

IMPACT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY ON EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF BAGDAH BLOCK UNDER 24 NORTH PARAGANAS, WEST BENGAL



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“FOR EVERY READER HIS OR HER BOOK AND FOR EVERY BOOK ITS READER.”

— S.R. Ranganathan



ABSTRACT: Every human activity in modern societies is organized through institutions. Every major social task is institutionalized, whether it is economic performance or health care, education or research, business or industry. Institutions and organizations are now invariably entrusted with environmental protection and defense of library management system. Libraries and other similar institutions collect, store, process, organize, disseminate, and distribute information/knowledge in the form of documents. This paper also represents the value of Libraries and other institutions that handle and manage knowledge and information are extremely valuable because they are so important for overall human development. The paper also indicate the value of Education is perhaps the most important of them all, as it aids in the development of well-informed, knowledgeable, and responsible citizens, who are the only ones capable of contributing to progress and advancement by help of library accessibility . Then there's the goal of societal economic well-being on transmission of knowledge and skills, the instillation of values; and the transmission of vocational skills. There are two types of education like, formal and non-formal that come too developed by library management system in tribal area of bagdah block, west Bengal.

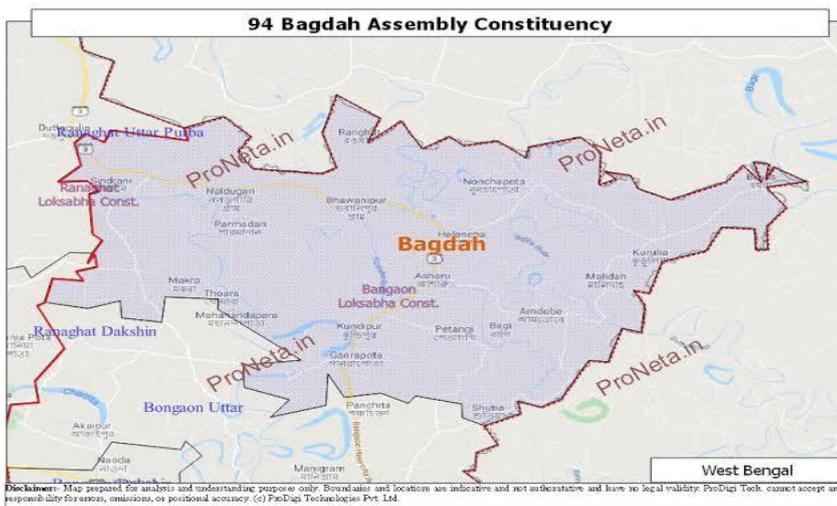
KEY WORDS: *Public Library, Tribal Communities, Formal and non-Formal Education.*

INTRODUCTION:

The term tribe is used in many different contexts to refer to a category of human social group. The predominant worldwide usage of the term in English is in the discipline of anthropology. This definition is contested, in part due to conflicting theoretical understandings of social and kinship structures, and also reflecting the problematic application of this concept to extremely diverse human societies. The concept is often contrasted by anthropologists with other social and kinship groups, being hierarchically larger than a lineage or clan, but smaller than a chiefdom, nation or state.



In some cases tribes have legal recognition and some degree of political autonomy from national or federal government, but this legalistic usage of the term may conflict with anthropological definitions. Bagdah is located at 23°13'N 88°53'E. Bagdah CD Block is bounded by Maheshpur Upazila in Jhenaidaha District, Chaugachha Upazila and Sharsha Upazila in Jessore District of Bangladesh in the north and east, Bangaon CD Block in the south and Hanskhali and Ranaghat II CD Blocks in Nadia district in the west. Bagdah CD Block is part of the Ichhamati-Raimangal Plain, one of the three physiographic regions in the district located in the lower Ganges Delta. It contains soil of mature black or brownish loam to recent alluvium. The Ichhamati flows through the eastern part of the district.^[2] The Ichhamati, Kodara and Betna flow through this block. Bagdah CD Block has an area of 233.47 km².



It has 1 panchayat samity, 9 gram panchayats, 140 gram sansads (village councils), 108 mouzas and 106 inhabited villages. Bagdah police station serves this block. Headquarters of this CD Block is at Bagdah. Gram panchayats of Bagdah block/ panchayat samiti are: Asharu, Helencha, Malipota, Bagda, Koniara I, Ranghat, Bayra, Koniara II and Sindrani . In this study area, public library is a library that is accessible by the general public and is usually funded from public sources, such as taxes. It is operated by librarians and library paraprofessionals, who are also civil servants. There are five fundamental characteristics shared by public libraries. they are generally supported by taxes (usually local, though any level of government can and may contribute), they are governed by a board to serve the public interest, they are open to all, and every tribal community member can access the collection; they are entirely voluntary, no one is ever forced to use the services provided and they provide library and information services without charge.



Public libraries exist in many blocks across the 24 north paraganas , and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries, academic libraries and other special libraries. Their mandate is to serve the general public's information needs rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population. Public libraries also provide free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy among children. They also provide a quiet study and learning areas for students and professionals and foster the formation of book clubs to encourage the appreciation of literature by the young and adults. Public libraries typically allow users to borrow books and other materials outside the library premises temporarily, usually for a given period of time. They also have non-circulating reference collections and provide computer and Internet access to their patrons in bagdah bock.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know the relation between the role public library and formal educational development on tribal communities of bagdah block.
2. To know the relation between the role public library and non-formal educational development on tribal communities of bagdah block.

HYPOTHESES

1. There exists no significant difference between role public library and formal educational development on tribal communities of bagdah block.
2. There exists no significant difference between role public library and non-formal educational development on tribal communities of bagdah block.

METHODOLOGY

Method of descriptive research design is used for the presents study.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Non – probability sampling technique which includes purposive sampling is used for present study.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

465 mundari people of Five gram Panchayats under bagdah block was taken for the present study.

Gram Panchayats under 24 north paraganas (bagdah block)	Frequency of sample of on tribal communities
ASHARU	100
BAGDA	150
BAYRA	70
HELENCHA	75
KONIARA-I	70

TOOLS OF THE RESEARCH

Questionnaire tool is used for the present research.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Bagdah CD Block had 132 primary schools with 13,408 students, 9 high schools with 5,092 students and 16 higher secondary schools with 25,067 students. Bagdah CD Block had 1 general degree college (Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya, Helencha) with 1,044 students, 1 professional/ technical institution with 40 students and 443 institutions for special and non-formal education with 14,303 students.

As per the 2021 census, in Bagdah CD Block, amongst the 106 inhabited villages, 1 village did not have a school, 50 villages had more than 1 primary school, 38 villages had at least 1 primary and 1 middle school and 32 villages had at least 1 middle and 1 secondary school.



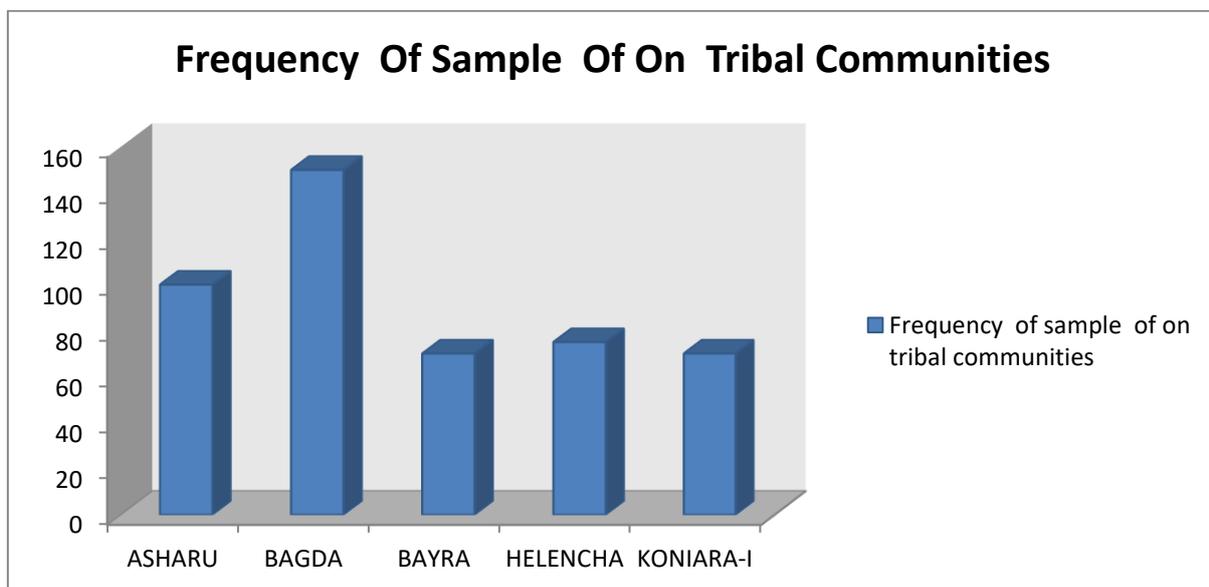
There is both formal and non-formal education. Formal education is the one that an individual attains by enrolling himself in an educational institution like a school or a college or a university and through constant teacher-student contacts. In non-formal education there is no such institutional base for education; you educate yourself through courses offered by distance education mode, with the help of either other methods of learning or through self-study.

Every institution of formal education, be it a school, a college or a university, should have a library attached to it. It should have a collection of books relevant to its courses of study. Students should be encouraged to read books and imbibe the knowledge contained in them. At the earlier stages of education like the school, this should be done to supplement classroom teaching.

At later stages, particularly in colleges and school, the focal point of learning should gradually shift from the classroom to the library. It is through the extensive reading of a variety of books bearing on a subject that a student will be able to acquire in-depth knowledge of the subject. By being able to analyze and compare different viewpoints as expounded in different books, a student will be able to develop his capacity for analytical and critical thinking. This will enable him to formulate independent viewpoints and opinions. The role of the library in fostering the intellectual development of students cannot be over-emphasized.



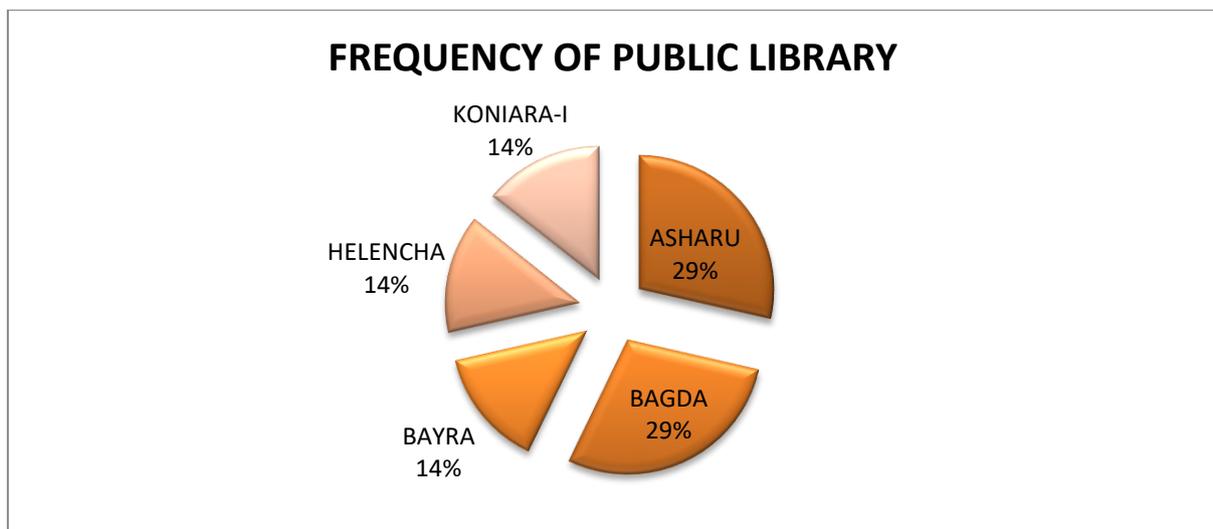
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Apart from school, college and school libraries, the public libraries to have a responsibility to support formal education. For this purpose, the public library must stock books and other material of an academic nature suitable for students and teachers of educational institutions in its area and make the books, etc., available to them. It must be remembered in this context that a public library should serve everyone in its community and it should not ignore the requirements of teachers and students who form part of the community.

Non-Formal Education: In non-formal education of bagdah block, where the help of the teacher is minimal, it is the library that is the main resource. Students here have, by and large, to acquire knowledge through self-study. Libraries of formal educational institutions as well as public libraries have a significant role to play in this respect: The former should throw open their facilities to students of non-formal education in such a manner that the interests of their primary clientele are not adversely affected.

Gram Panchayats under 24 north paraganas (bagdah block)	Frequency Of Public Library
ASHARU	2
BAGDA	2
BAYRA	1
HELENCHA	1
KONIARA-I	1



Public library, as the bodies that lay down academic standards and conduct relationship in the field of higher education, have a special responsibility in this regard. They should try to make their library services reach as wide a clientele as possible including students of non-formal education. One way to make this possible is to establish branch libraries of the main village library at different places within its jurisdiction and making them accessible to the entire academic and public community in the area including students and people of this block, of non-formal education. But the main responsibility of supporting non-formal education rests with the public library system. Everyone should have access as a matter of right to the public library. A public library should try to discharge this responsibility by acquiring books and journals suited to the needs of the students of non-formal education in its area. The development of a sound public library system is an essential pre-requisite for the successful implementation of all non-formal educational programmes.

If the library needs of the students of non-formal education are not met by academic and public libraries, the result would be that the students would take to cheap guide books. The inevitable consequence of this substitute will be a steep fall in the standards of education.



MAJOR TRIBES IN BAGDAH BLOCK AND

CULTURAL IDENTITY

Bhils Tribe



The Bhils are a tribe found mostly in the mountain ranges of Udaipur and in some districts of Rajasthan and west Bengal. The Bhils are the largest tribes in India. They speak the Bhili language. Their celebrations are the Ghoomar dance, Than Gair-a dance drama and the Baneshwar Fair. 7.5 % of population is belongs to bhili tribal communities in this bagdah block.

Munda Tribe



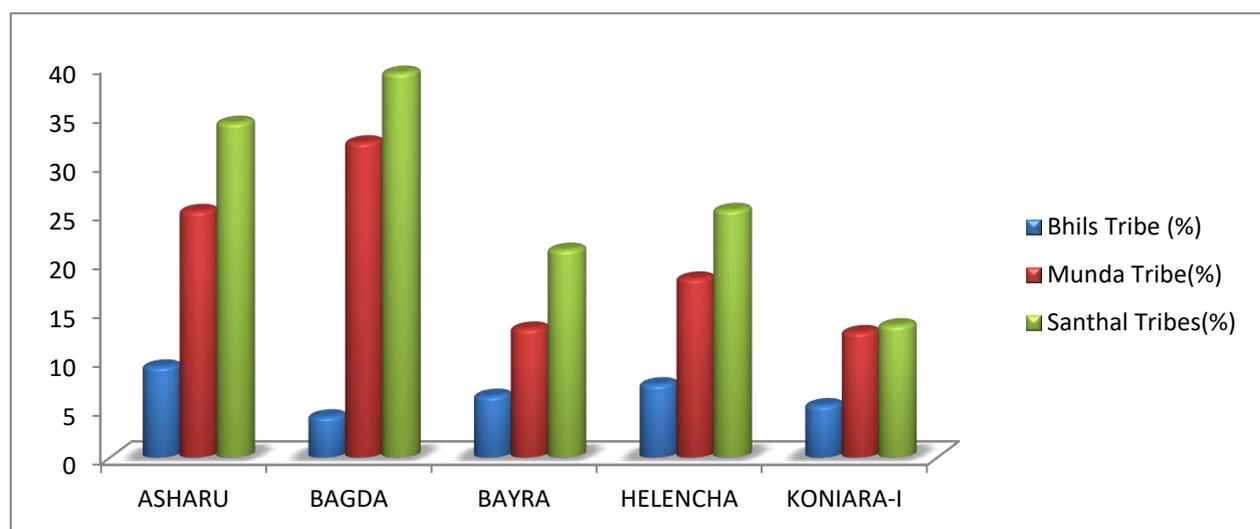
This tribe is found in Jharkhand and parts of Chattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal. Their life is simple and basic. They speak the Mundari language. The Mundas were hunters in the past but now are laborers in farms. They follow the Sarna religion owing allegiance to a God called Singbonga. Their language is Killi and Nupur dance is the main entertainment. The Munda tribes celebrate the Mage, Karam, Sarhaul and Phagu festivals. 18.23 % of population is belongs to Mundari tribal communities in this bagdah block.

Santhal Tribes



The Santhal tribes are a major tribe of West Bengal. They are also seen in parts of Bihar, Odisha, and Assam and are the largest tribe in Jharkhand. They depend on agriculture and livestock for their living and are great hunters. In addition to traditional festivals like Karam and Sahrai, Santhali dance and music is a major attraction. 21.36 % of population is belongs to santhal tribal communities in this bagdah block .

Gram Panchayats under 24 north paraganas (bagdah block)	Bhils Tribe (%)	Munda Tribe(%)	Santhal Tribes(%)
ASHARU	9.32	25.21	34.21
BAGDA	4.21	32.21	39.32
BAYRA	6.32	13.21	21.25
HELENCHA	7.5	18.32	25.32
KONIARA-I	5.36	12.85	13.54



Library and Modern Society: The role of Library in Society and tribal development

Library and society are inter-linked and inter-dependent with each other's. Society without libraries has no significance, and libraries without society have no origin. To serve as a vehicle of social progress, the library plays a vital role

- To assemble, organize, preserve, socialize, and serve all expressed thought embodied as manuscripts, books, periodicals, their constituent's documents, however minute, and every other similar document produced as a means for communication.
- To help in the transmission of knowledge of the earlier generations to the later ones in community development
- To help in cumulation and further building up of knowledge from generation to generation for village educational development.



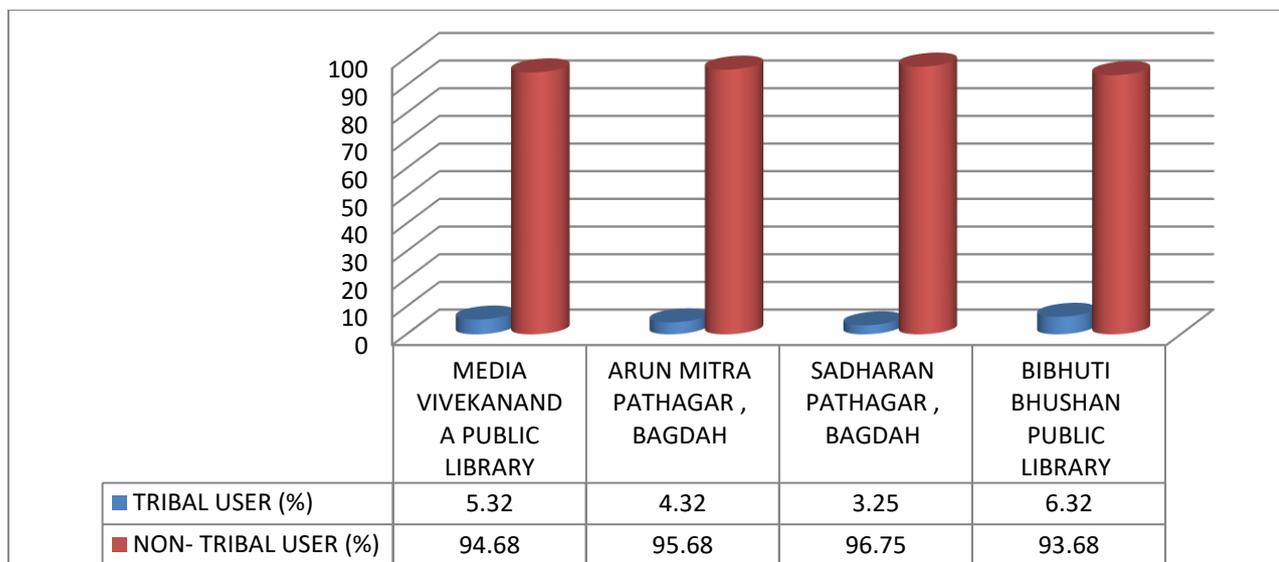
- To help in the contemporary development of knowledge and skill, by the unintended and purposeless repetition of effort and the consequent wastage in the research potential of humanity.
- To conserve the study time of humanity by the separation of literature search from positive search on village education.
- To help in the perpetual self-education of one and all.
- To collect together all available recorded information particularly in the form of reference books, and to socialize and serve freely all such information to each according to his needs at the moment.
- To increase the economic resources of humanity to the extent necessary to maintain the ever-increasing population, in comfort and free from want of any kind of social and economic backward groups.
- To help in the mutually co-operating, and mutually tolerant peaceful co-existence of individuals, communities, and nations.
- To help in the elevating, self-dependent use of leisure with the aid of freely served books, pictures, sound records, and other similar materials.
- To help in increasing the opportunity for the spiritual awakening of one and all the members of humanity.



Role of Library in Cultural Activities in bagdah block:

The first cultural role of the library is that it preserves the cultural heritage of the human race as represented by the books and other documents it holds. It has also a cultural role in two other senses. It should make available books which would bring to expression the creative talent- of individuals and develop their faculties for aesthetic appreciation. It should also organize cultural programmes like music concerts, dances, dramas, painting competitions for children, exhibition of paintings, etc. and thus enrich the cultural life of the community. These programmes primarily fall in the domain of public libraries.

NAME OF LIBRARY IN BAGDAH BLOCK	TRIBAL USER (%)	NON- TRIBAL USER (%)
MEDIA VIVEKANANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY	5.32	94.68
ARUN MITRA PATHAGAR , BAGDAH	4.32	95.68
SADHARAN PATHAGAR , BAGDAH	3.25	96.75
BIBHUTI BHUSHAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	6.32	93.68



Role of Library in Disseminating Information in bagdah block:

Libraries, through their books, are actually repositories of information and knowledge. Information is indispensable for any human activity aiming at social progress. The researcher, the teacher, the student, the administrator, the industrial and business manager, the artisan, the entrepreneur, the farmer, the worker in the factory and the field, all need the information to equip, themselves better for the fruitful pursuit of their respective vocations. The basic information role of the library is to collect material containing information through appropriate methods.



The tribe, a long respected category of analysis in anthropology, has recently been the object of some scrutiny by anthropologists. Doubts about the utility of the tribe as an analytical category have almost certainly arisen out of the rapid involvement of peoples, even in the remotest parts of the globe, in political, economic and sometimes direct social relationship with industrial nations. The doubts, however, are based ultimately on the definition and meaning which different scholars give to the term 'tribe', its adjective 'tribal', and its abstract form 'tribalism'

Conclusion:

The healthy use of leisure is a matter of great importance in community life so that leisure time is not devoted to negative and destructive activities. The library should cater to the recreational needs of its users by stocking books suited for the purpose. Novels and other forms of literature, works of art, books of travels, biographies, popular magazines, etc., are primarily books of recreation and they should have a place in every library. Besides, libraries, especially public libraries in bagdah block, should organize programmes of healthy and educational recreation and entertainment like the performing arts, musical concerts, etc. to enrich the educational and social consciousness of people in bagdah block.



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