



**CHAPTER 2**  
**REVIEW OF RELATED**  
**LITERATURE**

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### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

A literature review is a search and evaluation of the different sources of information like books, articles and others relevant to the particular topic of research. It also recapitulates the important matters on the topics already surveyed by different scholars and finds out if any drawback lies in it. Importance of literature review lies in the fact that it gives new interpretation of the old materials. This acts as guidance to the readers and future scholars. It also finds out the present problems related to the research topic and tries to find out a solution to it. It is a bridge between the old and new generation of scholars.

The main purpose of literature review is:-

- Finding out a relationship between the old research already made and the new research being run at present;
- Throwing some light as guidance for the readers as well as future research scholars;
- Identifying new ways to interpret previous studies;
- Resolving contradictions among previous studies, if any;
- Filling up the gaps that exist in the literature;
- Preventing duplication of prior research work;

- Pointing out the need for additional research work in the field (“Communication Studies”).

Literature in the present work has been categorized under four sub-headings. Literature related to information need and information seeking behaviour discusses the information need and information seeking behaviour of different communities. Literature related to community information service shows the importance of community information service for the different communities and how it can help in the socio-economic development of the individuals. Literature related to community study depicts the studies on different tribal communities living in India and particularly in West Bengal. Literature related to Lodha community depicts the literature examined from Sociological, Anthropological, Psychological, Physical, Economic and Political aspects of the Lodha community living in secluded areas in the deep forest as well as in populated areas with other communities.

## **2.2 LITERATURE RELATED TO INFORMATION NEED AND INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR**

- A study revealed that the Toto community members want various kind of information such as non-traditional, housing, non-conventional dresses, pure drinking water, sanitation, natural products and animal husbandry. This study also found that the said community members are illiterate. They like to live in isolate areas and do not want to communicate with the outside world. Most of the members are very poor and disadvantaged in all aspect. They want different socio-economic activities to upgrade their lifestyle (Chakrabarti 167-180).
- Chakrabarti et al. investigated that a small number of Mech tribal community changes their old tribal culture. As a result of lower economic status they are not

able to transform their old tradition totally. Greater numbers of people are illiterate whereas few have higher education. But the study found that they want more information in career development mainly for young generation. Many schemes are provided by the government for improvement of the area but few members have taken the advantage of such schemes (Chakrabarti et al. 66-101).

- Another study highlighted the information need of Mech community of Jalpaiguri district. Authors found that some members of that community gradually ameliorate their social life pattern with advancement of the society. But rest of them are undeveloped and recognized as disadvantaged community (Chakrabarti et al. 62-110).
- A study on Dhimal community found that most of the people are illiterate and female number is higher. They are unaware about health and hygiene. They believe in their traditional treatment system. Though they are members of Schedule Tribe community they don't have adequate knowledge about their benefits and facilities. The recent study highlighted that there is a crisis of proper information. Only a well-designed information service facility may elevate their life pattern and their socio-economic condition (Chakrabarti et al. 56-76).
- Lahiri in an article wrote about the Garo tribal farmers in Garo hills who can increase their agricultural production if they get right information from the right source at the right time of cultivation. The study has been conducted in two districts of Garo hills by interviewing 150 people selected through proportionate random sampling. The study adopted different socio-economic and socio-psychological variables to measure the increase in agricultural production. The study revealed that information seeking behaviour of Garo farmers is traditional but with the increase in educational status, farmer's attitudes have changed

significantly in favour of information seeking behaviour to bring about development in agriculture (Lahiri 226-236).

- Another study stated that disadvantaged rural communities are backward. They have no proper education and information. The study showed that higher education of schedule caste and schedule tribes are not satisfactory. They are deprived from the development and upliftment of their present status because of non-availability of proper information. The study suggested that Government(s) should assure the constitutional rights and facilities for such communities without any biasness. The Government(s) should take proper decision and planning for those deprived community. Authors gave importance on library which is accelerating the education system. They opined that a well-planned library system can help such community to acquire basic education and disseminate required information for overall development of such communities (Seth and Parida 1-8).
- A study revealed that the information need and the seeking behaviour mainly depend on educational background of the user. The author agreed that the poverty, illiteracy, diseases, ignorance are the influential factors which control the information need process of a user. The study also found that most of the people use informal information networks instead of extension workers and library system. They believed that the collected information from the informal networks is very reliable and authentic. The information seekers mainly use printed materials and updated digital resources. Due to lack of proper training and knowledge they are not able to use digital resources. Overall it is clearly recognized that the information needs and seeking behaviour of the users are largely influenced by their educational background (Dutta 44-51).

- A study revealed that Rabhas are leading their life below standard when compared to the others due to the lack of information. They discovered that main hindrance of their development is illiteracy. Besides that they are unaware about health, hygiene, library facility. They need proper information service to upgrade themselves and for developing their socio-economic condition (Halder et al. 16-33).
- Another study focused that information is very essential for improvement of any community. They discussed about the information needs of Patial community at Coochbehar district. They identified that this community is facing different problems with the speedy evolution of the society. The authors highlighted that this community has an information gap. Educational and financial information is needed by this community for proper development (Biswas et al. 53-90).
- A case study showed that the farmers are mainly small scale farmers and most of them are illiterate. The study found that they mainly want information on seeds, crop production and on insecticides, loan facility, harvesting methods etc. It is also recorded that the farmers follow fellow farmers to gather information. They do not use radio as an information source. The said study showed that most of them are illiterate. Due to high illiteracy rate, inadequate contact of extension officials, negative attitude of the Govt. officials, unavailability of information centres, the farmers are not able to access agricultural information to satisfy their need (Jalaja and Kala 7-12).
- An article recorded the health seeking behaviour of the tribal women in Villupuram district. Authors pointed out that the tribal women are the most disadvantaged people in health status. They cannot get appropriate health information and adequate, reasonable health services. The main reason of health

related problems are inadequate nutrition and speedy increase of population. Communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS spread easily and it is the cause of mortality and morbidity among the children. They have low immunity to diseases than the adults. The maternal mortality is high due to toxemia, placental disorder and haemorrhage. They do not have sufficient water supply. Garbage disposal and sanitation are also responsible for illness (Jayaprakash and Saravanan 2-37).

- Kamila in another study stated that illiteracy and ignorance is the main hindrance to express the information needs of Santals. Sometimes they wanted more information which fulfil their needs properly. They are living in isolated areas. They demanded information to spend their lives in better way. But the massive numbers of community members are under privileged. They belong to the economically backward community. They needed various type of information to raise their quality of living and also to develop socio-economic condition (Kamila 509-523).
- Mahapatra highlighted the information need and seeking behaviour of farmers in Odisha. The farmers of the said region want modern techniques to improve their farming and agricultural process. They also want various kind of information related to agriculture such as weed control, soil erosion and fertilization, labour shortage, farm credit, agricultural loans, Government schemes etc. Greater numbers of farmers want to acquire agricultural knowledge. They are interested to collect information from printed sources, television and forum. But sometimes they do not identify what are their actual needs which create a problematic situation from information dissemination point of view. They also want a village library with rich collection of agricultural resources which satisfy their needs (Mahapatra 35-41).

- Another article showed the importance to identify the actual information need to satisfy the user's query. The study highlighted that the information seeking behaviour of the rural user which comprises of students, teachers, farmers and businessmen is influenced by many factors. In their study they found that most of the people want employment related information. They mainly use television and newspaper as important sources of information. Due to lack of proper knowledge some of them are not able to access proper information. This study also highlighted that they use public library regularly. According to the authors it is very important to introduce library in every village to improve the information services in rural areas (Sinha and Das).
- Upadhyay et al. while working on information need and information seeking behaviour stressed the importance of this topic for the development of India. They focused that at least a basic minimum information should be available to the village community for any type of development, be it social, economic, cultural (Upadhyay et al.).
- Another study revealed that greater number of users visited library once a week and they consult periodicals to update their knowledge and also read Tamil dailies. They also need internet facility and digital collection. Some users cannot locate their required books in the shelves (Subramanian et al. 116-125).
- Another study stated that the students of Vocational Higher Secondary School use library for seminar preparation, assignments, class works, projects and some of them for increasing their knowledge base. But it is also understood that the present library services are not enough to satisfy their needs. Students are getting facilities to use modern technologies and they are not aware of library facilities. It is needed



to modify the library planning so that every user can be able to use library services to the maximum (Soman and Sudhier 111-117).

- Another paper tried to find out the information seeking behaviour of college students of the Jalpaiguri district and also tried to find out the information sources mostly used by them. It is identified that they mainly use informal channels and preferred books as an information source. This study also found that most of the students are coming to the library for borrowing books, consulting old question papers, reading newspaper. They also use human sources, reference books, internet services, journals. This study also revealed that most of the students are not aware of using catalogue. They do not use library regularly. They use library only for study purpose and their main objective is to improve general awareness (Roy 112-120).
- Another literature recorded that most of the user visited library for different purposes such as preparing for competitive exams, reading newspaper, consulting e-books, e-journals, browsing internet, taking reference services etc. They mainly want most updated information. They depend on books and primary sources of information. But lack of availability of required materials creates a major problem in information seeking (Yaranal and Ramesha 43-48).
- Kamila stated that information need is a very difficult term to define. It is mainly a cognitive process. But identification of information need is very strenuous and problematic. It is very essential to find out the definite need of the information seekers and also spot out the people who need it most. CIS is the best service which strengthens the community by providing information. He suggests making a community profile to understand the community and also their needs for effective use of CIS. Information service should include formal channels and

informal ways for information exchange. He also described the importance of public library to provide effective CIS. But he expressed that information cannot change the situation, knowledge is the ultimate power if it is used effectively (Kamila 94-105).

- A study illustrated how fear prevents cancer patients from seeking information. It is important to differentiate between patients who do not seek further information about their condition because they are frightened of the potential content and those who do not seek further information because they are reluctant to ask for more details, even when they do want them. The challenge for health professionals is to distinguish when patients want more detailed information, and the onus lies on them to provide it. It may be summarised that many of the complexities that are attempted to convey; in particular, the way information requirements fluctuate during the course of patients' experience of cancer in accordance with individuals' orientations towards faith, hope, and charity (Fleissig et al. 632-633).
- The study by Ni et al. identified the prevalence of disability, the major types of disabilities, employment status, the needs and services received, and community responsiveness and barriers to Native Americans with disabilities. The authors conducted screening interviews to identify tribal members with disabilities and community needs (Ni 1-27).
- Another study identified and explored difficulties parents experience with acute illness in young children and the information they seek to help them. The study revealed that both lack of information and experiences of interactions with health professionals disempower parents trying to understand acute illness in their children. It was a qualitative exploration of the experiences of a largely disadvantaged, white English speaking group of parents (Kai).

- A report by Cascadia Consulting Group in partnership with the Port Gamble S’Klallam tribe and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission summarized results from an online survey administered in February 2016 to identify high-priority climate science research needs among Pacific Northwest tribes. The survey presented tribes to articulate their highest priority information needs, ultimately to be conveyed to regional climate researchers, scientists, and others studying these issues (Climate Science Information Needs 1-10).
- A study of Kattunayakan of South and North Arcot district, Tamilnadu: a tribe in transition aimed on focusing on their utilisation of medicinal plants and associated indigenous knowledge and to document the indigenous knowledge and health seeking behavior. Plants and their branches are used to treat different ailments ranging from diseases. The diverse patterns of use of different medicinal plant parts show the considerable indigenous knowledge of kattunayakans. Kattunayakans use a variety of plant products like leaves, barks, roots, fruits and other in different combination to cure various diseases. They use two or more remedies for the same disease indicating that one is superior to the other. However with the changing economic condition the kattunayakan are gradually accepting modern health care systems (Amuthavalluvan and Devarapalli 18-23).
- A Case Study in Sundargarh District of Odisha to see Health Seeking Behaviour among the Tribals is discussed by Saswat Kumar Pradhan. The case studies and its observations is shown for the factors like age, sex, education of the patient, types of illness, severity of diseases, health care facility, beliefs regarding the cause of diseases and previous experiences and effects for selection of different ways of treatment. It is revealed that villager’s responses to illness behaviour is guided and conditioned by their culture (Pradhan 1-57).

- A review by Hemminger et al. to quantify the transition to electronic communication in information-seeking behaviour of academic scientists is presented. The kind of interaction between scientists at a large research university with published information has been described. The authors discovered an increased reliance on electronic publications and a shift to use of the library as place, rather than depository (Hemminger et al. 2205-2225).
- A Study on the information-seeking practices of hospital staff and the impact of hospital libraries on effective information-seeking is presented by Kostagiolas et al. Author has evaluated the importance and shortcomings of the hospital library in relation to its user base. The analysis of the study showed the obstacle faced for the information seeking challenges faced by professionals and give suggestions for librarians. There is no further detail about implementing certain programs into the hospital library workflow by the authors. The study showed the gaps in education and opportunities for training on efficient information seeking in the hospital. New technology allows for remote training as well as more dynamic in-person instruction (Kostagiolas et al. 33-45).
- E. G. Summers et al. investigated the relationship between education position and (1) purposes in seeking information, and (2) sources of information used. To make it a larger study, questionnaire was distributed to public school educators selected at random in British Columbia, and respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they sought information. It has been revealed that advances in the understanding information behaviour must go beyond description and explanation in the formulation of predictive models embracing the complexity phenomenon. In the age of information, that storehouse of resources will continue to expand and it is probable that such resources will become more readily available through

improved delivery systems. The need for better practical and theoretical understanding of user needs and behaviour is crucial if the wealth of information available is to be used to the best advantage of education (Summers et al. 121-138).

- Health seeking behaviour is one of the important factors in health management studies, but very often it has been ignored while providing health facilities to people at urban health centre Dharavi, Mumbai. The study highlighted health seeking behaviour among attendees at urban health centre, Dharavi and studied the factors affecting their health seeking behaviour. Suggestions for better health care delivery have been nicely presented in the article (Patil et al. 1856-1861).
- Hypertrophy disease and health information seeking behavior related to literacy among adult and older people is the subject of study in an article by Deep et al. There is lack of health information seeking behaviour of patients with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia. Therefore the study was designed with the objectives of assessing health information seeking behaviour and the effect of literacy. It has been mentioned that the need for public awareness program targeting the younger male population is required so that early detection and treatment can be offered (Deep et al. 213-216).
- An analysis for better understanding of music information seeking behaviour in a real life situation and to create a taxonomy relating to this behaviour to facilitate better comparison of music information retrieval studies in the future has been presented by Lee. The study affirmed a need for systems that can combine tasks and/or consolidate the results of separate tasks for users. The author draws on existing work on information retrieval while clearly making the case for the

unique challenges faced by individuals working to facilitate user access to the rich body of music information objects in existence (Lee 1025-1045).

- In an article, the role of information i.e., knowledge is focused for all-round development of a community. When the society or community is more informed it is more advanced and when it is less informed then the society is deprived of the latest development in all respect. Library is one of the main sources of information. This article tries to identify the information needs of the Lodhas, one of the backward tribes. To make their statement clear they conducted field survey of two mouzas i.e., Baghmari of Salboni block under Medinipur Sadar Sub-division and Manikpur of Daspur I block under Ghatal Sub-division. The findings revealed the total population of Baghmari and Manikpur mouza, their male-female percentage, their health related information, literacy rate, types of employment related information and different sources of information. Their study revealed that there is a wide gap between information dispatched and information received. So they conclude that the Lodha people require information regarding education and employment and insist on providing such information both by the NGOs and Government (Mallik and Bhattacharyya Sahu 22-38).

### **2.3 LITERATURE RELATED TO COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE**

- Community Information Service was coined in USA and UK during the Second World War to cope up with the wartime problems. The services mainly concerned with it provide different kinds of information like employment, training, resettlement, evacuation, food, education, legal help, missing relatives etc. (Bunch).
- An article said that CIS is very important for the community where formal channels are unavailable or inappropriate or the member of the community

unaware about their rights and privileges. The study suggested that CIS is very important for socio-economic development of those under privileged community. The society cannot achieve its ultimate success without proper development of every section of the society (Chakrabarti 279-291).

- Another title emphasized on information literacy rather than literacy. The article stated that information can change the lives of homeless poor people and with the help of it turn them into well-informed citizens. Information is able to change their socio-economic conditions. CIS is needed by such under privileged community to make effective use of available resources around them and through it their overall growth and development can be confirmed (Bakshi Ghosh 201-211).
- Another literature found that the community use documentary and non-documentary sources of information for enriching themselves. It is also highlighted that information seeking behaviour arises from different occupational background. It is very important to establish a network of community information centres across the country which facilitates to investigate the information need and which can easily deliver right information to the right user at the right time (Kumar and Biradar 387-398).
- Satpathy said that community information is the survival and growth related information which is required by the community to avail their socio-economic growth and to solve their day to day problems (Satpathy).
- In another article Kamila and Biswas highlighted the problems associated with information needs in general and the community information services in particular. They discussed the position of public libraries in the rural sector and the services they can provide to the people. They reminded the responsibilities of the public libraries to be performed with Village, Panchayats and NGOs for their

development by providing information service to them at proper time and place (Kamila and Biswas 279-288).

- An article proclaimed that Communication Information Centres are mainly designed to serve different categories of people by providing real time information about various different aspects like e-commerce, e-learning, e-governance, citizen's rights, duties, different government(s) schemes etc. It suggested that it is essential to provide proper education, awareness, training through CIS and also by the different information providers (Gupta and Kaur 144-159).
- A study revealed that everyone needs health information. But unfortunately everyone does not have the correct information. Authors said that library professionals disseminate needed information to the community. They should work together with the community partners for overall development of a community (Nancy and Mary 397-410).
- Another study stated that information is key factor for socio-economic development. All the community members should access information to defend their lives. According to them public library should facilitate the community member by providing needed information what they want. They also realized that socio-economic progress of a country mainly stands on information organization and distribution. The study remarked that Public library should collect, organize, propagate information to assist the users to update their knowledge and it should also store information for future use. The library should collect, organise and disburse information on agriculture, education, finance, health and many different fields which can lead a community to its overall development (Lamani et al. 197-200).



- Kamila and Biswas described the role of public libraries as community information centre. At first they focused on the importance of public library for the development of people at large. Next they enumerated the hindrances for library development on the factors like **environmental constraints, administrative constraints and manpower constraints**. They believed that constraints must be removed for free flow of information to the community. This article also focused on the components to be included in the user education programme. Finally a set of recommendations have been suggested for the future libraries as provider of community services (Kamila and Biswas 3-10).

#### **2.4 LITERATURE RELATED TO COMMUNITY STUDIES**

- Baskey gave a clear picture of ten (10) tribal communities of West Bengal. The communities are Lodha, Kheria, Savara, Bhumij, Ho, Birhor, Munda, Mahali, Santal and Kora. The author described in details the lifestyle, customs and rituals, god and goddess, festivals and worship, profession, economic condition, housing and village organisation of these ten (10) Austric Group of tribal people. The list of tribal communities of different states and their population according to 1981 census is depicted in the book. It also described different tribal communities living in different parts of the districts of West Bengal showing number of male and female population district wise (Baskey 1-247).
- The tribal community in India mainly depend on hunting, fishing, forest good collection and agriculture and they are recognized as primitive tribal group. They live in villages. They do not have adequate information for survival. Their information need can be pointed out from the occupational pattern, social and cultural life. The members of such communities suffer from nutritional deficiency and ill health because of improper food and drinking habits. They need

information for the overall development of the community with the advancement of the society. The authors discussed about the different information needs and the sources from which the people in the community collect information. They focused on the significance of community information services and mentioned that rural library is appropriate tool to deliver community services (Chakraborty and Basu 24-32).

- A study identified that the Santal and Munda tribes of Jhargram suffered from various diseases like hypertension, leprosy, tumours, gastric ulcer etc. They preferred traditional herbal medicine. But most of the families go to the hospital and primary health units for treatment. Some of them also consult doctors in private clinics in Jhargram. The study revealed that the treatment system of the community varies from each other which are not in uniform pattern (Panda and Majumdar 64-75).
- An article stated that Santal is one of the largest communities among all. They are mainly found in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar. The current study denoted that the missionaries played a big role for upliftment of the community. They established many schools for Santal education and they delivered primary education through well trained teachers. They also provide proper medical treatment to the underprivileged and physically weak people. They tried to promote elementary education not only for boys but also for girls of that community (De 439-448).
- An article identified that mass awareness is necessary for proper socio, economic and cultural improvement of the schedule tribe community. Females of the said community are illiterate. People in the community believe in indigenous medicine and their main occupation is agriculture. They also get involved as day labour,

land less agricultural labours etc. for earning money. Men and women equally participated in their administrative system. But the women do not have the right of land. Single unmarried women and widows take care of their family land just like a caretaker but not as owner (Mitra and Mitra 73-90).

- Ray recorded that Santal parents are unaware about education. But the children are interested to take education. They are facing many problems in their day to day life due to deficiency of appropriate education and information. They are enjoying together by dancing, singing, gossiping, fishing etc. They are bored with the present day formal education. They use traditional information dissemination process but they fail to perceive the value and long term benefit of information. They believe in their traditional information system. The classical form of communication and socio-economic development has propagated through generations. They have village council and council executives. They direct different rites and rituals of Santals and perform as communication agents. They also use modern communication techniques available (Ray 357-363).
- Sarkar identified the socio-economic condition and education of Toto community. He found that their socio-economic condition varies because of different factors. The community is unable to take higher education. The said community lives below poverty line. Overall socio-economic condition and education is poor. Their main occupation is cultivation. They are also involved in labour work where few numbers of people are associated with service and small business in their locality. The community members are isolated from the advancement of the modern society. They are not accustomed with societal development. In a single word they come under the disadvantaged group of the society. Author said that the

Government(s) should undertake proper planning and implement developmental policies for upgradation of the socio-economic status of the tribals (Sarkar 1-8).

- Another study expressed the socio-economic condition of Dhimal community and role of Gram Panchayat in the advancement process. The said local government reorganizes the existing health care unit, mobilise transportation facilities especially for patients to send them to doctor's chamber or hospital, make anganwadi centres, arrange extensive public campaigns, arrange registration of death, birth, marriage etc. But inadequate economic information, financial assistance, employment resources, control over the knowledge power remain unprivileged section of the society (Karan 147-155).
- A study reflected the health status of Toto, Santal, Savara and Lodha communities. The article showed that cultivation was the main occupation of these communities. The sample of this study was taken from the districts of Jalpaiguri and Purulia. This article also used socio-economic variables and their empirical measurement like age, sex, education, family education status, occupation, land holding, income, house type, family size and marital status. The article also gave a detailed figure of socio-economic parameters on health status of the above noted four tribes. This article came to the following conclusion (i) maximum Savara respondents were landless and involved in labour class. Maximum Savara respondents were illiterate due to their poor economic condition (ii) the Santal tribe had a substantial amount of land and their economic condition was better off (iii) the Lodhas had maximum dry land near the forest and they could not live on cultivation alone. Still literacy rate among the Lodhas was higher (iv) the Toto tribe mainly living in the hilly place of Jalpaiguri near Bhutan border was economically poor and could not subsist on agriculture alone and worked as porter

of wood, oranges and apples from the hilly places to the planes. The Toto tribe was a diminishing population (Dhargupta et al. 31-38).

- Mallick related tribal development with grass root democracy and the impact of development programmes on their life situation. The study explored the less developed area in the field of tribal development. It also provided planners and administrators with information about rural power structure and the place of tribal people in it, their requirements and basic needs. This study also revealed the basic obstacles in the fulfilment of developmental programmes. The author selected Jamalpur block in the district of Burdwan. In this block tribal population is 9% of the total tribal population of the district and 15% of the total population of the block. Santals are the major tribes and the other two tribes are Kora and Oraon. The objectives of the study was to determine the development in respect of power structure of the tribal community, how they are influenced by development programmes in their life situation social, political and economic and how this tribal developmental planning help to bring about integration of the tribals with their non-tribal neighbours. He also gave a table showing socio-economic profiles of the tribes in the district and the block. Then in different chapters details of tribal developmental programmes and life situation of the tribals are depicted. The study also described participation of the tribals in developmental programmes and empowerment of tribals. The study depicted different development indicators and the rituals and religious beliefs of the tribals there. Finally, the author concludes that over centuries the tribals have been subjected to poverty, malnutrition, ill treatment and marginalization as a result of deprivation of the benefits of planning, economic growth and social development. No serious attempt was made

by planners and administrators and politicians for their advancement and integration with the mainstream (Mallick 1-266).

- Another study focused that tribals of Jamalpur block are mainly associated with agriculture. They are also involved in industrial and agricultural labours, animal husbandry, fishing, trade etc. but still remain socially and economically backward. The development programmes cannot be executed because of the absence of proper leadership. It is found that the sustainable development of tribal population depended on self-development activities. The community members are mainly illiterate and lived below poverty level. They are landless. The community members only follow their leader's decisions instead of their self-decision. They have a small land which is not helpful to enhance their economy. In comparison to the non-tribal community the socio-economic condition of the tribal communities remain low. Some developmental programmes such as land distribution, resettlement, housing loan, extension of employment have a very little impact on the problems faced by the tribal community. The study highlighted the information need and without specific information it is not possible to uplift their status (Mallick 1053-1084).
- Murdia focused that in spite of various land laws in different states the actual benefit derived by the SC and ST community is relatively very small. This study showed that 29.11% in India and 44% in West Bengal tribal household possess land less than 2.4 acres of land. This study also reflected not much on landlessness but rather comparatively low land holdings (Murdia 1204-1214).
- An article revealed that landlessness among SC and ST is pronounced in India. The study also showed that in spite of initiatives in policy measures by the Government there has not been any substantial improvement. As a result most of

these people depend on working as agricultural labourers or sharecroppers on others land (Mohanty 3857-3868).

- In another article D. K. Singharoy is worried about the economic deprivation of the tribal peasantry in the state of West Bengal. He conducted studies in the three villages of West Bengal, Khanpur in Balurghat block of Dakshin Dinajpur district, Shalgheria in Gopiballavpur block of Paschim Medinipur district and Sabdullajot of Naxalbari block in Darjeeling district. As per NSSO data 1992, 14.5% of tribal population are landless 70.65% are marginal and 11.3% are small cultivators. Thus 96.5% of tribal population of the state are either landless or marginal farmer or small cultivators. This article showed that the entire tribal household in the three villages surveyed, 50% of Sabdollajore, 59% of Khanpur and 90% of Shalgheria have been given either patta land, ROR (Record of Rights) as sharecroppers or both. But in spite of that, it has not affected the economic life of the tribal family of the three villages (Singharoy 29-42).
- An article stated that scheduled tribes are always geographically and socially segregated section in India. They are culturally and economically negligible and well known as “Backward”. Most of the tribal are illiterate. They cannot adopt the new economic opportunities because of illiteracy and they are not able to familiarize easily with the speedy development of the society (Preet 29-38).
- Mishra and Sharma noted that higher mortality rate is mainly found within the tribal population due to infectious diseases caused by malnutrition. In tribal community of Odisha malaria is one of the biggest issues in health problem. Most of the tribal people live in malaria prone area in Odisha. They have various kinds of deficiency diseases such as - diarrhoea, anaemia, respiratory infections etc. Authors also found here new communicable disease like HIV/AIDS. But the tribal

people have some misconceptions about health and health services. The study also reported that this kind of diseases mainly occurred because of inadequate safe drinking water, poor environmental hygiene, improper disposal of human extracts etc. According to the authors poor socio-economic condition, low literacy rate, lack of proper access to medical facilities, lack of specific information are mainly responsible for this type of incident. The study revealed that most of the adults are literate. But they have no proper information on family planning. They collect information from neighbours for birth control and family planning. They are not concerned about the information of health and hygiene. Most of the members of that community depend on agriculture. They want occupational training so they take part in other profession through which they increase their earning. This study revealed that many people collect information from electronic media. The study revealed that community members are still unaware of government declared developmental programmes. They use unhygienic sanitary system and many of them are unemployed. Proper information is required to ameliorate the societal, educational and economic condition of the community (Mishra and Sharma 1-16).

- Suresh and Nath revealed about telemedicine centres in remote tribal hilly area of Uttarakhand. They mentioned about ISRO which established village resource centres all over India in 2010 which are regulated by NGOs. They highlighted the task of Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust which provides primary health care for tribal community residing at hilly areas through village resource centre. They found that it helped the tribal community to consult health related problems with doctors through teleconferencing which are facilitating the community members. But it is found that due to some technical problems, lack of technical staff, lack of patients' privacy, high cost of instruments, power failure this system faces a big



challenge. They suggested arranging general awareness programmes and infrastructure development to overcome those challenges (Suresh and Nath 372-380).

- Swamy stated that the literacy and education is needed for any societal development. Author opined that equal education is more powerful problem solving mechanism. It is found that the schedule tribes in India face many problems in attaining education. The literacy rate within schedule tribe in India is very low. The female literacy rate is very lower in comparison to total literacy rate. He found that huge gap between traditionally disadvantaged group and advantaged group because of inadequate education, knowledge and skill. The study found that the Constitution of India provides the rights and provisions for schedule tribe education but in reality they are deprived from higher education. It is identified that the shortcomings of primary education, poverty and lack of economical resource in the family are mainly responsible for this incident. They mainly involve in agriculture and labour work for earning money. The study highlighted the school dropout rate of children and it is seen that they often enrol their name for elementary education. Parents have no interest to invest in schooling. Poverty, insufficient numbers of school, lack of resource in school and tribal language create problematic situation in elementary education. Another reason is social adjustment and discrimination among the upper caste and lower caste children. According to the author reservation in higher education is not able to solve such problems alone. It is needed to promote education for such communities. The overall improvement of any community mainly depends on proper education and financial condition as stated by the author in the present study (Swamy 3-6).

- Another literature reported that after a long period of independence most of the tribal children are deprived from the elementary education till day. There are lots of dropout students without completing elementary education. According to authors education is essential for overall development of any community. The study identified some massive problems which influence the tribal education, like location of the tribal village, financial condition, guardian's attitude, communication language, teaching-learning materials, physical condition of primary schools, scholarships, inadequate inspection etc. They proposed to prepare a tribal specific planning for elementary education. It is needed to prepare a specific planning for stable earning. Present investigation pointed out that the public private partnership needed to minimize such problems and another most important thing is to promote education for the indigenous tribal groups (Koley and Chandra 10-20).

## **2.5 LITERATURE RELATED TO LODHA COMMUNITY**

- Bhowmick presented a detailed socio-economic study of Lodha community in the perspective of Paschim Medinipur district. The book described the villages and domicile of Lodha population, age and sex group, their family size, marital condition, literacy and others. It also gave detailed account of their economic life, occupation, land holding, cattle and domestic animals, items of expenditure, clothing and treatment of the diseases. This book also cited different clans of Lodha community, their rituals at birth and death, gods and goddesses, worship, festivals, recreational life. At the end of this book author gave a statement about the crime and criminal activities of different gangs of this community and the present condition of the upliftment programmes for them (Bhowmick 1-318).

- Mahasveta Devi mentioned in an article that Lodhas are mainly concentrated in the districts of Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram (mainly Nayagram block) and adjoining Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. Kheria tribals of West Bengal are mainly concentrated in the district of Purulia and Ranibandh block of Bankura district and Banspahari area of Binpur II block under Jhargram district. Lodha population is more than the Kheria population. She also highlighted the activities of '*Lodha-Savara Samaj Kalyan Samiti*' and a Magazine entitled '*Bartika*' in which the articles written by Lodha and Santal people were published. She also mentioned the demands of these people:- (1) judicial enquiry into the killing of 35 Lodhas in Patina, Khejurkuti, Shakpara, Ganua, Nunnunigerya, Saro, Baghghanpa and Chakua (2) legal punishment for the receivers of stolen goods and the people who engaged Lodhas in criminal activities (3) employment of educated Lodha boys and girls (4) compensation of either employment or cultivable land to the members of the families affected by killing and slaughtering (5) residential schools for Lodha community (6) sufficient allotment of land to landless Lodhas free from all disputes (7) demand for making Lodha community self-supporting through cottage industries, fishery, goat keeping, piggery, poultry etc. on co-operative basis (8) making the educated Lodhas in-charge of funds allotted for their development and lastly (9) making the Lodhas live like human beings free from dungeon they have been confined to even after so many years of independence. At the end of the article the author expressed her dissatisfaction for non-implementation of the above demands (Mahasveta Devi 1467-1469).
- In another article Mahasveta Devi appealed to contribute to the Secretary, 'Paschimbanga Kheria Savar Kalyan Samiti', Purulia District, and West Bengal for a Kheria Savar Sammelan and the meeting of the 'Tribal Unity Forum' on a

big scale. She expected a gathering of about 10000 tribals and non-tribals to attend the meeting with an expected expenditure of rupees 50000 for two days meeting. In this connection she again reminded that the Lodha Savars of Paschim Medinipur and Kheria Savars of Purulia once notified as criminal tribes are eventually declared as denotified tribes in the decade of fifties. She stated that she worked with the Lodhas since 1983. Paschim Banga Kheria Savar Kalyan Samiti was formed and registered in 1989. This Samiti does not accept any foreign funds and majority members of this Samiti belonged to this tribal group. She also mentioned that under the guidance of the Samiti the Kheria's, today are engaged in various economic activities like planting trees, digging irrigation-cum drinking water wells, making bricks and beautiful handicraft products which are sold in Calcutta. They also run different projects with funds received from the Government of India (Mahasveta Devi 2206).

- Two well-presented article on the survival of Lodha by Mahasveta Devi has made great impact to the reader. Illiteracy, unemployment, hatred from upper class society, negligence from Government has made them to decrease in number. The position of the Lodha in West Bengal is best understood from the 'why' and 'how' of some Lodha killings. Author noted that Lodhas want to change the story, they want it to be written anew. Now the chances of survival of the tribe depend much more upon themselves and, of course, upon the goodwill of the stronger tribes (Mahasveta Devi 947-949).
- Mahasveta Devi traced the mythological lineage of the Lodha community mentioning the story of Fullara and Kalketu, an episode of Mangalkavyas and the story of Lord Jagannath. Then the article described the neglected conditions of the Lodha people especially in Jhargram sub-divisions. The author also mentioned the

deplorable condition of Lodha ashram hostel at Chaksahapur under Debra Police Station. She also mentioned Lodha villages in Anchals no. 7 and 8 of Lalgarh block and the precarious living condition of the poor Lodhas there. She stated that the Lodhas are desperate now to find a way to survive and illiteracy is the first curse on this way. She mentioned some promising Lodha youths like Prahlad Bhakta, Chuni Kotal and others and inspired them to write about the condition of their community. At the end of this article she inspired these people to be united with other major tribal groups like the Santals, Munda and the Oraon to get sanction of big money projects for their long-term development (Mahasveta Devi 997-998).

- Bhakta, himself belonged to Lodha tribe. His book gave a detailed account about the origin of the Lodha community, their condition during British period and after independence. He mentioned the places of Paschim Medinipur district where Lodha people live. This book described the natural environment of Lodha villages, their population, families and clan and features of their characters. This book also described the social organisation including marriage system, Gods and Goddess, festivals, religious, customs and rituals. The book also highlighted the economic conditions, their profession, education and change in their mentality at the present time (Bhakta 1-176).
- An article highlighted that Lodha community is a problem ridden community but their problems have not been studied by the administration. They live below poverty line. Now a days different Government sectors, NGOs and some voluntary organizations started various activities to elevate the social status of Lodhas. But such groups do not have any social scientists or anthropologists to study the community and identify their basic needs (Bhowmik 6-8).

- A study said that major sources of income of the tribes of West Bengal is agriculture and some other sources are goat-rearing, day labour, working in road construction, forest good collection. They also engage themselves in hunting and fishing. Some tribes also work in industries as unskilled labour. Lodhas are traditionally a gathering-hunting tribe. They gather small forest products. The problems of tribal community are divided into five facets-economic, education, health-hygiene, sanitation and communication (Bhowmik 1-19).
- Another study revealed the short description of herbal remedies of Lodha community. The study explained that they mainly use herbal medicine to cure patients from diseases. They collect plants from the forest and prepare medicine. The older Lodha people have a vast knowledge of herbal medicine. They are the medicinal sources of information of Lodha community (Pal and Jain 464-470).
- Tribhuwan and Tribhuwan stated in their book that Lodhas are basically forest dwellers and their economy is based on food collection and hunting. They are recognized as “Primitive Tribal Group”. They have distinct rituals and deities but they also worship some Hindu goddess such as “*Sitala*”, “*Chandi*”, “*Manasa*”. They perform dances, music, songs for their recreational purposes. But all the community members participated in dances in communal festivals and in individual functions. But the young Lodhas are not much interested in maintaining their cultural heritage. Authors also found that Government does not take any initiative to sustain the tribal culture (Tribhuwan and Tribhuwan).
- An article investigated that Lodhas are characterized as “Criminal Tribe” since British Administration but after independence Government of India re-designated them as “Primitive Tribal Group” who come under Schedule Tribes category and

provided them with some extra privileges for their economical and societal development (Chaudhuri and Sen Chaudhuri).

- Bisai explained the nutritional status of the Lodha children among lower age groups is very critical and he suggested initiating some actions to upgrade the present condition (Bisai et al. 203-206).
- A study focused that traditionally Lodhas are the forest dwellers but recently they started cultivation. Some of them have their own land for cultivation and others engage themselves as agricultural labour. They are also attached with hunting, fishing and forest goods collection. Mother's education has played a big role on the nutritional status of the Lodha children. The study explained that it is very common that the youngest child of a family is deprived from optimum nutrition due to presence of more siblings in a family. This study also exposed that the Lodha preschool children are suffering from nutritional stress which causes various type of diseases (Bisai et al. 13-21).
- A study stated that Lodha population mainly concentrate on various works and not only their traditional work. The male population engage themselves in digging of pond, canal and factory works etc. The study pointed out that females are interested in the traditional work than male. But they also participate in digging, constructional work, housemaids' etc. like non-traditional works (Sanyal Mukherjee 238-241).
- De and Kundu described the consumption of alcohol by the Lodhas at Jhargram. The Lodhas, a primitive tribe consumes alcohol as a tradition of their society. They generally use alcohol during festivals, marriages and fairs. The study showed the frequency and percentage of alcohol consumption among the Lodha male and female groups. It is shown that about 83% of the Lodha males and about

48% of females above 18 years consume alcohol. The main alcohol they consume are *Handia* prepared with boiled rice mixed with *Bakhar*, the roots of some plants readily available in the forest. They also consume *Mahul* prepared from the flowers of Mahua plant mixed with *bakhar* and molasses. The study mentioned that these people spend half of their earning for liquor consumption and the remaining half for food, clothing and medicine. Alcohol addiction affects their health adversely and also creates family problems. Many social agencies tried to make them conscious about the ill effects of alcoholism but they do not pay heed to their advice. They argued that they require alcohol to entertain guests during marriages, religious and social festivals. They also require alcohol after day long hard labour to get rid of tiredness. The authors concluded that though total abolition of alcohol drinking is not possible, attempt may be made to make them aware to reduce alcohol consumption (De and Kundu 46-49).

- In an article under-nutrition of Lodha children aged between 1-14 years in Paschim Medinipur district is reviewed. The study was conducted in the first quarter of 2008 in a village between Midnapore and Kharagpur town of Paschim Medinipur district. In total 165 children between the age limit 1-14 years were selected out of which 68 were boys and 97 were girls. The children were divided into early childhood (under 6 years) and late childhood (above 6 years and below 14). The study used the methods of cross sectional study and anthropometric measurements like height, weight following standard techniques. Their findings revealed the prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting about 33.9%, 26.1% and 19.4% respectively. Underweight and stunt was very high in early childhood compared to late childhood. Wasting was similar for both the age groups of about 20%. They explained all their findings with the help of two tables according to



ages from 1-14 years showing the prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting among the children and also with the help of two line diagrams showing the mean height and weight of boys and girls according to their age. From their finding they came to the conclusion that the nutritional status of the Lodha children particularly during early age (1-6 years) was very critical. So they recommended appropriate steps to be taken by the Government for not only the Lodha children but also for the other tribal groups (Bisai et al. 323-329).

- Chanda made a study of Lodha parents thought about the formal education of their wards. His study was conducted in a Sabarpalli hamlet of Daharpur village near Bidisha in Narayangarh block under Paschim Medinipur district. The research sample interviewed 10 parents selected at random in a hamlet having 42 household and total of 103 people. He came to the findings that Lodha parents do not have any apathy towards formal education of their boys and girls. The parents think that formal education is a basic necessity to enlarge the view and to survive in this period of competition. But they do not consider education as a means of livelihood due to widespread corruption in social life to get a job, which requires money for getting job. So they do not think of higher education of their children after class VIII. This is also because of child marriage prevalent in Lodha society, their relation with other tribal groups like Santals and Mundas and other communities in the locality. The study also insisted that not outside researchers, but inside workers from among the Lodha community should encourage the parents to send their wards to school for higher education (Chanda 23-35).
- Bepari et al. investigated the nutritional and health status of adult Lodha women and it was compared to the women of the general population of the country. The study was conducted on 240 women (Lodha-120; General community-120)

having the age range of 18 to 45 years. They were randomly selected from different villages under Nayagram block in the district of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. The socio-economic status was evaluated by questionnaire method. Poor economic condition, dietary deficiency, poor dietary patterns, poor sanitary conditions and unequal food sharing in the families may be causative factors for under-nutrition and anaemia in Lodha community (Bepari et al. 988-996).

- Guha gave a brief history of the Lodhas starting from British period to up-to-date. The paper is divided into four parts. Part I may be treated as an introduction to the article. In this part he cited a police case of the year 1998 against Budhan Sabar. The case was taken up by *Paschim Banga Kheria Sabar Kalyan Samity* and ultimately the judgement of the High Court went against the Government and the Government had to pay compensations to the families of Budhan Sabar. Then he referred a second case of 2004. It was a starvation death of five members of Lodha-Savara community in Amlasole village in Binpur II block of Paschim Medinipur district. It was alleged that the death was due to hunger and malnutrition. But the Government did not accept the report and stated that the death occurred due to consumption of illicit liquor and diseases like tuberculosis, jaundice and malaria. In part II the author traced the history of criminality of the Lodhas in British India. In this part the writer mentioned the research work of P. K. Bhowmick about the Lodhas and Ranjit Kumar Gupta, a former Police Officer about the disadvantages of the Lodhas. In part III he stated how the Lodhas of West Bengal were denotified. He also referred to the killing of 39 Lodhas on the bank of Subarnarekha in 1979. Since 1971 Lodhas were considered as Primitive Tribal Group and special funds were allotted by the Government to set up development cell under Project Officer and Backward Classes Welfare Officer of

Government of West Bengal. This cell also undertook survey of the Lodha villages and their population including the Kheria sabar were found to be 53,718 in Medinipur district in 1981. They were also found in Mayurbhanj and Balasore district of Odisha. More than 80% of the Lodhas belonged to Hindu community and believe in spirits and nature. In part IV he mentioned the article of K. M. Kapadia published in Sociological Bulletin in 1952. Then he mentioned the activities of Mahasveta Devi who all along supported the cause of the Lodhas. He also mentioned the welfare measures of *Bharat Sevashram Sangha* of Dholkat village under Jhargram Police Station. In 1960 State Government entrusted *Samaj Sevak Sangha* at Bidisha, Narayanganj under the leadership of Prabodh Kumar Bhowmick for the development of the Lodhas. In conclusion he found lights of development among the Lodhas in the darkness of their past history (Guha 71-88).

- Another study revealed that the status of Lodha people regarding health, nutrition and economical condition are very low. The females are very dominative over males. The male people survive longer than the female. But number of females within the age group of 50-69 is higher than the male. Large number of females comes under the age group of 25-29 whereas 30-49 age group have lowest number of females. It is identified that the highest mortality rate of females fall within the age group of 30-49 (Panda 1-8).
- Another study stated that Lodhas are not skilful agricultural labours. They engaged themselves in other works like road construction, brick transferring etc. They transformed their original activity, hunting-gathering to non-agricultural daily wages labour by the social contact with Hindu neighbours who influenced their belief system (Ghatak 177-189).

- An article stated that landlessness and poverty is the main obligation in development projects for Lodhas. Government does not take any proper steps to ameliorate their living status. This study also noted the worst scenario of the Government projects which are already taken for the socio-economic up gradation of the Lodha community (Panda 47-54).
- A study illustrated in another work that Lodha people have no job security through Government distributed job card. Most of them cannot send their children to school because every morning they are engaged in forest good collection or day labour work to earn money. But the literacy rate of Lodha is not too bad (Panda 875-890).
- Panda and Guha stated that the development of Lodha community is not good. They admit that many development projects have been already granted by the Government(s) for socio-economic upgradation of rural community of India. But these are not properly followed (Panda and Guha).
- In another study Panda and Guha also stated that Government(s) does not take any initiative to organise skill development programme among such communities. There are no developed transportation and communication facilities available. Government(s) builds houses for underprivileged community without knowing their needs which become problematic (Panda and Guha 20-30).
- Panda and Guha stated that the Lodha people are affected by different kind of diseases among which diarrhoea, dysentery and jaundice are very common. They also recorded that females are more affected by those diseases than male. They mainly visited the quacks when they become ill. Very few families go to the health centers and Government hospital. Usually they use traditional medicine but some people are also interested in Kabiraji treatments (Panda and Guha 64-71).

- Panda stated that Lodha people are mainly found on forest covered areas and they are the oldest hunting-gathering community. They are very poor and their economy based on forest products collection. But presently they engage themselves as agricultural and non-agricultural day labours for better income. He uses the reference of Mahasveta Devi who continuously tried to depict the condition of Lodha community through her writings where she revealed the shortcomings of the Government policies taken for development of such communities. Mainly the development schemes have been designed by the Government and Non-Government agencies without studying the real lacuna of tribes. Huge amount of money already spent by the Government(s) for overall development of underprivileged community but still they remain below poverty line. In this study they highlighted that household size of Lodha is small which consist of three to four members. A few families have their own small agricultural lands. Most of the community members have not received patta land for cultivation till now (Panda).
- Panda stated that State Government and Central Government declared Lodha as an economically backward racial community and already started different development schemes for their socio-economic development. But still they are unprivileged. The community members can not engage effectively in agriculture because of irrigation, fertile land and encroachment by the other dominant castes and tribes of that locality. They face a big problem in case of constructing brick houses. Due to lack of proper knowledge they sell the solar cells to their neighbours. The study proposed some helpful solutions to the schemes designer and development authorities for designing advancement projects (Panda 28-35).

- An article highlighted that Lodha is known as “Criminal Tribe”. They mainly depend on food gathering and hunting. Beside that they also involve in cultivation and labour works. The study recorded that some micro level difference has been found after implementation of Government policies but they remain backward from macro level view point. The study found that they are still socially marginalized tribal population. The study indicated that the community has various problems and they have inverted socio-economic condition. It is crucial to pay more sincere efforts to achieve the overall upliftment of the community (Panda and Guha 33-38).
- An attempt to study the impact of various types of development inputs on the socio-economic life of the Lodha is discussed in the paper. The study revealed that the major constraint of the implementation of the developmental input among the Lodhas lie in their landlessness and poverty. The distribution of patta land to landless Lodha families by the govt. was not done properly. On the other hand developmental inputs like brick built houses were properly planned and suffered from lack of maintenance. Some of high technology developmental inputs like solar cells distributed to the poor and landless Lodha families were found to be of no use to the beneficiaries since many of them sold the solar cells to the wealthy neighbours. Finally, some recommendations have been made in the paper for better management of developmental inputs given under the Rastriya Sama Vikas Yojona (RSVY scheme) (Panda and Guha 69-75).
- In another article Panda and Guha taking block level data about the Lodhas of three administrative blocks of Paschim Medinipur namely Binpur II, Nayagram and Narayangarh tried to show the impact of the developmental programmes on them. They collected data from 332 households of total population 1382 in 13

villages of those three blocks during 2005-2006 and 2008-2011. They observed that female population were more in comparison to male population in those villages. They also discussed the subsistence pattern of the Lodha population. They found that most of the Lodhas were engaged in collection of forest produce and some are working as labourers in agriculture and non-agricultural field. The major developmental inputs allotted to three blocks for implementation are also discussed. They analysed the utilisation of five developmental inputs namely solar cell, patta land, household, cattle, job card in each of the three blocks. It was found that the inputs were partially utilised and or not utilised at all by the beneficiaries under study. They also observed marked variation of development in three blocks with the inputs provided by the Government. Finally they made some recommendations for better implementation of the macro-level policies by considering the micro level variations in respect of utilisation of developmental inputs (Panda and Guha 245-255).

- Ghatak collected information about the Lodha-Savara community of two districts of South Bengal namely North 24 Parganas and Paschim Medinipur. The two tribal communities are selected for research problem. About 1024 sample population of Savara-Lodha were selected for the study. The article mainly focused on the livelihood pattern of the people belonging to the Savara and Lodha community. Their main occupation is as agricultural labour, fish catching, collection of medicinal herbs, and also in road building and canal construction. A new trend is observed among the teen-age girls that they prefer household work as maid servant rather than working in the field. Ethno-medicine is practiced among these two communities. They collect herbal medicinal plants and prefer medicines from them. They generally use these herbal medicines and seldom visit

Government hospitals. This knowledge is transmitted from generation to generation and it is a part of their social and cultural life. They pray for blessing of Divine spirits or Baram through '*Deheri*'/'*Saman*' as these medicines are related with their religious and cultural life. They also try to live in balance with their environment and which, in turn, helps them to live a normal life. They never harm the natural environment and that is a lesson for the modern civilization (Ghatak 619-629).

- In another article Praggya Ghatak highlighted the identities of Lodha and Savara tribal people of West Bengal. Savara is a marginalized scheduled tribe both in North Bengal and South Bengal and outside the state in Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, the Lodhas are considered as one of the Primitive Tribes in West Bengal, scattered in the jungle tracks of Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia. According to Ancient Old Texts as well as Reports of the British Administrators and other Ethnographic Report they had come closer to regional Hindu social system living at the periphery along with untouchables namely Dom, Chandal, Bagdi and other communities. Hindu community treated them as Dravidian with Astro-Asiatic dialects. At present they held a buffer position between the major tribes namely Santal, Munda, Oraon and others who retain their own cultural, dialects and the Indo-Aryan population (Hindu). Lodhas identified themselves as "Jaara-Savara" and was once notified as "Criminal Tribe". The Savaras, on the other hand are the descendants of Kalketu, the hero of Mangalkavyas. The Kiratas or Vyadhas described in Mahabharata and Mangalkavyas are regarded as their kin. This article tried to analyse conversation of Lodha to Savara and also from Savara to Lodha mainly caused by the Governmental Development Programmes. Savaras try to categorize them as



Lodha to get the benefit of Primitive tribes. The Lodhas also try to recognize them as Savaras or Kherias to strengthen themselves in numbers to get more allotment of fund (benefit) from Government on the basis of their population (Ghatak).

- The study by Luchhu Hansdah showed a better understanding of inequalities and variations in socio-economic status in Odisha as well as in Mayurbhanj and also find out some remedial measures to overcome the problems to bring the Primitive tribal community in the mainstream of the society. The paper specifically highlighted a historical analysis of their socio-culture i.e., their physical feature, main food, their marriage, their settlement, their house types, their political organisation, customs, traditions and so on (Hansdah 33-40).
- Bera revealed the adaptation of the Lodha tribe with the social vulnerabilities and flood disasters in Sundarban region. His study related to two Gram Panchayats of Gosaba block in Sundarban areas. Lodhas in these areas mainly depend on natural resources in the Sundarbans which have been encroached by the non-tribal community due to their livelihood crisis. Small number of Lodhas from Medinipur went down to 24 Parganas in search of food under the direction of their '*Mukhia*' but some of them returned to the native village in Medinipur and the rest began to stay in the Sundarban areas. The research paper is about the Lodha hamlets in Patharpratima block and their struggle for existence there. The article explored the existing socio-cultural deprivation of the Lodha tribe in the Sundarban region and how they become vulnerable to saline flood water and the natural disaster like cyclone in this area. It has been observed that they live closer to the proximity of river or canals or the sea. As a result they are automatically in most vulnerable position during high tide. Moreover, as they are not agriculturalist, their earning depends on catching fishes and crabs in the rivers of the Sundarbans and also

collecting honey and the forest produce in the Sundarbans. In competition with the non-tribals of the locality they are hard pressed to earn their livelihood. To face such vulnerabilities the Lodha people go more and more in to the dense forest of the Sundarbans taking more risk (Bera 49-62).

- Panda and Guha made empirical survey of the Lodha people in three blocks mainly Binpur II and Nayagram under Jhargram district and Narayangarh in Paschim Medinipur district. The research is designed to assess the impact of development programmes in the above noted three blocks. At first they enlisted all the developmental inputs. Then they analysed and interpreted the actual utilisation of the inputs. At last they made an attempt to assess the impact of various developmental inputs in comparison with developmental scenario. They came to the conclusion that implementation of these schemes suffered a major setback and as a result socio-economic development of the Lodhas suffered greatly. The book contains six chapters. The first chapter gave an account how the Lodha as a Criminal Tribe during British Rule came to be a Denotified Criminal Tribe and became a Primitive Tribal Group. The second chapter gave the concentration of Lodha population in various areas of West Bengal and Odisha, their habitat and their change from hunting and food gathering to agriculture as a menace of livelihood. In chapter three the author gave a general background of the villages under their study area, the sanitational health care of the Lodha people there. They also gave the household size, marital status, subsistence status, literacy condition among the Lodhas separately in three blocks. In chapter four they described different developmental inputs given to the Lodha beneficiaries in three administrative blocks. They found that the inputs were poorly utilized in Binpur II block and maximum utilized in Narayangarh block where as Nayagram lies in the

middle position. Chapter five attempted to compare the utilisation pattern of the four major developmental inputs in the concerned blocks. The inputs are land distribution, house construction, distribution of cattle. In the last chapter (Chapter six) the authors are dissatisfied that the conditions of the Lodhas have not improved as it was expected to be considering the inputs given to them. The Lodhas in Narayangarh are found to be in a better position than their counter parts in Binpur II. They recommended road transport and public communication system to be improved in all the blocks particularly in Binpur II and Nayagram block. They also recommended skill development programmes for the women and men of the blocks (Panda and Guha 1-123).

- Panda and Guha presented a situation regarding the utilisation of the development funds sanctioned for the Lodhas in two blocks of Binpur II and Nayagram now under Jhargram district and Narayangarh block under Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. They tried to make an assessment of different inputs under RSVY schemes. This study included distribution of agricultural land under land reform measures. It was seen that distribution of land to Lodha was not seriously taken up for their socio-economic development in the two blocks of Jhargram district. But distribution of land to the Lodha was found to be in a better condition in Narayangarh block under Paschim Medinipur district. Their study also found that other development inputs like skill development and distribution of plough, seed, manure, irrigation, pesticides and other were largely neglected and made very little impact on their livelihood (Panda and Guha 75-84).
- In an article Praggya Ghatak reported on the subsistence pattern of the Lodha community, a primitive tribal group of West Bengal. She focused on the deprivation of the female population in comparison with the male community.

They are discriminated on triple deprivation-gender, poverty and social exclusion. Her study areas were Jhargram, Khayarasuli, Lalbazar, Kadamkanon and Srishchak of the Paschim Medinipur district. She came to the findings that these people living inside or adjacent to the forest belong to the forest community. They interacted with forest in various ways in their everyday life. They collect food, fuel, fodder, medicines and others from forest. She gave an occupational table of the Savara-Lodha in which it is proved that majority female population are engaged in collection of wood, working as agricultural labour, selling liquor and working as housemaid. It is also seen that female members provide food to the family members. So, they have to collect wood and food from forest. They supplement their income by selling sal leaf plates to the nearby locality. Women have less access to land, trees, branches and leaves. They have also less power in policy making and project implementation. Male dominance is crucial in their society (Ghatak).

- In another article Panda and Adak attempted to assess the activities of Lodha women SHG of *Daharpur Sabar Palli* of Narayangarh block in Paschim Medinipur district. They found six SHG constituted by the Lodha women, Their names are Netaji SHG, Khudiram SHG, Binoy SHG, Badal SHG, Dinesh SHG and their monthly subscription for each member is Rs. 40. The first two SHG were established in 2005 and the other four groups were established in 2008. Each of the groups held regular monthly meetings at Daharpur Primary School. They maintained registered books, bank accounts and other papers. All the members of the each group are active and attended meetings regularly. The educational qualification of SHG member is very low. Only 23 women were educated out of 62 members. They took loan from B.D.O. Narayangarh to run their economic

activities. In 2005, the Netaji and Khudiram SHG took loan of Rs. 25000 in each group and in 2010 all the six groups received Rs. 50000 as a domestic animal loan. Netaji SHG cooked mid-day meal at Bidisha High School and earned Rs. 1200 in every month. Khudiram SHG cooked mid-day meal at Daharpur Savara Pally Primary School and they got Rs. 1000 per month. These groups emerged as an important strategy for achieving financial growth of their family and also act for poverty eradication and women empowerment. The six SHG members met the District Magistrate and Sabhadhipati two times to place their demands like agriculture loan, patta land, cattle, cultivation loan, small industries training, agriculture training and poultry bird rearing for better improvement of their groups. The SHG have also brought about health consciousness among the members. They have also noticed that the Panchayat did not extend any help or co-operation for the promotion of those SHG group. They suggested to take more initiative on cohesiveness among the group members, regular meeting, rotation of leadership and participation in different training programmes (Panda and Adak 21-29).

- Self Help Group (SHG) Formation among the Lodhas and their problem has been the main topic of the article. Six Self Help Groups constituted by Lodhas were chosen for the study. Lodha SHG members revealed that for the last four years the local Panchayat did not extend any help or cooperation for the promotion of the SHG which have made them marginalized. The group provides a good deal of psychological solace. The elderly women among the groups act as friends and counselors. The women can safely give a vent to their suppressed feelings and relieve themselves of much familial and social burden. In spite of their problems and traversing a long journey the SHGs of the study area are running successfully.

Not only group formation enables them to become economically strong, unbelievable changes have been noticed in their health consciousness (Panda 59-72).

- The study is an attempt to integrate the traditional ethno-medicinal knowledge of the tribal communities and traditional healers, pertaining to treatment of gynaecological problems of tribal women from the Lodha community in the part of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. 30 plant species by the Lodha community of Paschim Medinipur has been documented. The local tribes mainly used leaf, root, bark, rhizome, stem, fruit, seed and latex of these plants. The ethno-medico-botanical survey revealed that the people of the Paschim Medinipur area are possessing a good knowledge of herbal drugs but their knowledge of traditional uses of plants may be lost in due course (Sarkhel 1-4).
- Another study highlighted the use of medicinal plants by Lodha women of Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal for treatment of common gynaecological disorder. In this study they analysed four polyherbal and six monoherbal preparations with 29 plants for treatment of 11 common gynaecological elements. They recommended tribal (herbal) medicines for leucorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, infertility in women, body swelling and temperature control, constipation, diarrhoea during pregnancy. In total 18 medicinal plants for seven gynaecological disorder and six preparation for treatment was reported (Chaudhury et al. 325-332).
- An anthropological study on physical fitness and its relationship with other body measurements among Lodha has been presented. Investigators in the field of exercise physiology as measured by Rapid Fitness Index (R.F.I.) to develop some simple and satisfactory method of evaluating physical performance have been tried. Working capacity of an individual have been approached. Working capacity

is considered to be the highest work-load performed during exercise prior to physical exhaustion, and in a particular case it is referred to as the maximal working capacity. R.F.I. are compared with age, body weight, circumference measurements, transverse breadths, skinfold thickness, muscular strength of the hands, blood pressure (Verma et al. 101-108).

- In another study Goswami surveyed a total of 204 Lodhas (from three villages) and 157 Kharias (from five villages) of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha. She was alarmed at the low nutritional level of the above noted tribes under her survey. The low nutritional status based on BMI (Body Mass Index) indicated a critical situation. This paper also provided that eastern India tribal population experience a critical nutritional deficiency (Goswami 359-364).
- In this article, the information needs and information seeking behavior of rural people particularly from backward classes is focused. The impact of public library compared to rural library is also shown. Several suggestions have been given for the upliftment of the backward class community i.e., the Lodhas, they made detailed field survey in the two villages of Senna and Chandana mouza in Keshiary block under Paschim Medinipur district. Questionnaire method has been used to collect data. Analysis of the survey suggested that the Lodhas needed information related to education, health, jobs, different Government programmes, self-employment schemes and agriculture and allied activities. Different kind of problems to supply community information for such rural libraries has been discussed and some suggestions for their improvement to connect the people with the libraries has been proposed in the end (Mallik and Nayek).
- Again an anthropological study by Guha about the criminality of the Lodhas is presented. Discussion on how Lodhas are viewed and treated by the

administration in West Bengal is shown. The origin of criminality among Lodhas during the colonial period and its continuation in the post-colonial period has been discussed. Government efforts and their failures to improve the living conditions of the Lodhas have been described. Study on the Lodhas in three administrative blocks of Paschim Medinipur district also revealed wide variation in terms of the utilisation of various development inputs given to the Lodhas (Guha).

## **2.6 OBSERVATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH GAP**

Several studies have been conducted to find out the information needs and information seeking behaviour of different disadvantaged communities. But no study on the information needs and information seeking behaviour has been found on any denotified community once designated as ‘Criminal Tribe’ during the Colonial Rule. Also most of the studies on the Lodha community has been performed from anthropological point of view. The studies highlighted mainly the living habits of the Lodhas in the societal set up. There has been no study to find out the information needs of the Lodhas and thereby the sources of information used by them to satisfy their information queries. So this study concentrated on the Lodha community will be a unique one in true sense.

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