

INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI
ACTIVITIES REPORT 2021-2022

01. RESEARCH

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Indian Social Institute has been engaged in research activities in areas of Tribal Studies, Dalit Studies and Women Studies till the different departments were unified in October 2021. From November 2021, all the departments were amalgamated and all the research studies came under one Research Department headed by the Research Director and Assistant Research Director. During the last year, the Research Department, that initially functioned as Departments of Dalit studies, Tribal studies and Women's studies and later as the Unified Research Department, did a commendable job of engaging in a large number of research ventures with a limited number of personnel that functioned online and offline due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2 RESEARCH PROJECTS

1.2.1 Research Projects Completed

1.2.1.1 A Historical Study of Tribal Chiefdoms of Jharkhand: Kherwar of Ramgarh, Munda of Bundu, Bhumij of Jungle Mahal, Nagwansi of Ranchi , Santhal of Hazaribagh & Others:

It is a research study granted by Tribal Research Institute, Ranchi, Jharkhand. The research proposal was given a final approval on December 8, 2020. The research was implemented from January 2021. Unfortunately the researchers were badly affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the research work was suspended for about five months from April- August, 2021. The research work was resumed from September and the field work was done in October from 4- 24, 2021. Following the fieldwork the transcriptions of interviews, data analysis and report writing continued and finally on 31st March, 2022, the final draft report was submitted to TRI Ranchi.

1.2.2 On-going Research Projects

1.2.2.1. Customary Rights and Practices of the Five Major Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand: A Comparative Study

The subject of the study is “Customary Rights and Practices of the Five Major Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand: A Comparative Study”. According to the 2001 census, the Scheduled Tribe population in Jharkhand state is 7,087,068, 26.3 percent of the state's total population 26,945,829. The Scheduled Tribes of the state mainly reside in the rural areas. 91.7 percent of the people live in the rural areas of the state. Based on the tribal population Gumla district has the highest number of tribals. It is followed by Lohardaga and West Singhbhum districts, with more than half the tribal population.

One of the main objectives of this research was a comparative study of the customary law and usage of the five major tribes residing in the state. It mainly involves documenting the customs and practices of the mentioned tribes along with their social, political, and economic impact, as well as studying their use and identification, selection, matching, and influencing factors and digitization. Keeping the objectives in mind, various state districts were selected to conduct the research. The districts selected in the research include Dumka, Sahebganj, Gumla, Lohardaga, Palamu, Latehar, Simdega, Chaibasa, Khunti, and Bokaro (Jamshedpur). Questionnaires were prepared for research work in selected districts, and particular emphasis was given to group discussion. So that correct information can be obtained about customary law and its practical use. The questionnaire was mainly divided into four parts. The objective was to find out which customary laws are practice and which are not being practiced over the time. This study found that the customary laws of Santal, Oraon, Ho, Munda and Khadiya tribes were different. However, some reasonable practices are common to all the tribes, such as administrative system and rules of birth and death.

1.2.2.2 Value chain analysis of four minor forest products” (tamarind, sal seed, chironji, and lac)

The purpose of this research was to find out the contribution of forest produce to tribal life and the conservation of forests. To know this in-depth, a focus group discussion was organized among the people of the village. From this group discussion, it emerged that the local people could not depend only on forest produce, as it is impossible to estimate that forest produce would provide the same product every year. The local people tend to take tamarind, and lac, mainly in the forest produce. People's inclination is not visible regarding forest produce like Chironji and Sal seed. Among these forest produce, lac is the most significant forest product of the Jharkhand, and a small processing unit has also been set up

in different districts for the value chain. But, the local people collecting forest produce cannot sell it at the MSP rate. The mediators fix new prices for forest produce. That is why the local people do not see that kind of enthusiasm about forest produce and no change in the way of living.

1.2.2.3 Exploring the nature and extent of Child Labour in Tea Gardens of Nagaon District of Assam

The study “Exploring the nature and extent of Child Labour in Tea Gardens of Nagaon District of Assam” which began in January 2021 is in progress. Based on the objectives, interview schedules and lines of enquiry were made to find both qualitative and quantitative data from the area of research. Though data collection was a challenge during the covid-19 pandemic, investigators managed to get it by using different sources and as such 30 case-stories of children engaged in child labour in tea gardens of Nagaon district, Assam were collected. The sample covered 322 households where child labour is found. The snowball sampling of Non-probability sampling was used to find the households. According to the preliminary study, this year 23% of households in the tea gardens of Nagaon district have child labour. These children are engaged for spraying manure, spraying pesticides, digging drains and canals, sorting tea leaves in the tea factories, etc. The data also indicates that 43% of children work as domestic workers and a few of them work in their own homes as babysitters, taking care of domestic animals, washing and cooking etc., while 21% were engaged as daily wage earners.

1.2.2.4 Impact of COVID 19 in Rural India: A Cross-Sectional Study from 12 States

A research study was initiated by the Jesuit Collective, consisting of Conference Development Office (CDO), Indian Social Institute, Delhi (ISI_Delhi) and Lok Manch (People’s Entitlements) to understand and assess the impact of COVID 19 in rural India, from the perspective of marginalized communities like the Dalits, Adivasis, women and children. The research study was carried out in 12 states, covering 474 villages in 46 districts, from June 2021- January 2022. Data collection was done through Kobo Toolbox software. It is proposed to publish and release the Factsheet and the full report later in the year 2022.

1.2.2.5 Education, the Digital Divide and Covid–19 in Rural India

Since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic and unprecedented school closures, education providers came up with a feasible option of online classes. But it has its own limitations with respect to its scale, scope, and reach. So, a study on ‘Education, the Digital Divide and Covid-19 in Rural India’ was taken up to look on the issue through the prism of underprivileged and downtrodden communities and to be carried out pan India in a number of states through the operational area and coordination of Jesuit Provinces. The data collection is at the final stages and the study is expected to be completed in a few months’

time. It is expected that the findings from this study would be helpful for JEA and associated schools and networks to bring in required changes.

1.2.2.6. Disparities in Access to Education in the Aspirational Districts in Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh

The proposed action research is an NHRC funded research project which will attempt to understand the nuances in addressing the challenges in better access to education in the six Aspirational Districts in Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. This participatory action research using empirical data will identify the possible actionable pathways to accelerate the efforts towards effecting change in ending disparities thereby enhancing access to education. It will also help in identifying the gaps and challenges in delivering quality education in aspirational districts. It will try to assess the implementation of the current educational initiatives and programmes in the six Aspirational Districts under study in Kandhamal and Kalahandi (Odisha), Lohardaga and Chatra (Jharkhand), and Kanker and Korba (Chhattisgarh).

The Action Research Team taking interview with the students and parents in Kalyanpur (Jharkhand).

1.2.2.7 Archival research on Journal of Anthropological Society of Bombay 1886-1936

Dr. Lancy Lobo is engaged in archival research on Journal of Anthropological Society of Bombay 1886-1936. Based on this archival research, the volumes being edited are “Religious Pluralism in India: Ethnographic and Philosophic Evidence” and “Colonial Anthropology in India”.

02. LEGAL AWARENESS & TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Date	Topics/themes	Details
19 July 2021	A lecture on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act	Ravi Sagar was the resource person in a certificate course for the students of Xavier’s Institute of Counseling Psychology conducted by the Center for Safeguarding, Pune. 13 students attended the course.

7 August 2021	A training programme on Protection from Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) Policy	Ravi Sagar conducted a training for the staff of JRS. 16 attended.
From 2 to 4 September 2021	Workshop & training program on “Gender Sensitization, Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students and Redressal of Grievances Technical Institutions”	Ravi Sagar & Bokali Kasho were the resource person for the workshop and training program at XISS, Ranchi organized by the Internal Complaints Committee.
From 27 August 2021 to 16 October 2021	Lectures of laws related to women, children and vulnerable adults	Ravi Sagar & Bokali Kasho gave online lectures to the students of Diploma Course on “counselling and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults” organized jointly by Sophia Counseling Centre and Dept. of psychology and Centre for safeguarding, Pune
24 September 2021	Sensitization Programme Staff of ISI on protection and safeguarding	Ravi Sagar was the Resource Person
9 March 2022	Fundamental Rights & Duties	Ravi Sagar was the resource person at on a two-day workshop “Sanvaad” organized by Caritas India at ISI
30 March 2022	Rights of Prisoners	Ravi Sagar took a session for the volunteers of Prison Ministry India (PMI)

03. PEACE BUILDING

Shanti Sadbhavana Manch is the peace building programme of Indian Social Institute titled "Promoting Peace and Harmony Culture, Consciousness and Healing through Shanti Sadbhavana Manch (Peace and Harmony Students and Youth Movement) through capacity building among the most marginalised and excluded in several states in India.

No.	Date	Program	Place
-----	------	---------	-------

1	5 Nov 2021	Community get-together	Dr. Bheem Rao Ambedkar Hostel, Warisaliganj, Nawada, Bihar
2	5 Nov. 2021	Community get-together	Tekua Chauraha, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh
3	18 Nov 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students common program)	Jatra Tana Bhagat High School, Puggu ghasitoli, Gumla, Jharkhand
4	21 Nov 2021	Community get-together	Village Bela, Kaliga, Gumla, Jharkhand
5	23 Nov 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students common program)	Government High School, Karonda, Gumla, Jharkhand
6	25 Nov 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Government High School, Bajeeetpur, Pakribarawan, Nawada, Bihar
7	30 Nov 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Govt. High School, Korekera, Olmunda, Gumla-Jharkhand
8	9 Dec 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Govt. High School, Sultanpur, Manjour, Nawada, Bihar
9	15 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Shri Durgaji Middle School, Siswa Mahant, Kaseya, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh
10	17 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Govt. Upgraded Middle School, Samsera, Kaliga, Gumla, Jharkhand
11	18 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Baba Bhagelu Krishak Sansthan Middle School, Karondi, Bhaluani, Deoria-Uttar Pradesh
12	20 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Urdu Middle School, Milki, Warisaliganj, Nawada, Bihar
13	21 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Sant Bax Mall Shikshan Sansthan, Tekua, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh
14	24 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Shri Ganesh Datt Mishra Middle School, Tekua, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh
15	26 Dec. 2021	Community get-together	Village Dariapur, Warisaliganj, Nawada, Bihar
16	29 Dec. 2021	Community get-together	Village Mawasa, Kota,

			Rajasthan
17	31 Dec. 2021	Bal Mahotsav (Students Common Program)	Sonia Devi Middle School, Tekua, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh
18	9 Jan. 2022	Community building	Vill.+PO Karonda Litatoli, Dist. Gumla, Jharkhand-835207
19	28 Feb. 2022	Bal Mahotsav	Urdu Middle School, Pakribrawan PO. Pakribrawan, Dist. Nawada State: Bihar Pin code. 805130
20	14 & 15 March 2022	Training of Community Leaders	Astha Meeting Hall, Urja Park, Behind collectorate, Kawardha, Kabeerdham, Chhatisgarh-491995
21	17 March 2022	Bal Mahotsav	Angel Montessori School, PO Lakhnadaun, Dist. Seoni, MP-480886

04. SEMINARS, CONSULTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMMES

4.1 Consultation with Sophia College, Mumbai and Center for Safeguarding, Pune:

Ravi Sagar was part of various consultations took place between the faculty members of Sophia College, Mumbai and Center for Safeguarding Pune, in order to craft a Diploma Course on counselling and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

4.2 Consultations on Safeguarding

Several consultation sessions were held on safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults.

05. COVID RELIEF

Indian Social Institute successfully completed the project “Break the Chain of Covid Pandemic through Community Health Surveillance System”. This project provided emergency relief to 630 villages across 55 Districts in 12 states, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Goa, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. During the 7 months tenure of the project, a Community Health Surveillance System (CHSS) was developed with a network of 70

organisations and 1,070 volunteers and community workers who reached out to 33,603 people across the country with the help of 150 BP monitors, 259 oximeters and 944 thermometers. The relief material distributed included 10,310 dry ration kits, 1,186 nutrition kits and 7,234 healthcare kits. 6,219 Covid-infected people were provided homecare and critical support services. In addition, a massive awareness campaign of COVID appropriate behaviour consisting of leaflets, posters, banners, wall paintings and digital material reached 156,868 people and 31,834 people got vaccinated as a result of our interventions in 12 states.

06. PUBLICATIONS

6.1 Research Related

6.1.1 Books Published

Bara, A.B., Ekka, V., and Kishore, S. (Ed.), (2021). *The Baigas of Sonbhadra*, New Delhi: Indian Social Institute.

Channa, S. and Lobo, L., (ed.). *Religious Pluralism in India: Ethnographic and Philosophic Evidence 1886-1936*. London and New York: Routledge.

Jain, S. (Ed.) (2021) *Critical Essays on Disability Rights Jurisprudence: Combatting Exclusion, Embracing Inclusion*. New Delhi: Bloomsbury.

Lobo, L. and Shah, A.M. (ed.), (2021). *Ethnography of Parsis of India 1886-1936*. London and New York: Routledge

Lobo, L. and Shah, A.M., (ed.) (2021) *Indian Anthropology: Anthropological Discourses in Bombay:1886-1936*, London and New York: Routledge

Sinha, A., Kashyap, F., and Kerketta, S.R. (2021). *Tribal Women in Local Economy*, New Delhi: Indian Social Institute.

Sinha, A. (Ed.), (2021). *Women in Household Economy*, New Delhi: Indian Social Institute.

Xaxa, V. Ekka, V., Bara A.B., Horo, J.P. (eds.) (2021). *India's Indigenous Peoples: A Journey of Self-Reflection on Culture, Society and Sustainability*. New Delhi: Indian Social Institute.

6.1.2 Papers in Edited Books

Ekka, V., (2021). Deconstructing 'Development' from Indigenous Peoples' Perspective, in Vincent Ekka, Ranjit Tigga and Ramya Ranjan Patel (Eds.). *Development with Dignity: A Tribal Perspective*, New Delhi: Indian Social Institute.

_____ (2021). Pandemic and Indigenous Communities, in Virginius Xaxa, Vincent Ekka, Anabel B. Bara and Juhi P. Horo (Eds.) *India's Indigenous People: A Journey of Self Reflection on Culture, Society and Sustainability*, New Delhi: Indian Social Institute.

Sinha, A. (2022) New Insights and Evidences of Tribal Women Participation in Local Economy: Dynamics of Livelihood and Anthropology in Assam, in D. Bhuyan and M.K. Deb (Eds.), *Rural Development in Northeast India*, New Delhi: Mittal Publications.

6.1.3 Papers in Journals/Magazines/Newspapers/Web Portals

Sinha, A. (2021) Empirical Evidences of Tribal Women Participation in Local Economy, *Productivity Journal*, New Delhi: National Productivity Council. January-March, 61(4): 454-462.

6.2 Knowledge Dissemination

6.2.1 Books: In 2021-2022 the following new books were published:

1. *Women in Household Economy* edited by Dr. Archana Sinha
2. *Tribal Women in Local Economy* by Archana Sinha, Furzee Kashyap and Shanta Rani Kerketta
3. *Development with Dignity: A Tribal Perspective* edited by Vincent Ekka, Ranjit Tigga and Ramya Ranjan Patel

6.2.2 Booklets

Centre for Human Rights & Law has revised and reprinted sixteen booklets on Legal education series in English. Two new booklets have been prepared and printed.

1. *Specific Relief Act 1963* by Anju Joseph
2. *GST Act* by Arun Mozhi

6.2.3.1 Booklets translated into Hindi

1. LES - 02 Your Rights If Arrested
2. LES - 12 The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
3. LLS - 13 Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act,
4. LES – 24 The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
5. LES - 28 Laws related to Human Trafficking

6. LES – 33 The Law on Atrocities against Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention & Punishment)
7. LES - 39 FIR
8. LES - 57 Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (amended in 2002)
9. LES - 71 The Indian Trust Act, 1882
10. LES - 74 Right to information Act, 2005
11. LES - 84 National Food Security Act. 2013
12. LES - 85 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
13. LES - 87 Forest Rights
14. LES - 88 Disaster Management Act, 2005
15. LES - 89 The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
16. LES – 93 The Employee’s State Insurance Act 1994

7. Presentations/Lectures/Talks/Training/Workshops/Programmes

7.1 Lectures – Papers presented

Archana Sinha gave a presentation on *“Women Workers and Issues Related to Social Security”*, at a session during an online sensitization workshop on ‘Understanding New Labour Codes in the Context of Women Workers’ on 9 March 2022 on the occasion of International Women’s Day conducted by VVGNNLI, Noida.

_____. Took a session on *“A Sociological Analysis of Delhi”*, during the Delhi Province Apostolic Planning meeting on 14 March, 2022.

Arun Kumar Oraon delivered a lecture on *“Socialization process based on Social Culture”* at the Shanti Sadbhavana Manch Learning and Sharing Workshop on 16-17 Feb 2022 in the Institute’s premises.

_____, lectures on (1) *“Community development & Mobilization Approaches”* (2) *“Logical analysis of the Village situation thought Area Mapping & Crisis Handling situation”* (3) *“Roles & responsibility of Panchayat system & Administrative blocks, Govt. Schemes to link”* (4) *“Understanding the Peace Program as Sustainability Development Goals”* and (5) *“Logical analysis of the Village situation thought Area Mapping & Crisis Handle Situation”* in Samvaad organized by Caritas India on 09 March 2022, in the Institute’s premises.

7.2 Trainings, Workshops and Programmes conducted/participated

7.2.1 International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples Celebrated

The Department of Tribal Studies conducted a three days celebration of 27th International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples from August 7–9, 2021. The overall theme for three days celebration was “Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples and New Social Contract”. In the light of Sustainable Development Goals special themes were emphasized during each day's celebration. In order to promote cooperative systems among tribal communities various good practices of co-operations from across the globe were presented.

7.2.2 National Webinar on Birsa Munda Jayanti Day

A webinar on the Life and Contribution of a Tribal Legendary Veer Birsa Munda was organized on 15 November, 2021. Birsa fought against the tyrannical rule of the colonizers and also the outsiders who indulged in grabbing the land of the tribals. In a very short span of his life Birsa Munda generated a revolution against the oppressors and outsiders and finally this movement garnered support from across tribes in Chotanagpur plateau. The speakers for the occasion were Mr. Mahadeo Munda and Ashok Chaudahri who with their reflection and speech highlighted various facets of life and contribution of Birsa Munda to the fight for tribal identity, autonomy and self-rule. Birsa Munda Jayanti, Nov. 15, 2021

7.2.3 National Webinar on “Covid-19 and Tribal Lifestyle: Impact and Way Forward”

A National Webinar on “Covid-19 and Tribal Lifestyle: Impact and Way Forward” was held on 23 May, 2021 in collaboration with Adivasi Samanvay Manch Bharat. India Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey, the Governor of Chhattisgarh, was the Chief Guest. Several indigenous organisations, professionals, tribal youth, scholars and activists from 19 states participated in the online programme.

7.3 Policy Engagements/Advocacy activities/Legal Aid/Internships

Legal Aid

The CHRL staff has rendered legal aid to those who approached in their need. They also assisted people dealing with cases related to domestic violence, maintenance, minority rights, senior citizens etc. Their legal advice to several people was acknowledged and appreciated by the beneficiaries. Apart from the legal aid to the individuals, voluntary organizations also sought help from CHRL in order to build their capacity in legal compliances. Legal aid also consisted in its awareness programmes, trainings, publication and consultancy.

8. SERVICES PROVIDED

8.1 LIBRARY

8.1.1 Online Service

The Library's online catalogue provides excellent services to search on different titles relating to development issues. The Library has online subscription to the EPW, Magzter, The Hindu Group Magazines, The Caravan Magazine and some SAGE journals.

8.1.2 Library Usage

Apart from new members joining the library and many users, both individual and groups, visiting the library, more than **106** books have been checked out and more than **73** research reports/journals have been consulted.

8.1.3 Journal Section

The journal section of the department received 148 periodicals both national and international. Of these 68 are subscribed journals, 20 are received on exchange basis, 26 are on gratis basis and 34 are received as complimentary copies. The library also subscribes to 9 journals in Hindi. 276 Special articles were downloaded from various sources. 786 articles have been indexed from journals and magazines and distributed to stakeholders. The display of all the journals in the in-house reference section and reading room is an additional attraction for the users. The relevant back –volumes of journals are bound and kept in the library for researchers and library users.

8.2 Department of Publication

The Department of Publication is a hub of information and knowledge to educate the masses by disseminating and promoting the intellectual resources materials of the Institute at the national and international level. The department has attempted various methods to provide services to the customers. In spite of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns the publication services continued without any break. The department made all efforts to disseminate all publications to make use through circulation of the book catalogue and promotion through email, social media, and online portals. New books and booklets were updated on the ISI website. Visitors used our counter sales and information was provided regarding the books, journals and magazines. Books, journals and magazines were also sold through distributors, periodicals agencies & books sellers. During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, soft copies of journals and magazines were distributed to our

valuable subscribers. Similarly, our newsletter *Subalterns* is being circulated online and through social media.
