

# The Santhal Community Socio-Economical Information needs and Quality of Life: A case study at Saragchhida Village under Chandua Block in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha

<sup>1</sup>Monoj Tudu, <sup>2</sup>Subarna Kumar Das

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, [monoj.tudu@gmail.com](mailto:monoj.tudu@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Professor & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, [skd\\_ju2002@yahoo.co.in](mailto:skd_ju2002@yahoo.co.in)

## Abstract

The study aimed to know the socio-economic status of tribal people under the Saragachhida Gram Panchayat, Chandua Block in the Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. The Saragachhida Village under the Saragachhida Gram Panchayet has been selected as a case study area situated in the east border areas of West Bengal where the Tribal People are living. The Santal are spent their village life very simply. Agriculture Farming, is their main livelihood, same time they collect some dry product from forest for their living. The study has been deals with 250 tribal people for data collection. The data are collected randomly; all the Primary data were collected from a set of structured questionnaires to know their perfect socio-economic background. For better understand, discussion was made with 18 to 60 above Santal people as well as secondary data were collected through reading various tribal article and books. From the observation, this study observed that socio-economic status of the Santal is getting better day by day. Although there are some problems like- poverty, unemployment, electricity, Education, better communication, social security, and pure drinking water but primary health condition and socio-cultural bonding with in tribes is also very strong.

**Keywords:** Information needs, Information service, Santal community, Chandua Block, Mayurbhanj Socio-Economical information.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Santals are one of the populous tribal communities of India, are largely found in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Balasore in the State of Odisha. Besides, they are also found in the neighboring states in Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. The word Santal is derived from two words one is 'santa' meaning is calm and peaceful and 'ala' meaning is man. If we look at their past, the Santals were leading a poverty life. They could not stay in one place anywhere, but gradually they came to settle down in the Chhotanagpur plateau place. But towards the end of the 18th

Century, they migrated from Chhotanagpur to Santal Parganas of Bihar and after few years later they came to Odisha. They speak Santali language which belongs to the Munda group of Austro-Asiatic subfamilies of languages. Now the Santali has its own script called "Olchiki" invented by Pundit Raghunath Murmu in 1925. If we compared in terms of tribes their density is much higher in Mayurbhanj District then we find that the Santals have to face multidimensional changes in their economic, financial, religious and cultural life. Due to the expansion of mass communication, educational systems, market penetrations, technology, bad

political culture and increasing interaction with the mainstream population. Santal are mainly poor and gatherers from primitive times. They largely depend on the forest resources like woods, leaves, honey and above all for their livelihood. Because of the technical and industrial development and increasing in population in the country, the forest areas are reduced as well as the mode of agriculture methods is changed to technology-based methods replacing human labor. As a result, the Santal are gets a limited access to the common pool resources and their sources of collecting food and forest resources are squeezed. Gradually they began to look for other ways and started to a living by farming in many places. Their miserable lifestyle caused great distress in the eyes of Christian missionaries. They take the advantage and expand their assistance to them and they have changed their age old traditional religious belief to get the financial support. The Christianization process has brought tremendous changes in their culture, religious beliefs, traditions and life styles. According to 2011 census, Odisha is the largest tribal populous state in the country. There is 21, 63,110 households are meant for the tribal groups in the state. Total tribal population in the state is 95, 90,756 of which Males and Females are 47, 27,732 and 48, 63,024 respectively. The decadal growth rate of the tribal population during 2001-2011 is 17.7% which is higher than the states decadal growth rate i.e. 14%. Odisha is the tribal dominated State where 62 tribes with 22.21% of the total population are habituating. Among them, 13 is considered as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Due to lack of developmental facilities, lack of adequate primary health facilities, common socio-economic and demographic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, etc. the tribal societies in India are considered as the weakest section of the population. (Basu, 1994; Thakur et al., 1991)

Mayurbhanj district is one of the most tribal populous districts in the state. The tribal constitute about 56.6 percent of the total population of the district, though the population

of Mayurbhanj is only 6 percent of the State's total population. The Santhal are the 3rd largest tribal communities of the state after the Kondh and the Gonds (Census, 2001)

## 2. Literature Review:

(Maharana<sup>1</sup>, R. and Prajna, S. 2018) has described titled on "The Santhal: Socio-Economic Miserable Condition and Quality of Life (An Overview of Bantali Rakhasahi Village, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha)" he trays to makes an attempt to focus on the socio-economic condition of Santal people of Bantali Rakhasahi village of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha and is an attempt to find out the factors those affect their Socio-Economic conditions. (Dhargupta, A. et al. 2009). Has described titled on "Study on the Effect of Socio-economic Parameters on Health Status of the Toto, Santal, Sabar and Lodha Tribes of West Bengal, India" he finds out socio- economic condition with age, sex, education, family education status etc. of four Tribal communities as Toto, Santal, Sabar and Lodha Jalpaiguri and Purulia District of West Bengal. (Dey, A. 2015). has described titled on "Globalization and Change in Santhal Tribes at Paschim Medinipur (West Bengal India)". Has tray to find out the influence of globalization in socio-culture aspect of the Santhal migrants and how they have carried forward various modern values in their tribal society. It also developed in to how the new agricultural technology has been utilized after going back at the place of origin and how it promotes the modern their values in their daily life. (Basumatary, M and Sarkar, S. 2019) has described titled on "Socio-economic conditions of the Adivashis in the Santal Colony Tribal Block, Kokrajhar District, Assam." Tray to focuses on the socio-economic status of the Adivashi people of the Colony and to highlight the socio-economic conditions of the Santals in the Colony, causes of their backwardness and to provide measures for the upliftment of the community. (Das, T. 2019). Has describe titled on "Socio- Economic Condition of Santal Tribe in Lakhimpur District: A Sociological Study" has focus attempt to study the economic condition

of Santhal tribe in the Lakhimpur District in Assam. (Sarkar, A. K and Singha, S. 2019). Has titled on “Factors Influencing Health of the Santals: A Study of Selected Villages of Birbhum.” The study discusses the influence of social, economic and cultural factors on health seeking behaviours of the Santals living in six villages of Birbhum district in West Bengal, India. Finally, the findings have implications for enhancing the role of education and improving the quality and quantity of services. (Widmer, D. 2020) has described titled on “Thinking rural health in Santal community in West Bengal: An interprofessional bottom-up approach to rural health” The study discuss about the This paper describes how such a pedagogical project, introducing students to ethnographic research, can initiate new ways of thinking for possible future health interventions in rural communities

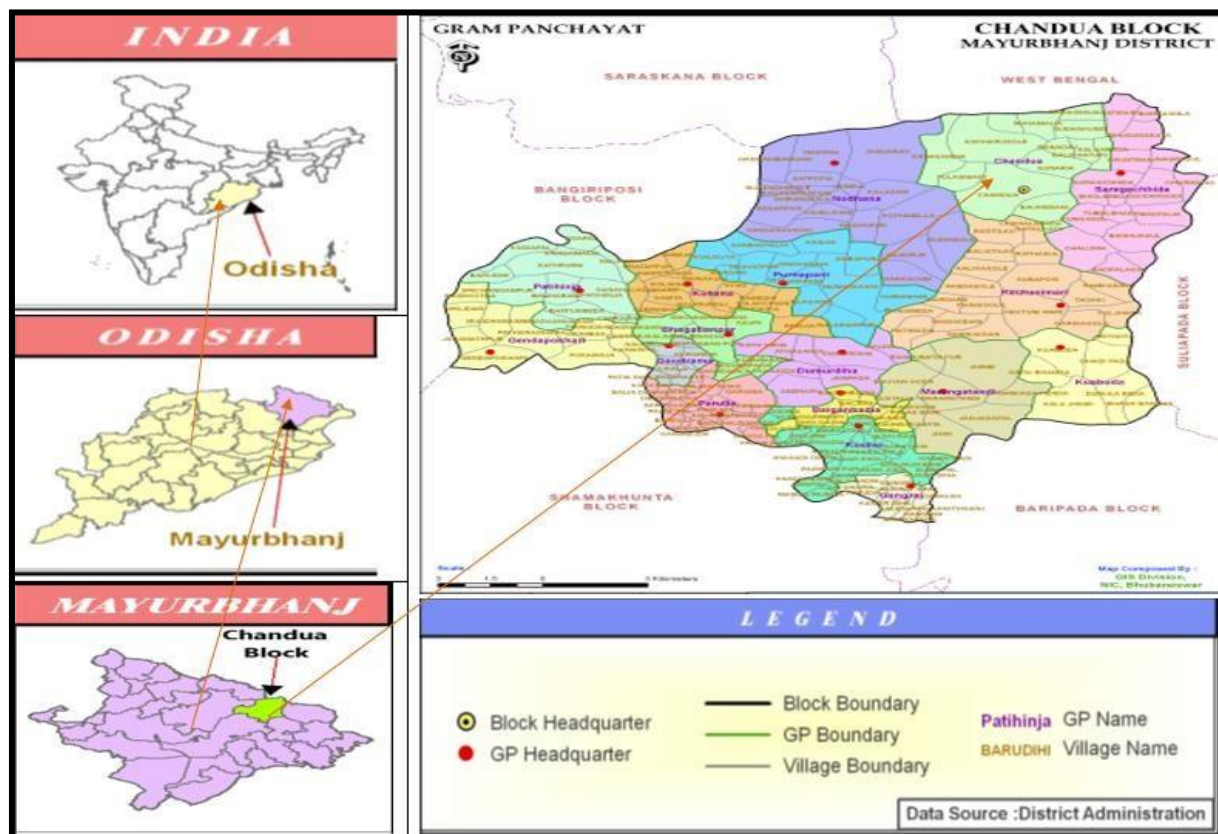
### 3. Objectives:

1. To study the Socio-Economical needs and quality of life of Santal Community.
2. To understand their origin, development, traditional activity, social organization of Santal community.
3. To study their various information needs of santal community
4. To identify the various factors these highly affected their Socio-Economic condition.
5. To suggest them appropriate way to improve their measurable conditions and pull up the problems relating to the Socio-Economic condition.
6. To understand their access to health, housing, sanitation, drinking water and other livelihood activities.

### 4. Scope and Coverage:

The scope of the study is to present the community information needs of the people belonging to the Satal Community. The study has been carried out in the Saragchhida Village under the Saragachhida Gram Panchayat, Chandua Block in the Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. It is under the jurisdiction of Saragachhida Gram Panchyat. It covers the populations of the village covering 250 respondents out of total 1069 of which 132(12.34%) adult male, 118(11.03%) adult female. It covers educational institutions, Library and Information Center, Health and Sanitations, Customs and folklore etc. of the Saragachhida Village. This research study also concerns socio economic condition, education, economic, occupational, social condition, health and sanitation, religion and cultural aspects of Lodha Community.

Figure:1 Chandua Block Map



Sources: <https://gisodisha.nic.in/>

## 5. Methodology:

This research study was made to explore the information needs of Santal community of Saragchhida village in Chandua Block of Mayurbhanj District, Odisha. To complete this article various methods were used such as questionnaire method, schedule methods, interview method and observation method as a part of survey. Basic information is collected through different literature search on Santal community. Secondary data are collected from Panchayat Office, BDO Office and Census. The Santal are questioned using scheduled methods and the population is selected randomly. All the data have been summarized, analysis and tabulated through different point of view, finally conclusion is made.

## 6. About the Community

The Santalare scheduled tribe community belonging from Mayurbhanj District of Odisha, their main concentration being in the Chandua Block. The Chandua Block is one of the most tribal populated Block of Mayurbhanj District, where the large numbers of Santal people are residing there. The research study is taken from small village Saragchhida is located under Chandua Block of Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. The total 216 Lodha families residing with total 1069 population of which 486 are males and 459 are females and 124 are children. As per the census 2011. The Literacy rate of the Saragchhida village is 58.59% compared to 72.87% of Odisha. The male literacy rate is stand of 73.58% while female literacy rate is 42.57%. The total scheduled tribes of this village is 100%, there is no others Tribes.

### 6.1 Occupation

The main occupation of the Santal community is Cultivation. They also collect different types of forest product for their alternative livelihood

from forest like- mashroom, Sal leafs, Sal wood, Mahua flower, Kedu leafs, Honey and Resin (Jhuna). The Santal people are described as poor and backward people, they are the real forest owners, they have been protecting the forests for a long time. But nowadays they also engage in varieties occupation like, Govt. services, Private Sectors, Business, Cultivation and some women are involving in collecting different types of forest product.

## 6.2 Religion

Due to no religious code being introduced, Santals are coming to be known as Hindu. They faith and worship all Hindu gods and Goddesses. But now some of them are converted to Sari Dharam, Sarna Dharam, Christian and others are Kali Dharam.

## 6.3 Literacy and Education

An additional component hindering maximum participation and achievement of Santals in school education is the lack of didactic due to the poor financial situation of their family. Most of the Santals children are never attending school, they are engaged in some other work for saving their livelihood. So, the Santal community is generally not much higher than other Community.

## 6.4 Health and Hygiene

Santal people are also aware about the health and hygiene. They use primary treatment from their traditional method which is usually available from Village Doctor. For secondary treatment they use panchayat level primary health care, for other main disease like-malaria, TB, typhoid and diarrhea, they go to the Sub-divisional and Private Hospital. Poverty is the main problem for the Santal people, due to some financial problems they have done mothers delivery by traditional process. The others a main thing is that they are unaware about their sanitation, still most of the families are using drinking water from Dug well, and pond waters.

## 6.5 Language

Santals mainly speak in Santali languages, they also known Santali, Mundari, Odia, Tanti

and some others language. They have their own script, so now they basically not depend on Odia Language. For educational purpose they use Santali (Olchiki) script, but at their home they speak with their own Olchiki language.

## 6.6 Marriage

The marriage ceremony of the Santal community is consisting of a number of rituals. They have evidently been borrowed within their society. They get married very pompously. Adult marriage system is common among the Santals and it is performed by negotiations. A mediator plays vital role for engaged by both the bride and groom side and he carry the both side message to settle the bride's price. Sometime their marriage system is happened with different types like, arrange marriage, Love Marriage, Marriage by exchange of sister is also be possible. Widow remarriage and divorce system is permitted with Santal community (Hansdah).

## 6.7 Observation of religious rituals and festival

Santal community has observed different certain religious rituals and festivals from other community. Santals are basically Hindu, so they worship all Hindu gods and goddesses. The supreme gods among the Santals are Marangburu. They believed other gods like, Sib Thakur, Mother Earth, Maa Basumata, Maa Sitola, and others. They also observed numbers of festival and rituals around the year like others community. Every year they observe their Makar Sankranti, Kalipua (Saharay), Gomha Porab, Citao Porab, and some other. In the Mayurbhanj District, there is within twelve months the different thirteen religious festivals are observed by the tribal community, so the Santals are also participated with them. Finally, the entire festival is being celebrated by singing and dancing.

## 6.8 Food and Drinking

Santal community are both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, their principal food is wet rice. They take meals thrice a day. In morning they eat watered rice, in lunch they eat staple foot rice and at night also eat staple rice. Some time they take Vegetables, Green Leafs, burnt

brinjal tomato paste with mustard oil. Now-a-days they are also grown different types of vegetables in their own land. Consumption of liquor is another drink habit of the Santal, they take mahua and rice beer for their drink. Men are using smoking, khaini, Biri, Cigarette and Gutka in their pleasure time.

### 6.9 House Types

The Santal build their house with mud, but now a day's Govt. has offered him Biju Paka Ghoru and some other are get Indra Awas Yojana. Basically, Santal are build single house made of mixed mud with bamboo and straw thatched. Now the Santal have a separate room for living

pet animals, Cattle, Goat and Cock have a separate room in one corner of house. Now they use Kitchenware, Steel Plate, Pots, and Cups and so on.

### 6.10 Settlement

The Santal are known to live below the poverty line, so they settle their village separately from other communities. They usually live near the local areas. The Santal village is situated remote area and some other are founded living with the other caste.

## 7. Analysis of the Data:

Table 1: *Distribution of Total Population at Saragchhida Village.*

Total Population	Santal Community						Others Community
1069	Adult			Child			–
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
	486(45.46%)	459(42.94%)	945(88.40%)	62(5.80%)	62(5.80%)	124(11.60%)	

Sources: Primary Data

This table revealed that, total population at Saragchhida Village is 1069. There are total 945 are adult, in which 486(45.46%) are male

459(42.94%) are female. The total children are 124(11.60%), in which 62(5.80%) Male and 62(5.80%) are female child. There is no other community.

Table 2: *Distribution of Respondents and Non-Respondents among Adult and Child Population.*

	Adult		Child		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Respondents	132(12.34%)	118(11.03%)	–	–	250(23.38%)
Non-Respondents	354(33.11%)	341(31.90%)	62(5.80%)	62(5.80%)	819(76.61%)
Total	486(45.46%)	459(42.94%)	62(5.80%)	62(5.80%)	1069(100%)

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that, the total respondents are 250(23.38%) in which 132(12.34%) male and 118(11.03%) are female respondents. The total Non-respondents are 819(76.61%) out of which 354(33.11%) are adult male, 341(31.90%) are adult female, 62(5.80%) are child male and 62(5.80%) adult female.

Table 3: *Distribution of Respondents according to Age and Sex*

Sl. No	Age Group	Male	Female	Total
1	18-29	39(15.6%)	36(14.4%)	75(30%)
2	30-39	20(8%)	20(8%)	40(16%)
3	40-49	34(13.6%)	24(9.6%)	58(23.2%)
4	50-59	25(10%)	22(8.8%)	47(18.8%)
5	60 Abov	14(5.6%)	16(6.4%)	30(12%)

	e			
	Total	132(52.8%)	118(47.2%)	250(100%)

Sources: Primary Data

From this table it is revealed that, there are 132(52.8%) male and 118(47.2%) female in the sample population. In the group of 18-29, the total respondents are 75(30%) in which 39(15.6%) are male and 36(14.4%) are female. In the age group of 30-39, the total respondents are 40(16%) in which 20(8%) are male and 20(8%) are female. In the age group of 40-49, the total respondents are 58(23.2%) in which 34(13.6%) are male and 24(9.6%) are female. In the age group of 50-59, the total respondents are 47(18.8%) in which 25(10%) are male and 22(8.8%) are female.

Finally, in the age group of 60 above the total respondents are 30(12%) in which 14(5.6%) are male and 16(6.4%) are female.

Table 4: *Distribution of Respondents according to their Educational Qualification.*

Sl. No	Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiteracy	25	10%
2	Primary Education	90	36%
3	Secondary Education	68	27.2%
4	Higher Secondary Education	45	18%
5	Degree and Other	22	8.8%
	Total	250	100%

Sources: Primary Data

The table details of the Educational Qualification show that, 10% of respondents are illiterate. 36% of respondents are up to Primary Education, 27.2% respondents are up to Secondary Education. 18% respondents are Higher Secondary Education and 8.8% respondents are up to Degree and other qualification. Finally, table shows that the highest numbers of respondents are up to Primary Education.

Figure 1. *Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 4*

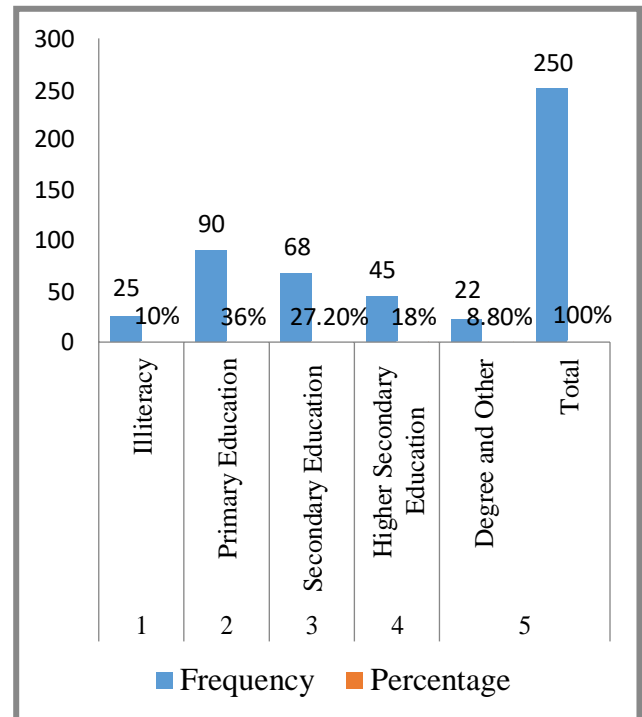


Table 5: *Distribution of Respondents according to their Occupational Activities.*

Sl. No.	Occupational Activities	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	150	60%
2	Collecting Forest Product	66	26.6%
3	Government Jobs	12	4.8%
4	Others	22	8.8%
	Total	250	100%

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that, 60% of respondents are dependents on agriculture, 26.6% of respondents are depends on Collecting Forest Product, 4.8% of respondents are depends on Government jobs and only 8.8% of respondents are depends on other activities. Finally, the table's show highest numbers of respondents are depending on Agricultural activities.

Figure 2. Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 5

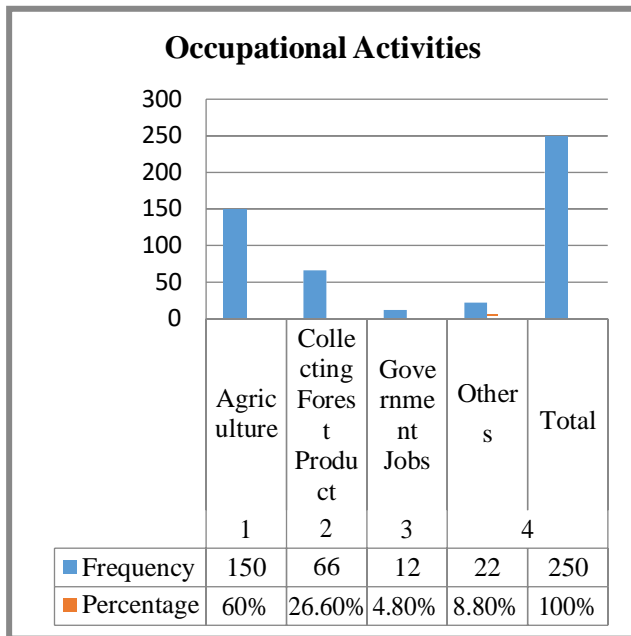


Table 6: Distribution of Respondents according to their Monthly Income.

Sl. No	Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
1	Up to 5000	185	74%
2	Up to 5000 to 10,000	53	21.2%
3	10,000 and above	12	4.8%
	Total	250	100%

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that, 74% of respondent's monthly income is up to 5000. 21.2% respondent's monthly income is up to 5000 to 10,000 and 4.8% respondent's monthly income is 10,000 and above. Finally, the above table shows that the highest numbers of respondent's monthly income is up to 5000.

Figure 3. Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 6

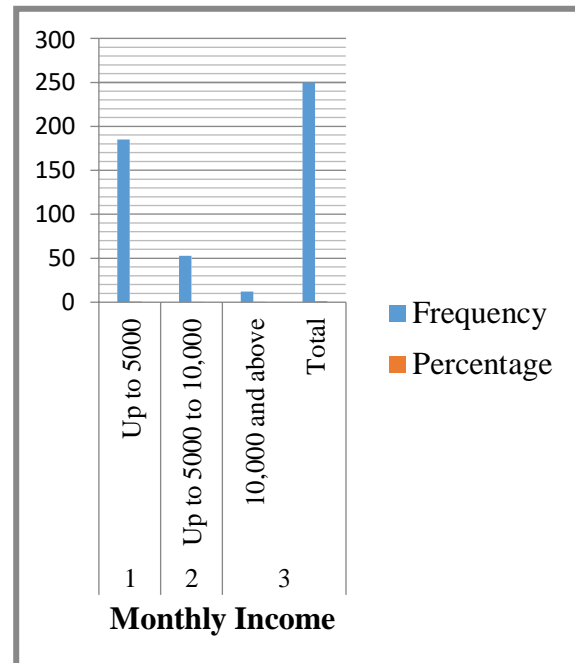


Table 7: Distribution of Respondents according to their Satisfactory level of Respondents.

Sl. No	Satisfactory Level of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1	Much Satisfactory	158	63.2%
2	Satisfactory	52	20%
3	Not Satisfactory	40	16%
	Total	250	100%

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that, 63.2% of respondents are Much Satisfactory in their income level, 20% of respondents are Satisfactory in their income level and 16% of respondents are not Satisfactory in their income level. Finally, the table shows that the highest numbers of respondents are Much Satisfactory in their income level.

Figure 4. Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 7

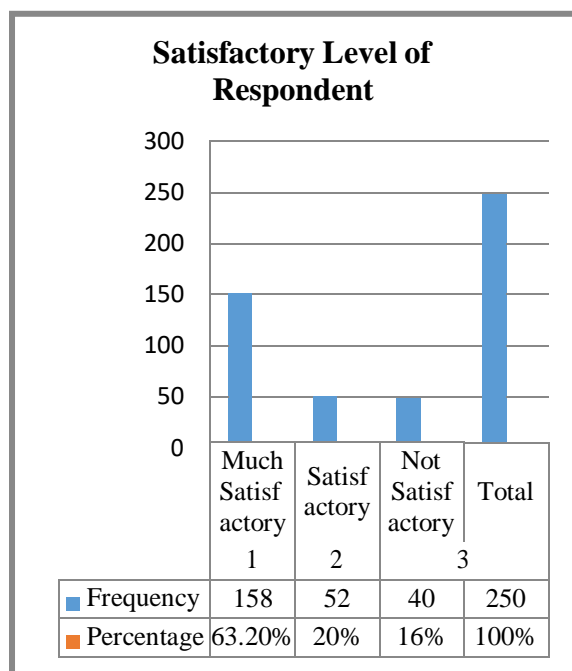


Table 8: Distribution of Respondents according to their Satisfactory level of Housing.

Sl. No	Nature of Santal House	Frequency	Percentage
1	Huts	85	34%
2	Tiles/Ajbester	110	44%
3	Concrete House	55	22%
	Total	250	100%

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that, the 34% of respondents have a Huts house, 44% of respondents are Tiles/Ajbester house and only 22% of respondents have a Concrete house. Finally, the table shows that the highest numbers of respondents have a Tiles/Ajbester House.

Figure 5. Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 8

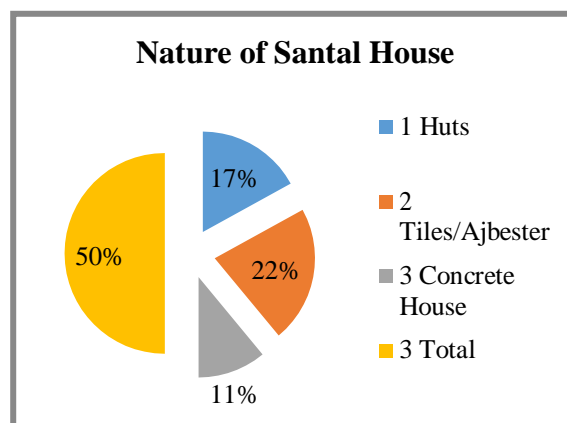


Table 9: Respondents according to their Satisfactory level of MGNREGS Schemes.

Sl. No.	Impact of MGNREGS	Frequency	Percentage
1	More Satisfactory	78	31.2%
2	Normal Satisfactory	52	20.8%
3	Not Satisfactory	120	48%
	Total	250	100

Sources: Primary Data

The Table shows that, the 31.2% of respondents are More Satisfactory on MGNREGS Schemes, 20.8% respondents are Normal Satisfactory in MGNREGS Schemes and 48% of respondents are Not Satisfactory in MGNREGS Schemes. Finally, the table shows the highest numbers of respondents are Not Satisfactory in the MGNREGS Schemes

Figure 6. Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 9

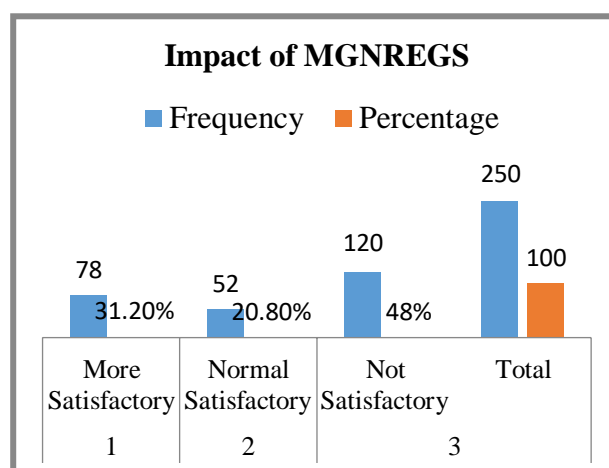


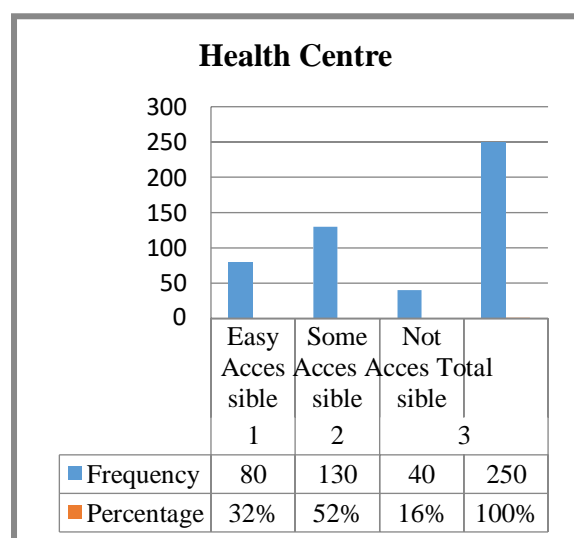
Table 10: *Distribution of Respondents according to their Access of Health Centre.*

Sl. No.	Health Centre	Frequency	Percentage
1	Easy Accessible	80	32%
2	Some Accessible	130	52%
3	Not Accessible	40	16%
	Total	250	100%

Sources: Primary Data

The table shows that, the 32% of respondents are easily accessible their Health Centre, 52% respondents are Some Accessible in Health Centre, and 16% of respondents are Not Accessible in Health Centre. Finally, the highest 52% of respondents are Some Accessible in Health Centre.

Figure 7. *Graphical Representation of Respondents of Table 10*



## 8. Major findings of the study

The above table shows that, out of total 945 adult, in which 486(45.46%) are male 459(42.94%) are female. The total children are 124(11.60%), in which 62(5.80%) Male and 62(5.80%) are female child.

The above table shows that, the total respondents are 250(23.38%) in which

132(12.34%) male and 118(11.03%) are female respondents.

From this table it is revealed that, there are 132(52.8%) male and 118(47.2%) female in the sample population. The highest numbers of respondent age group 18 to 29 is 75(30%) and the lowest age group is 60(12%).

The above table details of the Educational Qualification show that, the primary education qualification is highest than the other qualification and Degree and other qualification is only 22(8.8%).

The above table shows that, the highest numbers of respondents 150(36%) are dependent on Agricultural activities and the lowest numbers of respondents 12(4.8%) are depend on Government Jobs.

The above table shows that, highest numbers of respondents 186(74%) are earn money up Rs.5000 and the lowest numbers of respondents 12(4.8%) are earn money up to 10.000 and above.

The above table shows that, the highest numbers of respondents 110(44%) are use Tile/Ajbester types of house and the lowest numbers of respondents 55(22%) are use Concrete types house.

The above table shows that, out of total 78(31.2%) respondents are more satisfactory about the MGNREGS schemes and the only 52(20.8%) are normal satisfactory about the MGNREGS schemes.

The above table shows that, highest numbers of respondents 80(32%) are easy accessible the Health Centre and only 40(16%) respondents are not access Health Centre.

## 9. Suggestions of the study

From the analysis and findings of the study following suggestions are forwarded for the improvement of the rural community information service at Chandua Block in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are as follows.

- First we have to find out all the difficulties of the Santal Community.
- Transforms and develop a new mission and vision for the sad community.
- The need to identify new aspect of a business or livelihood and also need to be identifying for earning living.
- Identifying the most essential resources that are already available within their areas and to determine them, how to use, develop, or obtain those resources.
- The higher education rate of the above communities is very poor; they need to increase the rate of degree education.
- The government jobs percentage is very low; they need to increase the percentage of Government jobs.
- Monthly income up to 10.000 is very low, so they need to increase the rate of monthly income.
- Respondents from satisfactory level of house, the percentage of concrete house is very low, so they need to increase the concert house.

## 10. Conclusion:

The study provides an exceptional prospect to explore the socio-economic Information needs and Quality of Life of the Santhal of Saragchhida Village under Chandua Block in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. It covers numbers of issues which directly associated with the socio-economic status of the community. At present the Santal are engaged in cultivation to earn a living. Cultivation dominates the tribal economic scene, a very few percent of people are engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and some other people are engaged in collecting forest product from their nearest forest. Because of poverty, they have very limited access for housing, education, electricity, health and sanitation, etc. The standard life of the Santal are still very low and therefore, it is needed to for joint efforts and better coordination of all the stake holders who are working directly or indirectly influences the

tribal development. The policy maker should clear understand their Socio-Economic condition of the tribal life and tray to participation in various Tribal developmental programmes for their livelihood security.

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