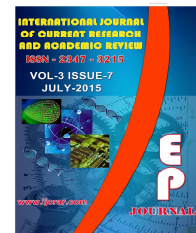




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### Influence of Visva Bharati, Santiniketan and Sriniketan over the surrounding Villages

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#### KEYWORDS

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and Sriniketan

#### A B S T R A C T

In Birbhum district there are many Santal villages. Santals are primitive and underdeveloped tribe. Visva Bharati is a Central University and its campus includes both Santiniketan and Sriniketan. It is a well developed area and its effect spread to the surrounding catchment area. In the catchment area there are some tribal villages which depend on Visva Bharati to some extent. Present paper discusses the influence of Visva Bharati to the surrounding tribal villages in case of employment generation, educational and cultural development. This paper also highlights the present problem of tribes and remedial measures with respect to Visva Bharati and Santiniketan.

### Introduction

Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath Tagore established 'Ashram' at Santiniketan in 1863. In 1901, Rabindranath Tagore established 'Brahmacharyashram' i.e. Patha Bhavan school. In 1921, Visva Bharati was set up by Tagore. In 1951, Visva Bharati became a central university under the supervision of Govt. of India. In 1922-23, Sriniketan was started to help rural people of surrounding Santiniketan and Sriniketan. At a radius of 3 to 4 km. from Visva Bharati central office, there are about 16 larger and smaller Santal tribal villages. Visva Bharati, Santiniketan and Sriniketan have an influence over such tribal villages or, over their livelihood.

According to Shorbert, tribes are the Aborigines, still dwelling in primitive stage of civilization. The 'Adivasis' of India are old, very simple, living in the midst of the vast wild and magnificent forests. Santal tribe lives in Chotanagpur, Orissa, West Bengal. Santalpargana is traditionally known as their native seat. Lumbering, fishing, hunting, collecting etc. are their occupation. Recently they are doing animal husbandry and agriculture. They have retained to an unusual degree of their social cohesion, their language and many of their customs. Some of them are now well educated and indistinguishable from other people, but the majority remains essentially

tribe men, of a singularly happy and carefree temperament. Tribal population outside the Santiniketan-Sriniketan, have been enormously influenced by modernisation in all spheres of their lives – social, cultural, economical and political.

Tagore gave a special affection for the Santals in the villages around Santiniketan. They combine the filling of the earth as farmers with poetry, songs and dance. The farmers' life is generally monotonous. But when it is symbolised and interpreted through poetry and dance, farming becomes important and pleasant. In this aspect there was a special love of Tagore to the Santals. He felt a deep compassion for them on account of their poverty and sufferings. Now Santiniketan become the largest centre for educated Santals in West Bengal. Recently a group 'Kulhidhuri' has been established. It tries to preserve and revive traditional Santal culture. It collects and sings traditional Santal songs. In Santiniketan & surroundings, Santal dance performance is a common phenomenon. All such tribal activities are performed in full support of Tagor's philosophy & people living in Santiniketan.

The major objective of this study includes, to analyse the influence of Visva-Bharati and Santiniketan over the surrounding tribal villages. To identify its impact on employment scenario, education, cultural life. Besides to judge the extent of influence with respect to distance from the heart of the Visva-Bharati. And also to classify the villages on the basis of getting the opportunities and advantages from Visva-Bharati and Santiniketan.

### **Materials and Methods**

This paper is based on the primary information, collected through field survey

and questionnaires in every village. The relevant data and information have been classified, tabulated, represented and analysed by various cartographic and calculation & techniques.

### **Study area**

The present study has been conducted over Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, Sriniketan, SSDA (Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority) area, and over 16 tribal villages surrounding Visva Bharati and Santiniketan. The study area is the mixture of Bolpur Municipality area, Visva Bharati – Santiniketan-Sriniketan notified area, Ruppur Panchayet area & Kankalitala Panchayet area. It is under Sriniketan block under Bolpur sub-division of Birbhum district, West Bengal. Geo-Location of this study area is between 23°40' N TO 23°42'N latitude and 87°38'30" E to 87°42'30" E longitude. The tribal villages under Ruppur Panchayet are Ballabhpurdanga, Sarkardanga, Khajurdanga (Banerpukurdanga), Fuldanga, Kalapukurdanga, Srimantapally Adibasipara, Moldanga, Lalbandh, Bondanga, Chipkuthi. The Santal villages under Kankalitala Panchayet includes Paruldanga Adibasi para, Tamsuldanga. Villages under Visva Bharati own area is Balipara, Kaliganj, Pearsonpalli and Baganpara.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

Santals are the backward class community. There need to develop this tribal community at any level. At grassroot level, development through spread effect is sometime encouraged. Here in case of Visva Bharati and Santiniketan this approach could be a process for tribal development. The Government of India in determined to help tribal people to grow according to their own

genius and tradition. Tribal development indicates overall development of tribal people i.e. social, economical cultural and political life. Visva Bharati, Santiniketan and Sriniketan perform various roles for surrounding Tribal development. These are discussed below:

### **Influence of Visva Bharati over tribal employment generation**

From table 2 it is clear that the employment situation of Kaliganj and Pearsonpally is very high. Fuldanga lies in moderate condition and other villages have lower situation. This lower category has 13 villages, out of 16 villages. So the employment situation is not so good. On the other hand casual employees are more than permanent in maximum cases. Unfortunately Paruldanga, Khajurdanga, Sarkardanga have no employees in Visva Bharati.

Other than employment in Visva Bharati, there are some other income generating activities performed by Visva Bharati & Santiniketan. In this case Balipara and Baganpara has maximum share. Moderate condition remains in five villages that is the 35% of the total villages. They are Kaliganj, Fuldanga, Khajurdanga, Ballabhurdanga and Pearsonpally. The cause of maximum and moderate share may be the closest location of such villages with respect to Visva Bharati & Santiniketan. With respect to total share, the people working at staff quarter are more i.e. 44.4%. Then come car driving and rickshaw pulling workers which are 13.62% and 12.8% respectively with respect to total share.

From table 3 it is clear that Srimantapally has maximum students, getting benefit from Visva Bharati. Balipara, Baganpara, Kaliganj, Tamsuldanga and Fuldanga, these

five villages lie in moderate situation. Moldanga and Sarkardanga have no students to get benefit from Visva-Bharati. It is also clear that the educational environment in Santal villages with respect to Visva Bharati is very reduced.

### **“Mahadal” – a S.H.G. (Self Help Group) & Tribal development**

For tribal employment generation, in Visva Bharati campus, a strategy has been taken by Visva Bharati & surrounding four tribal villages i.e. Baganpara, Balipara, Kaliganj and Pearsonpally. It is the formation of ‘Mahadal’ (a self help group), which is mainly linked with some casual works like sweeper, bathroom cleaner, cutting of bushes, book arrangement in library, office bearer, night guard in various offices and academic departments etc. In ‘Mahadal’, the women workers are more in number. They get 20-22 days work per month. Initially ‘Mahadal’ was formed by 20 members from Balipara, 20 members from Kaliganj, 15 members from Pearsonpally, and 15 members from Baganpara. It is a good step for income generation among tribal people.

### **Other Influences of Visva Bharati, Santiniketan & Sriniketan**

Not only in case of employment, education or cultural development, but Visva Bharati have other roles. It offers some common property or infrastructure to the tribal society. Near Vinay Bhavana, there is Dinabandhu Andrus Memorial Hospital which some time offers free Check up and treatment to tribals. Santali department offers degree and education in Alchiki language which is their native language. Soil testing laboratory & Agricultural Training center of Sriniketan sometimes offers free soil test and training programme for nearby tribal villages. ‘Amarkuthi Society’ also

arranges training for leather, batic, badni preparation for tribals. Nearby tribal boys and girls use the playground of Vinay Bhavana, Mela math, Sriniketan, Ashram math for playing and physical exercises. Besides at 'Poush Mela', 'Magh Mela' and at the time of 'Basanta Utsav', tribal people give stall and get part time job for some days, which ultimately make their financial development. In 'Poush Mela', there are some programmes like tribal dance, tribal song etc. These are performed at "Utsav Mancha". It is a place from which they get chance to expose their culture. Besides Visva Bharati offers some common infrastructures like – road, street lighting, tube wells, wells, bank, post office, cooperative or 'Samabayaka' etc. These are also used by tribal society of surrounding Visva Bharati area.

On the basis of overall scores, the picture is just different from previous situation. Here 62% tribal villages get more advantages. They are linked with various activities though their share is not satisfactory with respect to total income. That is almost all influential factors touch these villages. Only two villages i.e. Moldanga and Sarkardanga get lower advantages. It may be for their remoteness and 25% villages enjoy moderate influences. So there need further awareness and positive steps from both sides i.e. Visva Bharati and tribal villages.

Villages below 1 km and within 1-2 km distance from central office of Visva Bharati have generally higher score value which indicate maximum or greater influence of Visva Bharati over the tribal livelihood. These two categories include 9 villages which is just 56% of the total villages. This zone is the high influential zone. On the

other hand, 7 remaining villages lie at a distance of more than two km. from central office or Visva Bharati Campus. The influential score values are lower in this category due to their furthest distance. It is the zone of low influential zone. So it can be concluded that there is inverse relationship between distance and spreading effect or, opportunities.

### **Prospects and Conclusion**

There may be many problems, but we should take a positive view point. For tribal development their need both cooperation of Visva Bharati and tribal villages.

1. "Mahadal" (a self help group) should be spread to other tribal villages.
2. Arrangement of free medical checkup in tribal villages by Visva Bharati.
3. Social / agro forestry should be done in the open spaces of Visva Bharati & Santiniketan with tribals.
4. 'Pally Sangathan' of Sriniketan should be active for tribal development.
5. Free sport coaching, educational coaching, cultural coaching should be encouraged by Visva Bharati.
6. There need special reservation for tribal's in casual works of Visva Bharati.
7. N.S.S. (National Service Scheme) should be active for tribal area improvement.
8. At 'Poush Mela', 'Magh Mela' and in 'Ananda Bazar', there need higher tribal participate.

If these facilities are provided to the tribal villages, then there will be a significant tribal development over the surrounding tribal villages of Visva Bharati and Santiniketan.

**Influence of Visva Bharati over tribal employment generation:**

**Table.1** Tribal population from surrounding Santal villages working at Visva Bharati University

Sl.	Village	Employee-I	Employee-II	Total Employee	Percentage Share (%)
1.	Balipara	4	3	7	6.67
2.	Baganpara	3	4	7	6.67
3.	Kaliganj	3	20	23	21.90
4.	Pearsonpally	3	30	33	31.43
5.	Lalbandh	3	3	6	5.71
6.	Chipkuthi	4	0	4	3.81
7.	Srimantapally Adibasipara	2	0	2	1.90
8.	Moldanga	1	0	1	0.95
9.	Paruldanga	0	0	0	0
10.	Tamsuldanga	1	0	1	0.95
11.	Bondanga	1	0	1	0.95
12.	Fuldanga	4	8	12	11.43
13.	Kalapukurdanga	2	5	7	6.67
14.	Khajurdanga (Banerpukurdanga)	0	0	0	0
15.	Ballabhpurdanga	1	0	1	0.95
16.	Sarkardanga	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>32(30.48%)</b>	<b>73(69.52%)</b>	<b>105(100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field survey & author's own calculation

**Table.2** Categorization of villages on the basis of total employees in Visva Bharati University

Category	Range (Employees)	Villages	No.
1.	Grade-I	→ Balipara, Baganpara, Lalbandh, Chipkuthi, SrimantapallyAdibasipara, Moldanga, Paruldanga, Tamsuldanga, Bondanga, Kalapukurdanga, Khajurdanga (Banerpukurdanga), Sarkardanga, Ballabhpurdanga	(13)
2.	Grade-II	→ Fuldanga	(1)
3.	Grade-III	→ Kaliganj, Pearsonpally.	(2)

**Table.3** Other occupations performed by the Tribal's in Visva Bharati, Santiniketan & Sriniketan Campus

Sl	Village	Busines	Riskaw, van pulling	Car-Driving	Lodge/Hotel Worker	Working at staff quarter (part-time)	Working at Amar-kuthi	Shop at Sonajhuri hut	Total
1.	Balipara	4	10	10	6	50	0	0	80
2.	Baganpara	3	9	10	4	30	0	0	56
3.	Kaliganj	3	7	5	2	20	0	0	37
4.	Pearsonpally	7	4	5	3	20	0	0	39
5.	Lalbandh	0	2	0	1	1	2	2	8
6.	Chipkuthi	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
7.	Srimantapally Adibasipara	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
8.	Moldanga	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
9.	Paruldanga	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
10	Tamsuldanga	2	2	1	5	3	0	0	13
11	Bondanga	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	9
12	Fuldanga	4	2	2	5	10	1	3	27
13	Kalapukurdanga	2	2	2	3	5	0	0	14
14	Khajurdanga (Banerpukurdanga)	3	1	6	0	12	11	4	37
15	Ballabhpurdanga	5	4	2	5	6	10	0	32
16	Sarkardanga	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>367</b>
	<b>Percentage share (%)</b>	<b>9.26%</b>	<b>12.81%</b>	<b>13.62%</b>	<b>10.63%</b>	<b>44.41%</b>	<b>6.81%</b>	<b>2.45%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field survey & author's own calculation

**Table.4** Categorization of villages on the basis of other activities performed by the tribal people in Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan & Sriniketan Campus

Category	Range (Worker)	Villages	No.
1.	Grade-I	→ Lalbandh, Chipkuthi, Srimantapally, Moldanga, Paruldanga, Tamsuldanga, Bondanga, Kalapukurdanga, Sarkardanga	(9)
2.	Grade-II	→ Fuldanga, Kaliganj, Pearsonpally, Ballabhpurdanga, Khajurdanga (Banerpukurdanga)	(5)
3.	Grade-III	→ Balipara, Baganpara	(2)

**Table.5** Influence of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan & Sriniketan on Education & cultural life

Sl.	Villages	Students studying in Visva Bharati			Taking private tuition in Visva Bharati campus	Taking private tuition for painting dancing, music in Visva Bharati campus	Overall Total
		Male	Female	Total			
1.	Balipara	10	1	11	5	2	18
2.	Baganpara	6	3	9	4	2	15
3.	Kaliganj	6	2	8	2	1	11
4.	Pearsonpally	2	2	4	2	2	8
5.	Lalbandh	0	3	3	1	0	4
6.	Chipkuthi	0	1	1	1	1	3
7.	Srimantapally Adibasipara	6	4	10	6	8	24
8.	Moldanga	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Paruldanga	1	0	1	0	0	1
10.	Tamsuldanga	2	5	7	2	1	10
11.	Bondanga	0	0	0	0	1	1
12.	Fuldanga	4	6	10	3	1	14
13.	Kalapukurdanga	2	2	4	1	1	6
14.	Khajurdanga (Banerpukur-danga)	1	1	2	1	0	3
15.	Ballabhpurdanga	1	0	1	0	0	1
16.	Sarkardanga	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>119</b>
	<b>Percentage Share</b>			<b>59.66%</b>	<b>23.53%</b>	<b>16.81%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey & author's own calculation.

**Table.6** Categorization of villages on the basis of influence of Visva Bharati and Santiniketan over education and cultural development

Category	Range (Students)	Villages	No.
1.	Grade-I	→ Pearsonpally, Lalbandh, Chipkuthi, Moldanga, Paruldanga, Bondanga, Kalapukurdanga, Khajurdanga (Banerpukur-danga), Ballabhpurdanga, Sarkardanga.	(10)
2.	Grade-II	→ Balipara, Baganpara, Kaliganj, Tamsuldanga, Fuldanga	(5)
3.	Grade-III	→ Srimantapally Adibasipara	(1)

**Table.7** Various activities performed by tribal's in Visva Bharati area & their Weightage.

Sl	Village	Geographical distance from central office (km) Visva Bharati	Working in Visva Bharati	Business	Riskaw/ van pulling	Motor driving	Lodge /Hotel Employees	Working at staff quarter's	Working in Amar-kuthi	Shop at Sona jhuri hut	Student of Visva Bharati	Painting /music tusion	Private tuison	Mahadal	Total score
1.	Balipara	0.7	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	10
2.	Baganpara	0.8	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	10
3.	Kaliganj	1.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	10
4.	Pearsonpally	1.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	10
5.	Lalbandh	1.0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	8
6.	Chipkuthi	2.5	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	7
7.	Srimantapally	0.6	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	7
8.	Moldanga	3.0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
9.	Paruldanga	3.0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
10	Tamsuldanga	2.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	9
11	Bandanga	2.5	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
12	Fuldanga	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	11
13	Kalapukurdanga	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	9
14	Khajurdanga	2.0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	8
15	Ballabhurdanga	3.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
16	Sarkardanga	2.5	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>122</b>



**Table.8** Categorization of villages on the basis of overall total scores to measure the influence of Visva Bharati, Santiniketan & Sriniketan over tribal villages

Category	Range (Total Score of Performance)	Villages	No.
1.	Grade-I	→ Moldanga, Sarkardanga	(2) → get lower advantages
2.	Grade-II	→ Chipkuthi, Srimantapally, Paruldanga, Bondanga	(4) → get moderate advantages
3.	Grade-III	→ Balipara, Baganpara, Kaliganj, Pearsonpally, Lalbandh, Fuldanga, Tamsuldanga, Kolapukurdanga, Khajurdanga, Ballabhpurdanga	(10) → get higher advantages

**Table.9** Categorization of villages on the basis of influence of Visva Bharati and the geographical distance of such village from central office of Visva Bharati

Category	Range (distance in km.)	Villages	No.
1.	Below 1	→ Balipara, Baganpara, Srimantapally (10) (10) (7)	(3)
2.	1 – 2	→ Kaliganj, Pearsonpally, Lalbandh (10) (10) (8) Fuldanga, Kolapukurdanga, Khajurdanga (11) (9) (8)	(6)
3.	Above 2	→ Chipkuthi, Moldanga, Paruldanga (7) (3) (4) Tamsuldanga, Ballabhpurdanga (9) (8) Sarkardanga, Bondanga (3) (5)	(7)

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