, conditions of the houses, construction material of houses, dwelling area, kitchen and cooking facility, drinking water facility, electricity, toilet facility, ration facility, land use and land distribution pattern etc are different among different tribes.

Santal people make beautiful houses and decorate their walls with different colours, figures of human beings, flowers, animals and birds. But there are no such noticeable differences found between the house pattern of the Munda and Mahali tribe. The maximum house types of the village are earthen (78 percent) and mixed type (20 percent) [Table 4, Fig 1]. Among these 88 percent of the houses are livable, 8 percent are good and 4 percent are dilapidated [Table 4, Fig 2]. Most of the wall of the houses in this village is made of mud (84 percent). Besides brick tile and bamboos are also used [Table 4, Fig 3]. People use brick tile (62 percent) and tin (24 percent) mostly as their roof construction material [Table 4, Fig 4]. Floor of the houses is dominantly made of mud [Table 4, Fig 5]. The dwelling area varies from tribe to tribe.

**Table 4: Habitat status of Mahajib Nagar Village**

<b>House Types</b>			
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household	
Earthen	39	78	
Pucca	1	2*	
Mixed	10	20	
Total Surveyed	50		
<b>Condition of The House</b>			
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household	
Good	4	8*	
Livable	44	88	
Dilapidated	2	4*	
Total Surveyed	50		
<b>Wall Construction Material</b>			
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household	
Bamboo	2	4*	
Mud	42	84	

Brick Tile	1	2*
Mud And		
Brick Tile	3	6*
Other	2	4*
Total surveyed	50	

**Roof Construction Material**

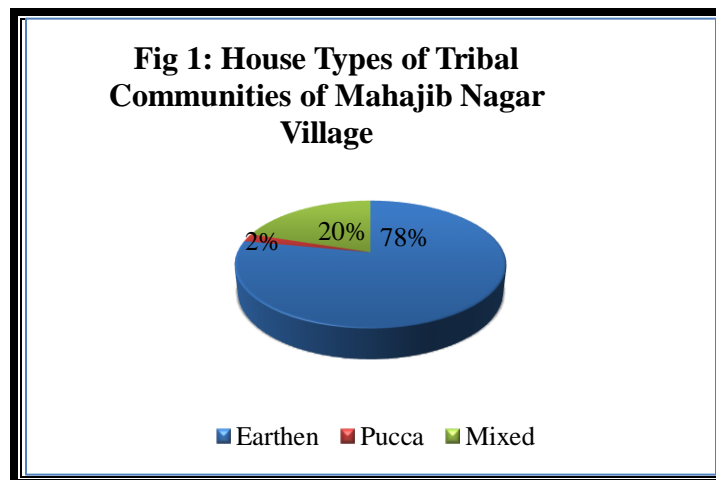
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household
Tin	12	24
Brick Tile	31	62
Tin and Brick Tile	6	12
Tin and Concrete	1	2*
Total Surveyed	50	

**Floor Construction Material**

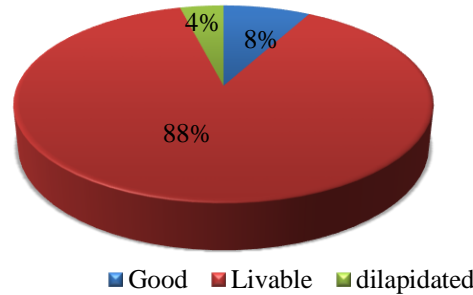
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household
Mud	49	98
Cement	1	2*
Total Surveyed	50	

Note: \* represents sample size less than 5

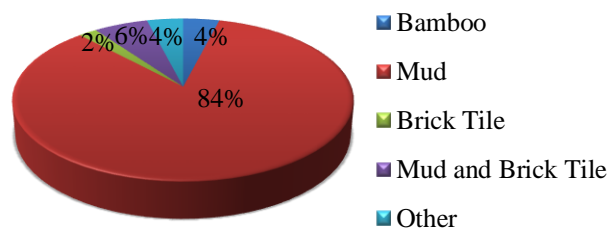
Source : Primary Survey 2015

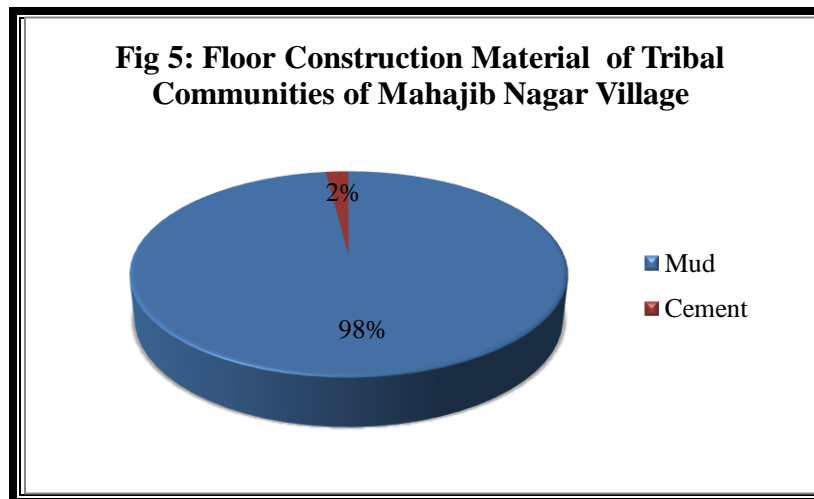
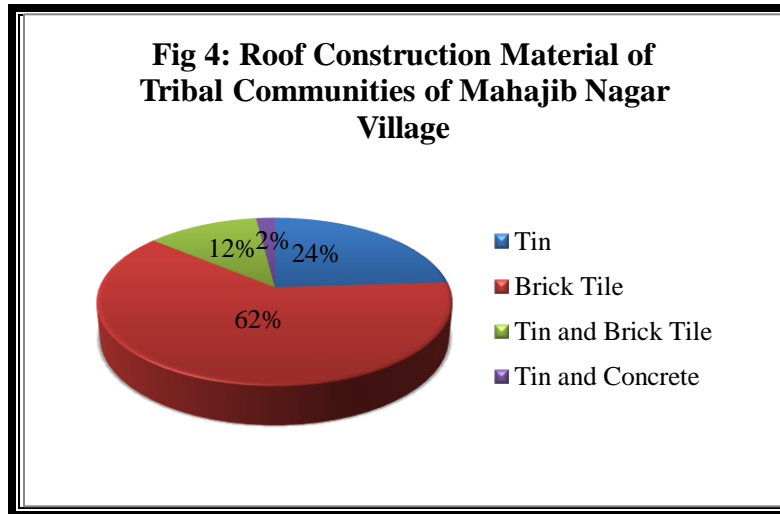


**Fig 2: Condition of the Houses of Tribal Communities of Mahajib Nagar Village**



**Fig 3: Wall Construction Material of Tribal Communities of Mahajib Nagar Village**





Most of the tribal houses do not have any separate kitchen facility. They use verandah as cooking place. Mostly wood and cow dung cake are used for cooking, but in few amount of people use kerosene and cooking gas for cooking purpose also [Table 5, Fig 6]. In this village Drinking water facility is not available in the house. People collect the water from nearby. Submersible tank, pond and well are the main water source for them [Table 5, Fig 7].

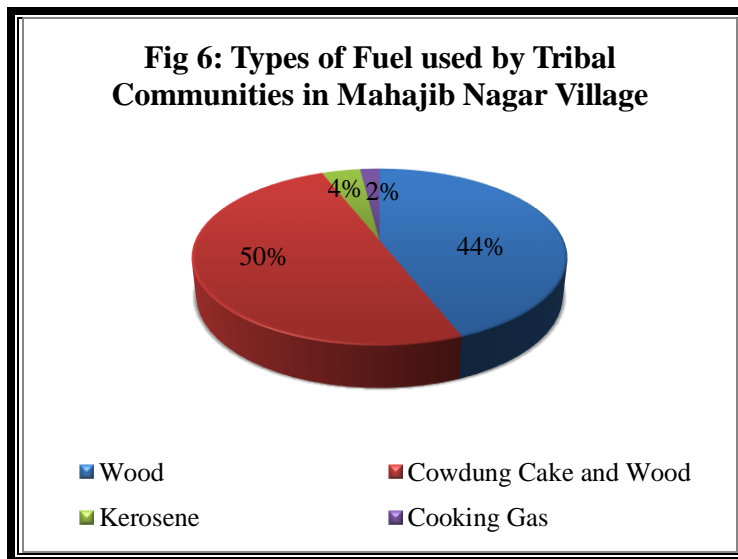
**Table 5 : Other facility in Mahajib Nagar Village**

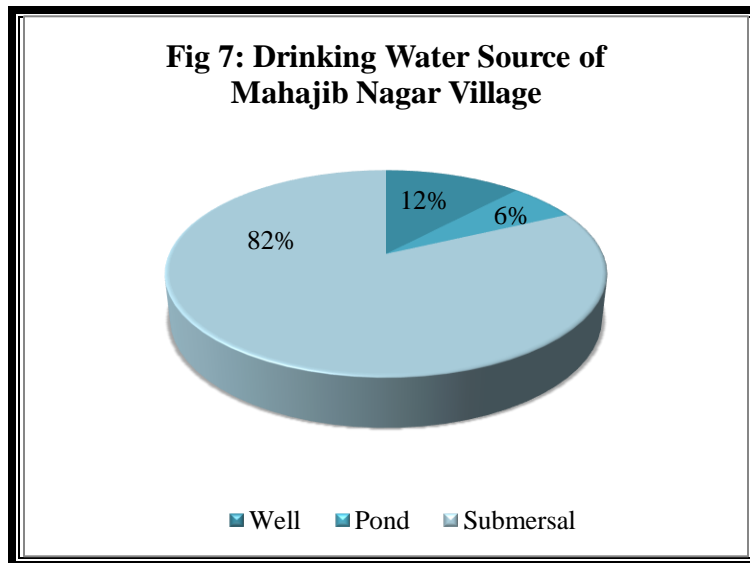
<b>Types of Fuel used by People</b>		
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household
Wood	22	44
Cow dung Cake and Wood	25	50
Kerosene	2	4*
Cooking Gas	1	2*
Total Surveyed	50	

<b>Drinking Water Source</b>		
	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household
Well	6	12
Pond	3	6*
Submersible tank	41	82
Total Surveyed	50	

Note: \* represents sample size less than 5  
 Source : Primary Survey 2015





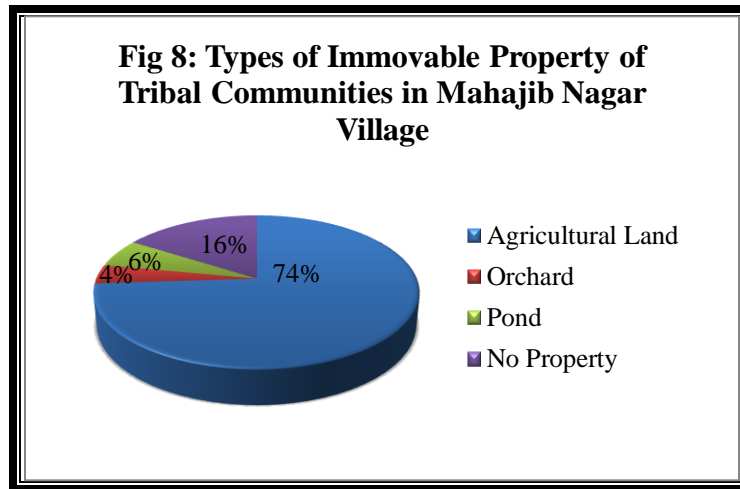
The village is electrified. In each and every house electricity is available. Electricity and kerosene are used as the main source of lighting. They usually do not have toilet in their houses though one and only person has built toilet in his house by himself. Most of the people access to the ration shop at Gunosakrol for their basic need. Rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene etc are available there but people have to choose one of these according to their need or priority.

Out of total 379 hectares area approximately 200 hectares area are used for agricultural purpose. Rests of the land are utilized for residence, road construction, pond construction etc. Except the residential area 82 percent tribal household have land property. Out of this 74 percent people have agricultural land, 4 percent have orchards, 6 percent have ponds and 16 percent have no property [Table 6, Fig 8].

**Table 6 : Types of Immovable Property of Tribal People**

	Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household
Agricultural Land	37	74
Orchard	2	4*
Pond	3	6*
No Property	8	16
Total Surveyed	50	

Note: \* represents sample size less than 5  
 Source : Primary Survey 2015



Tribal people have the culture and economic need for nourishing mostly hen (42 percent), goat (36 percent), cow (30 percent ) and others and it varies from tribe to tribe [Table 7, Fig 9 and Fig 10].

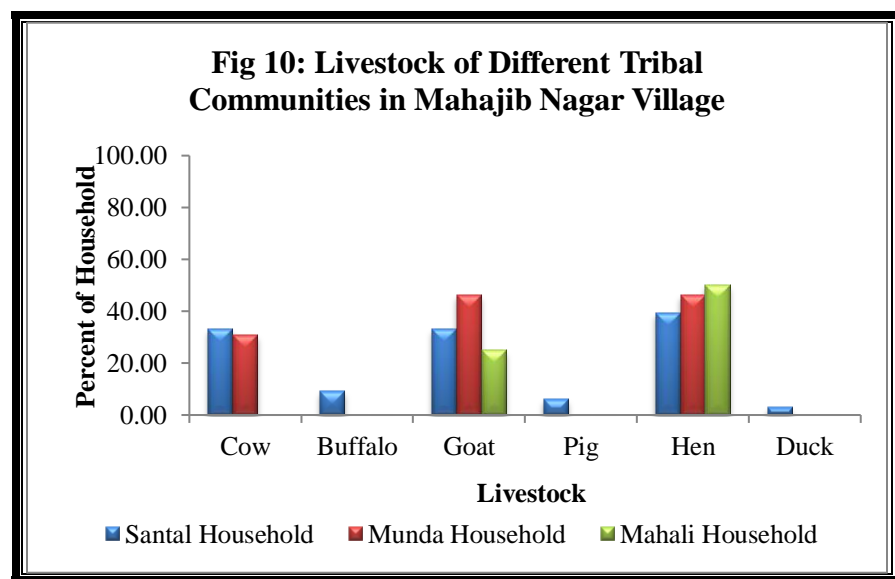
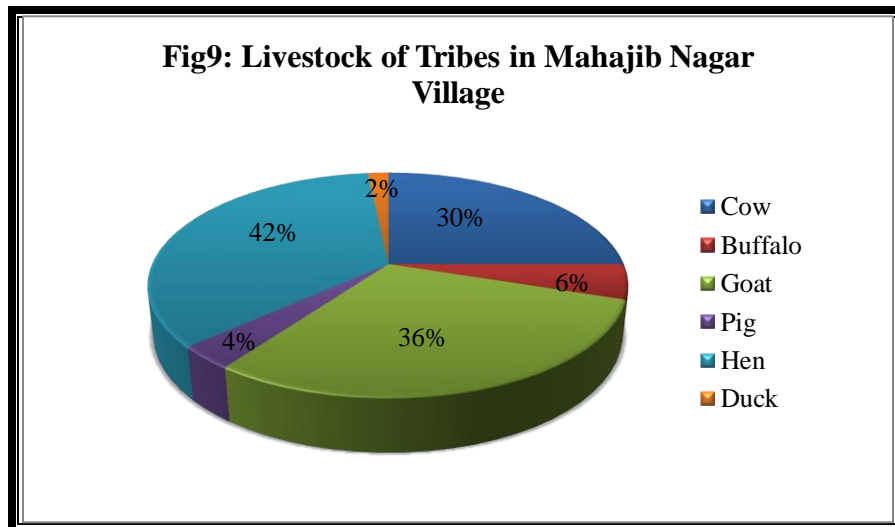
**Table 7: Livestock of Different Tribes in Mahajib Nagar Village**

	Santal	Percent of Santal Household	Munda	Percent of Munda Household	Mahali	Percent of Mahali Household	Total Tribal Household	Percent of Tribal Household
Cow	11	33.33	4	30.77	0	0	15	30
Buffalo	3	9.09	0	0	0	0	3	6
Goat	11	33.33	6	46.15	1	25	18	36
Pig	2	6.06	0	0	0	0	2	4*
Hen	13	39.39	6	46.15	2	50	21	42
Duck	1	3.03*	0	0	0	0	1	2*
Total Household	33		13		4		50	

Note: \* represents sample size less than 5

Source : Primary Survey 2015





To fulfill the basic need people have television, cycle and mobile phone in each and every houses of the tribal community. It is seen that mostly Munda people use van and motor cycle for transportation.

**Economy of the village:**

The economy of this village is basically agrarian. About 40 percent of people are engaged in agricultural sector. Winter rice is the principal crop. Among it autumn rice, potato, jute, are also cultivated. 21 percent people have to migrate for their earning. They migrate out of the state (Bangalore, Kerala and Orissa) for a better livelihood. A few of them (around 20 percent) are worked as both cultivators and migratory labourers. Rests of them is involved in business,

artisan, industrial labour work etc [Table 8, Fig 11]. More than 50 percent people have their own agricultural land. Few people cultivate the land on agreement basis also. The migration rate is higher in Mahali tribe [Table 9, Fig 15]. Migratory labours are going on contract basis (for building construction) and the duration of this contract varies from 1 – 2 months to more than 6 months [Table 9, Fig 16]. They usually go for the contract of long duration being detached from their family. The earning people who are going outside sometimes are found to be missing.

Occupational structure varies among the tribe also. There are a total of 12 clans in Santals. As per the traditional Santal rule clan wise functions of the Santals were specified. As like Murmu were priest, Hembram were courtiers or princes, Kisku were chiefs or rulers, Soren were fighters, Tudu were blacksmith and drummers, Hansda and Besra were hunters and cultivators etc. But now with the passage of time they shifted from their traditional occupation. In present they are engaged in agriculture, building construction, household works etc. irrespective of clan or surname [Table 8, Fig 12].

The economy of Munda presents a mixed picture of agriculture, wage earning, collection of forest produce and permanent labour. They are also interested in business like generator renting system [Table 8, Fig 13].

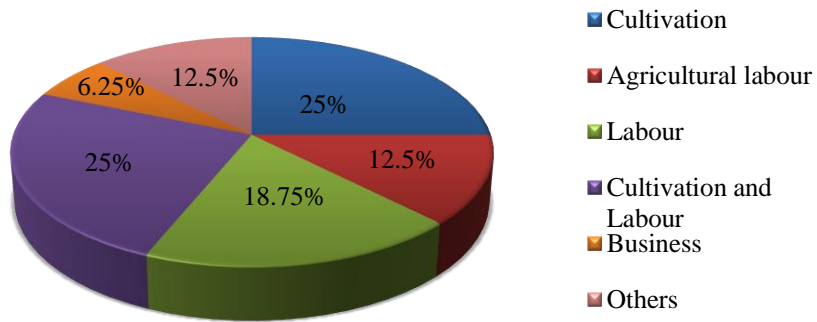
Bansphor Mahali people traditionally earned their livelihood by selling articles made of bamboo. Some typical articles made by them are – Machi (a small bench), umbrellas, soop (used in kithchen, to remove dust from cereals), sop and chatai ( for lying down and sleeping) [Table 8, Fig 14]. People sell their products in at Atmile haat which is held on every Monday and Friday. This haat is located 4 km away from their village.

**Table 8: Occupational Structure of Mahajib Nagar Village**

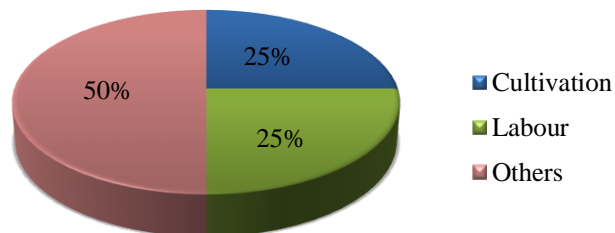
Occupation	Santal		Munda		Mahali		Total	
	Number	Percent Of People	Number	Percent Of People	Number	Percent Of People	Number	Percent Of People
Cultivation	27	39.13	4	25	2	25	33	35.48
Agricultural labour	5	7.25	2	12.5	0	0	7	7.53
Labour	15	21.74	3	18.75	2	25	20	21.51
Cultivation and Labour	14	20.29	4	25	0	0	18	19.35
Industrial worker	1	1.45*	0	0	0	0	1	1.08*
Business	0	0.00	1	6.25	0	0	1	1.08*
Artisan	2	2.90*	0	0	0	0	2	2.15*
Others	5	7.25	2	12.5	4	50	11	11.83



**Fig 13: Occupational Structure of Munda Tribe in Mahajib Nagar Village**



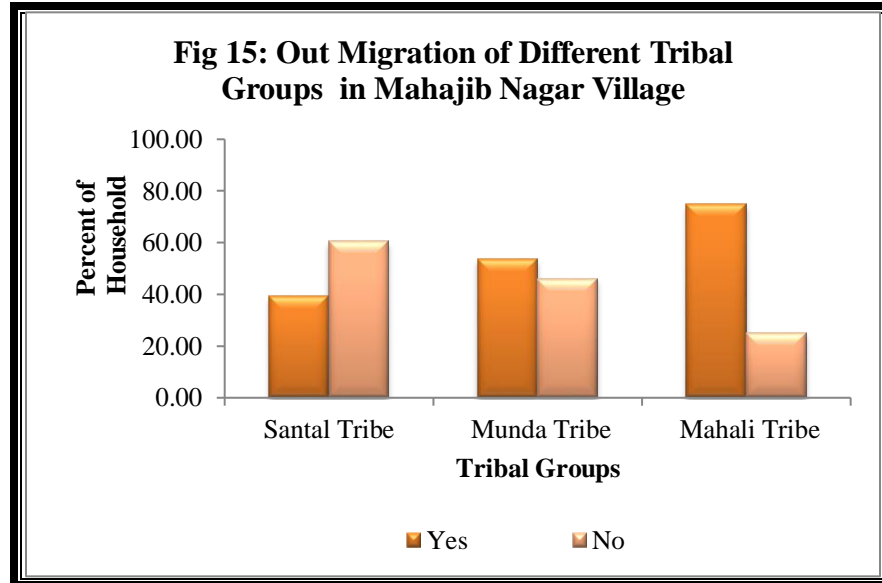
**Fig 14: Occupational Structure of Mahali Tribe in Mahajib Nagar Village**

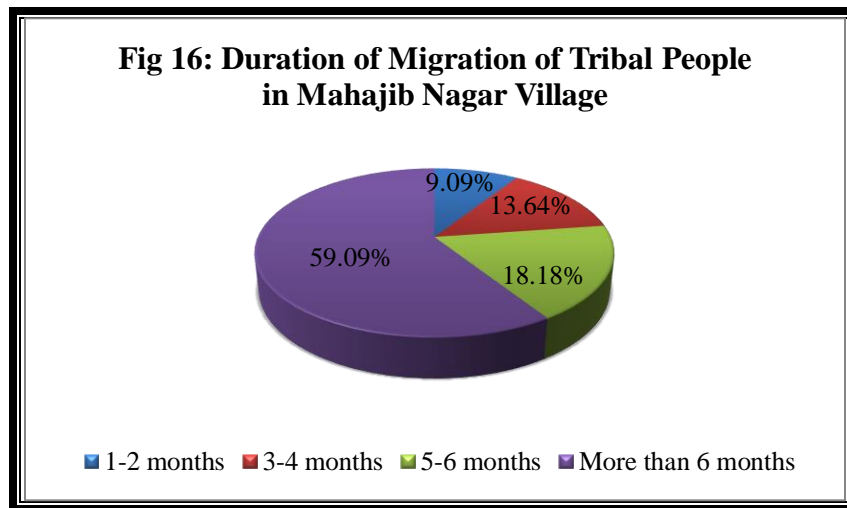


**Table 9: Migration of Different Tribes in Mahajib Nagar Village**

<b>Out Migration</b>								
	Santal	Munda	Mahali	Percent Of Santal	Percent Of Munda	Percent Of Mahali	Total Tribe	Percent Of Tribe
Yes	13	7	3	39.39	53.85	75	23	46
No	20	6	1	60.61	46.15	25	27	54
Total	33	13	4				50	
<b>Duration of Migration</b>								
Duration of Migration	Total Tribe	Percent of Tribe	Santal	Percent of Santal	Munda	Percent of Munda	Mahali	Percent of Mahali
1-2 months	2	9.09	1	7.69	1	16.67	0	0
3-4 months	3	13.64	3	23.08	0	0	0	0
5-6 months	4	18.18	3	23.08	1	16.67	0	0
More than 6 months	13	59.09	6	46.15	4	66.67	3	100
Total	22		13		6		3	

*Source : Primary Survey 2015*





**Income and Expenditure:**

The monthly income of the earning member of the family is between below 1000 to above 9000 rupees and it is strictly found in the Munda tribe. It is noticed monthly earning of the Santal household is 1000 to 9000 rupees and 1000 to 7000 rupees for the Mahali tribe respectively [Table 10, Fig 17].

The expenditure on food, housing and clothing is proportionately high among all the tribal groups. Santal people spend more money for medical treatment and entertainment but Munda and Mahali tribes are more conscious about the education and doing their best as spending more money for it than Santal [Table 11, Fig 18]. Among these people are spending a lot of money on the consumption of tobacco, alcohol, smoke and ganja.

**Table 10: Average Monthly Income of Different Tribes in Mahajib Nagar Village**

Average Monthly Income ( in Rupees)	Santal	Munda	Mahali	Percent of Santal household	Percent of Munda household	Percent of Mahali household
Below 1000	0	1	0	0	7.69	0
1000 - 3000	13	1	2	39.39	7.69	50
3000 - 5000	10	4	1	30.30	30.77	25
5000 - 7000	9	4	1	27.27	30.77	25
7000 - 9000	1	1	0	3.03*	7.69*	0
Above 9000	0	2	0	0	15.38	0
Total Surveyed	33	13	4			

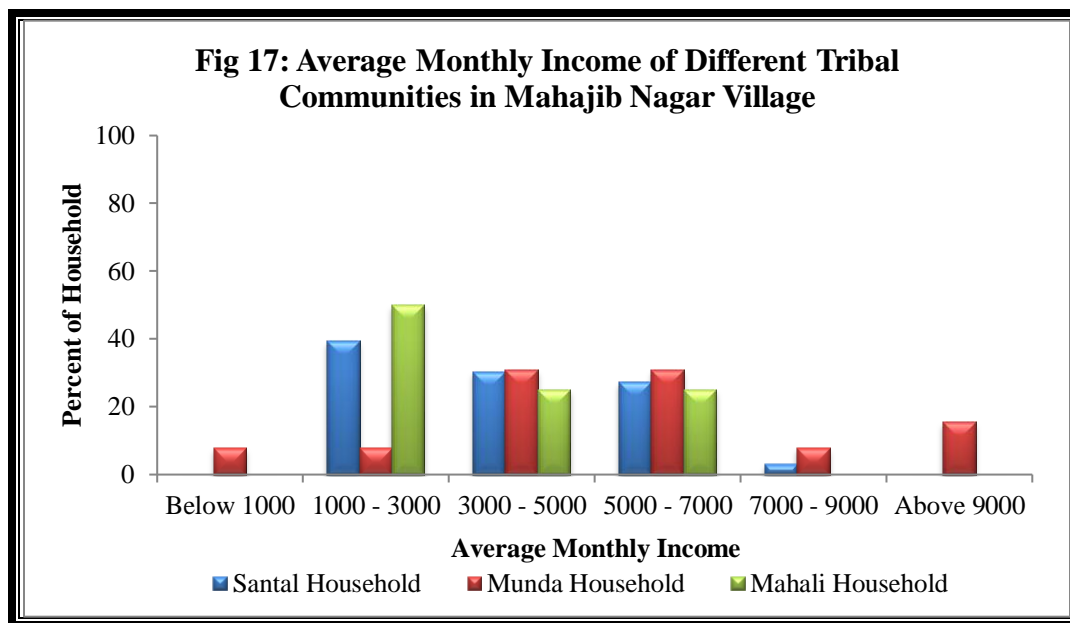
Note: \* represents sample size less than 5

Source : Primary Survey 2015

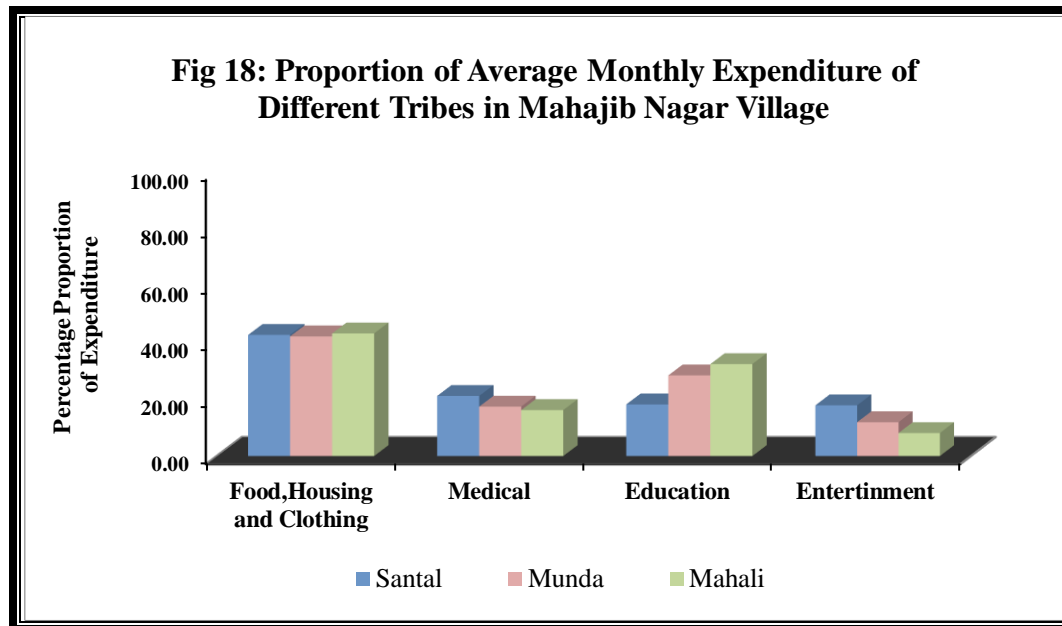
**Table 11: Average Monthly Expenditure of Different Tribes in Mahajib Nagar Village**

Average Monthly Expenditure	Food, Housing and Clothing (%)	Medical (%)	Education (%)	Entertainment and others( %)
Santal	42.72	21.19	18.21	17.88
Munda	42.20	17.43	28.44	11.93
Mahali	43.24	16.22	32.43	8.11

Total Surveyed household : 50  
 Source : Primary Survey 2015







**Demographic Profile of the Village:**

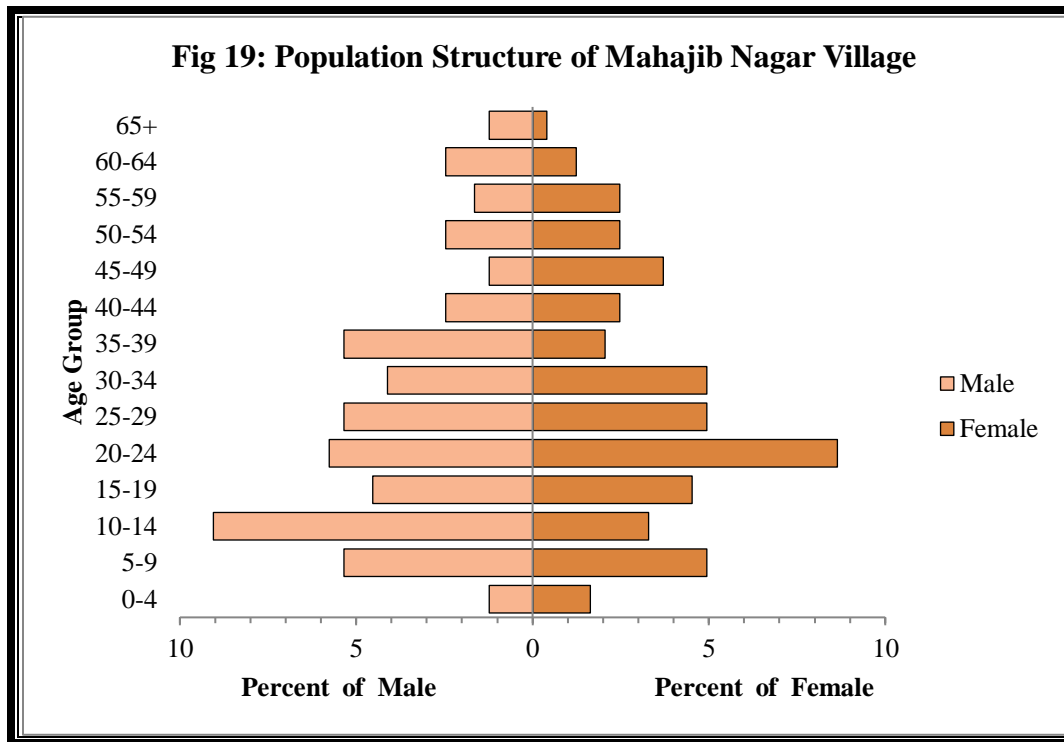
Population structure of any region reflects the working power and dependency ratio of that particular region. From the survey it can be easily traced out that the working population (15-59 years) of the village is 69.14 percent which breaks down into 32.92 percent male and 36.21 percent female. Child population of the village is 25.5 percent constituting 15.64 percent male and 9.88 percent female. The old age population is 5.35 percent. So 44.64 percent population of the village is dependent on other people [Table 12, Fig 19].

**Table 12: Population Structure of the Mahajib Nagar Village**

Age group	Male	Female	Percent of male	Percent of female	Percent of male (-)
0-4	3	4	1.23	1.65	-1.23
5-9	13	12	5.35	4.94	-5.35
10-14	22	8	9.05	3.29	-9.05
15-19	11	11	4.53	4.53	-4.53
20-24	14	21	5.76	8.64	-5.76
25-29	13	12	5.35	4.94	-5.35
30-34	10	12	4.12	4.94	-4.12
35-39	13	5	5.35	2.06	-5.35
40-44	6	6	2.47	2.47	-2.47
45-49	3	9	1.23	3.70	-1.23
50-54	6	6	2.47	2.47	-2.47
55-59	4	6	1.65	2.47	-1.65
60-64	6	3	2.47	1.23	-2.47

65+	3	1	1.23	0.41	-1.23
Total	127	116			
		243			

Source : Primary Survey 2015



**Educational Status of the Tribal People:**

Education is the back bone of any nation; more specifically literacy rate has been taken as one of the indicators for changing the backwardness of a tribe. Despite the relatively large presence of the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe groups in the Barind, regional literacy in the Barind is higher than the Tal (57.68 percent) and Diara (60.84 percent). In the village the overall percentage of the literacy is very low among the tribes. Among them, only 44.86 percent are literate. The percentage of male literacy is slightly higher than that of female literacy. Of the total literacy, 52.26 percent is male and 47.74 percent is female [Table 13, Fig 20].

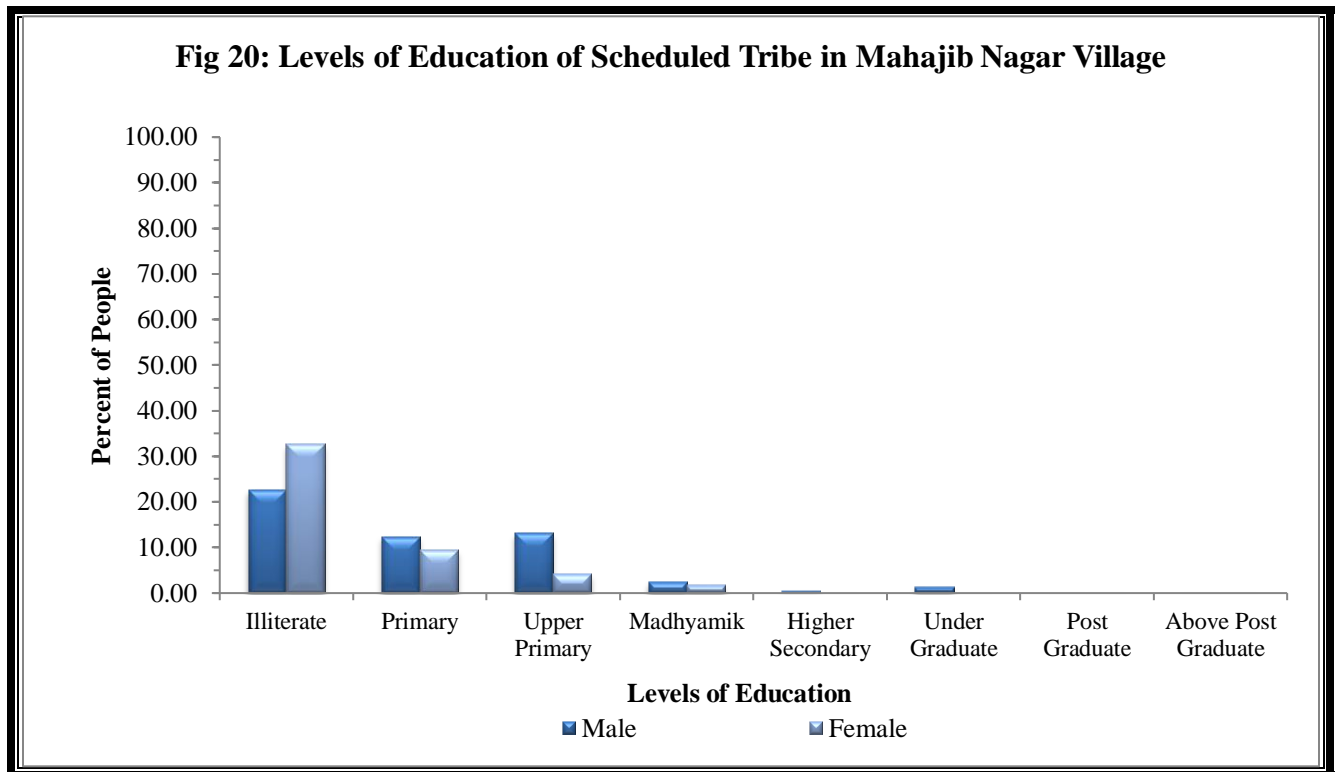
Comparatively education level is higher in Munda than the Santal and Mahali. The illiteracy rate is higher in case of Santal and Mahali tribes. Among them the female illiteracy is high. But now-a-days the young generations are highly interested in education; they are also going for higher studies.

**Table 13: Levels of Education of Mahajib Nagar Village**

Levels of Education	Santal		Munda		Mahali		Total		Percent of Male	Percent of Female
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Illiterate	42	52	5	14	8	13	55	79	22.63	32.51
Primary	22	14	6	5	2	4	30	23	12.35	9.47
Upper Primary	18	3	13	6	1	1	32	10	13.17	4.12
Madhyamik	4	1	2	3	0	0	6	4	2.47	1.65
Higher Secondary	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.41*	0.00
Under Graduate	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	1.23*	0.00
Post Graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Above Post Graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Total							127	116		
								243		

Note: \* represents sample size less than 5

Source : Primary Survey 2015



One primary school named as Mahajib Nagar C. S. Primary School is in the village for the primary education. Children have to travel 4 km for further learning to Vidyasagar Sishu Angan (Upper Primary School), Pandua A. K. High School (Higher Secondary School). For college and university level studies they have to go 17 km far away from their village.

For the implementation of Right to Education Act 2004, it is mandatory to education for all under 14 year. In this village the average school going children are 86.89 percent. The rate of school non-going children is higher for girls than the boys. As per some people they are not allowing their girls for schooling for the sake of safety and security of girls and lack of transportation system. The girls are still being held in houses for household work and age old ignorance about girl's education.

**Health Status of the Village:**

The health status is one of the key indicators of human development which has been in a moderate state among the people of this village. They suffer from various diseases some of which proves to be fatal. The severe health issue among the people is the huge prevalence of tuberculosis. Apart from this, fever, malaria, diarrhea, and eye problem are some significant diseases in this village. The children are majorly suffered from diarrhea and malnutrition. The

probable causes behind such phenomena may be the ignorance of the family members concerning the health status of the children.

People go for the medical treatment to local village health centre (Dhumadighi sub- health Centre) normally. As the transport system of the village is bad, so people have to walk to visit the nearest health centre. For emergency case people have to go Moulpur and Malda District Hospital which is around 13 km and 21 km far away from their village. There is no ambulance facility in this village. Over all people are not satisfied with the health facility.

#### **Cultural Profile of the Village:**

People of different caste and creed reside here because of the immigration during partition. The Culture of the Santal, Mahali and Munda tribe, are closely associated with several religious ceremonies related to nature.

One of the special and different festivals of Munda tribe is Murgi (hen) Puja in the Bengali month of Baishakh. They sacrifice a hen with a belief that it will bring prosperity for them. Among these Karam, Mage Parab, Sahrul, Phagu festival is also performed by Munda tribe. Santals and Mahali also celebrate the Karam, Baha, Ersim (paddy sowing festival), Sarhai or Badna, Sakarat, Mag-sim, Tusu etc. During Durgapuja and Holi people also participate in a fair outside of the village.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN THE MAHAJIB NAGAR VILLAGE**

*Tribal development* can be defined as upliftment of the tribal communities, which are at different stages of socio-economic and cultural realms of growth (George, J. and Sreekumar, S.S., 1993). Since the independence Government of India and Government of various states have taken lots of initiation for development of tribal livelihoods. In Mahajib Nagar village, different developmental schemes by Government are active. Schemes like *Indira Awaas Yojana*, *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan* and *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* respectively has been evaluated to understand its beneficial effects on tribal communities.

**Table 14: Basic characteristics of schemes**

	<i>purpose</i>	<i>Eligibility Criteria</i>	<i>Funds</i>
<i>Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)</i>	The broad purpose of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the weakest section of the society for them to upgrade or construct a house of respectable quality for their personal living	Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, minorities and non-SC or ST rural households in the BPL category, widows and next of kin of defense personnel/paramilitary forces killed in action, example- serviceman and retire scheme.	Funding of IAY is shared between the Centre & State in the ratio of 75:25. In case of UTs, entire fund of IAY is provided by the Centre to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which release funds to beneficiaries through Gram Panchayat.
<i>Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)</i>	The main purpose of the scheme is to accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat and improving the quality of life and provide privacy and dignity of women.	Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, minorities and non-SC or ST rural households in the BPL category and some selected APL category are the beneficiary.	The fund flow is routed from the Centre to the State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM). The States redistribute the funds under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyaan (NBA) to District Water Sanitation committees or Block Panchayat Committees or Gram Panchayats.
<i>Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)</i>	The main purpose is to provide protection to BPL households from financial liabilities arising out of health shocks that involve hospitalization.	Unorganized sector workers belonging to BPL category and their family members (a family unit of five) shall be the beneficiaries under the scheme.	Funding of RSBY is shared between the Centre & State in the ratio of 75:25. The beneficiary would pay Rs. 30 per annum as registration/renewal fee.

According to survey, we can easily understand that the tribal development is not significant because of poor road facilities, unawareness of different facilities, lack of education etc. though few families get some benefits. Under the scheme of Rashtriyo Swasthya Bima Yojana people are having health card without knowing the proper utility of this. Only few people of Munda tribe are benefitted by Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). 900 rupees paid by each and every houses in ‘Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan’ to build toilet in their houses but the scheme have been stopped and still now people are not benefitted by this ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’.

**V. PROBLEMS OF THE VILLAGE**

The people of the village are facing several problems like drinking water problem, electricity problem (changing voltage), transport problem (bad road condition, less availability of vehicles etc), heavy downpour and water logging problem, sanitation problem etc [Table 15, Fig 21]. They have to suffer from water scarcity in summer. The disposal of garbage on road is unhygienic which may spread various diseases. They are deprived of toilet facility. People are willing to have at first toilet in their houses as soon as possible [Table16, Fig 22].

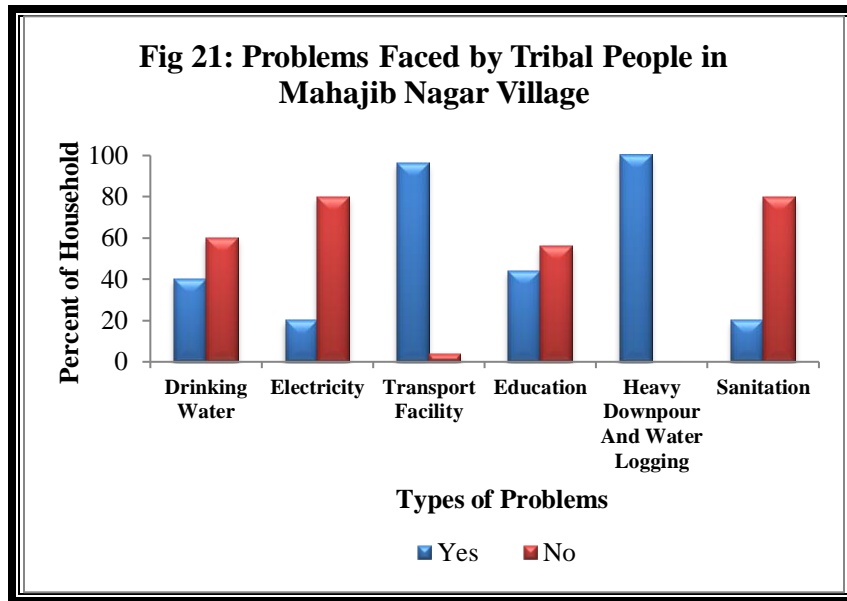
**Table 15: Problems of People in Mahajib Nagar Village**

	Tribal Household		Percent of Tribal Household	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Drinking Water	20	30	40	60
Electricity	10	40	20	80
Transport Facility	48	2	96	4*
Education	22	28	44	56
Heavy Downpour And Water Logging	50	0	100	0
Sanitation	10	40	20	80
Total Household Surveyed	50			

Note: \* represents sample size less than 5

Source : Primary Survey 2015

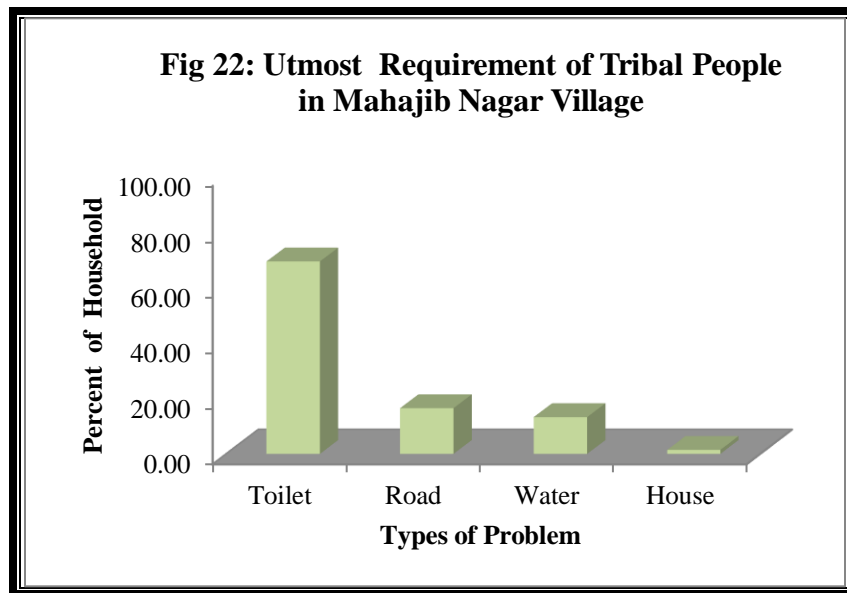




**Table 4.6 : First Requirement by People of Mahajib Nagar Village**

	Toilet (%)	Road (%)	Water (%)	House (%)
Percent of Tribal Household	69.04	16.37	13.17	1.42

Source : Primary Survey 2015



**Problems at a Glance:**

- Major problem of the tribal communities are like they are not aware about the developmental programmes. Immigration threat to the local or community culture, customs etc. are observed. With accelerated development, tribal have been exposed or subjected to the rapid modernization and industrialization bringing them into sudden contact with non-tribal culture and social mores, which have had deep influence on the tribal life-style and culture, positive as well as negative.
- Poverty and consequent malnutrition; poor environmental sanitation, poor hygiene and lack of safe drinking water lead to increased morbidity from water and vector-borne infections. Lack of access to health care facilities results in increasing severity and/or duration of illness.
- The tribal women also suffer from high degrees of nutritional anemia leading to low birth-weight amongst infants due to which high rates of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) exist in various parts of tribal areas in the region.
- Governmental efforts have focused on reaching a package of services to tribal habitations through ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) comprising health care, immunization, supplementary nutrition, non-formal pre-school education. However the coverage of these services is not totally successes or fulfilled.
- The problem of indebtedness among tribal is not only an indication of their poverty but also reflects wider economic malaise, i.e., lack of education, low purchasing or bargaining power and lack of resources for engaging in gainful activity and meeting emergent expenditure. Excessive consumption of alcohol is one of the major causes for indebttness. Now a day the

initiation of commercial vending of liquor in tribal areas has started impoverishing of the tribal population leading them to suffer from high indebtedness and exploitation of various types.

**Suggestive Measures:**

- Proper health and sanitation condition of the different tribal villages should be provided for the better standard of living of the tribals. So that automatically school dropout rate will reduce also. Governmental efforts to reach a package of services to the remote tribal habitations through ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) should be provided properly by which the nutritional anemia of tribal women and girl child may reduce. The importance of Sanitation or hygiene should be given more emphasis.
- Alternative systems of medicine, knowledge of medicines from Herb and their systems of healing must also be made subjects of research and documentation for continuity of tribal medicinal practice.
- Awareness about the different tribal developmental programmes is needed. Art and crafts center for tribal women need to be set up, both to market products and generate income for them; tribal cooperatives in city centre and at tourist destinations would further empower them. Tribal fair and festivals need to be held, not only for the mainstream of city or town folks but for the tribal as well to promote cross-culture understanding. Tribal heritage monitors need to be set up.
- Family oriented schemes for improving the status of tribal beneficiaries should be promoted.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

Tribals form a major share of Barind population, they are the weakest sections of Indian people battled with abject poverty and ignorance. In overall view it is found that a large part of the tribal society is still remaining below poverty line. They are the victim of hunger and malnutrition. Although being citizens of this great independent nation they do not have all the access to the benefit of being a part of it and not been taken care properly.

As problem of the economic, literacy, livelihood are rampant, the development of Barind region is unthinkable without tribal development. Government initiative is to build house through *Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)* for tribes. But often it is seen that this was not properly useful for them. Because the government had built these house according to the planning of their own engineers and officers not consulting experts who have good experience about the socio-culture of the tribes. Not only for this, a lots of work is being done for them without taking their opinion so they do not adopt these.

Education plays an important role in the development of tribal communities in our country as well as in the study region, there is the need for development of tribal language, Ashram Schools, integrated curriculum with stress on tribal culture/tribal identity and proper implementation of development schemes along with awareness building programmes sponsored by the Government should be organized in villages to sensitize about their rights, schemes and programmes etc.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to convey my gratitude to my guide Sudipta Sarkar Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan for her guidance. I am grateful to her for devoting time for thought provoking and stimulating discussions in spite of her busy schedule. I am deeply thankful to the person – Jayanta Choudhury, officer of Bhabuk Panchayat who helped me in knowing the actual problem of area as well as the village. I am also thankful to all the villagers' who helped me collecting the data without whose support my work cannot be completed.

### **REFERENCES**

1. Annual Administrative Report 2013-14, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal
2. Baskey, Dharendra Nath (1987), 'Paschim Banger Adibasi Samaj', Vol.I, Santoshi Printers, Kolkata
3. Baskey, Dharendra Nath (1987), 'Paschim Banger Adibasi Samaj', Vol.II, Santoshi Printers, Kolkata
4. District Census Handbook Maldah, 2001 and 2011
5. George, J. and Sreekumar, S.S. (1993), "Conceptual Framework for Tribal Development", Social Change, Vol. 23, No. 2& 3, P.82.
6. Ghosh, Prodyot (2004), 'Maldah Jelar Itihas', Basu Publication, Kolkata
7. [http://malda.gov.in/pdf/MALDA\\_DIST\\_GAZETTEERS.pdf](http://malda.gov.in/pdf/MALDA_DIST_GAZETTEERS.pdf)
8. <http://www.census2011.co.in/data/village/313248-mahajib-nagar-west-bengal.html>
9. [http://www.rsby.gov.in/about\\_rsby.aspx](http://www.rsby.gov.in/about_rsby.aspx)
10. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nirmal\\_Bharat\\_Abhiyan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nirmal_Bharat_Abhiyan)
11. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swachh\\_Bharat\\_Abhiyan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swachh_Bharat_Abhiyan)