



## **Present Status of Savar Tribe of Purulia Districts of West Bengal in Respect of Cultural Mobilization**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

India is a great example of "unity in diversity." People in India are culturally, geographically, and cognitively diverse. Indians are very attached to their cultures and traditions. It pervades everything, from language, art, fashion, scriptures, and rituals to conventions, ethics, behaviours, and values. Cultures and traditions have various facets in India, as seen by the country's diverse food, clothes, and art forms.

Among the Scheduled Tribes, the Savar tribe is one of the special tribes. Savar tribe are an ethnic group living mainly in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Yet they are far from the light of civilization. In West Bengal, they are mainly found in villages like Kesharbad, Bundi, Kuda, etc. in Purulia. During the British rule they were recognized as criminals by birth. Even after the country gained independence, they were as poor and penniless as ever. Electricity, hospitals and secondary schools are distant dreams for these unfortunates. Malnutrition and death during childbirth are considered very natural common incident.

In this article, the researcher attempts to provide a preliminary concept about the educational status of the Savar community in Purulia district of West Bengal. Not only the educational status, the researcher also tries to outline a scenario related to the cultural mobilization of that specific tribal group.

**Key Words:** Savar tribe, Educational status, Cultural mobilization

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

India is the cradle of humanity, the mother of history, the grandmother of folklore, and the great grandfather of tradition. India's culture is distinct, and it is one of the world's oldest and greatest civilizations. The country has seen general socioeconomic improvement in its 76 years of independence. India, the world's seventh biggest country, stands apart from the rest of Asia, with mountains and seas giving the country a unique geographical character. Culture is a way of life that differs from one location to the next, from the most primitive to the most evolved nations. Natural obstacles such as oceans, rivers, and mountains impeded human migration prior to the development of science and technology. Despite the fact that man has been a nomad from ancient times, his movement has been restricted to short distances. Personal mobility was essentially non-existent. People flocked in vast numbers in search of food, shelter, and safety. Other fundamental institutions, such as family, marriage, religion, and lineage, control institutional behaviour across time. They have become a very strong face in society, and their strictness is still prevalent in mainstream culture, particularly tribal society. India's culture, ethnicity, language, and biodiversity are all unique, including some of the most ancient and amazing functioning features on the planet. This variety pervades the daily lives of this country's tribal and rural people. Almost every state in India has developed its own cultural region.

India is a great example of "unity in diversity." People in India are culturally, geographically, and cognitively diverse. Indians are very attached to their cultures and traditions. It pervades everything, from language, art, fashion, scriptures, and rituals to conventions, ethics, behaviours, and values. One of the most well-known aspects of Indian culture is that Indians regard their visitors as Gods (atithi devo bhava). For Indians, cultures and traditions are more than just practises; they are a way of life. Cultures and traditions have various facets in India, as seen by the country's diverse food, clothes, and art forms.

### *Significance of the study:*

India has a rich culture, which has formed part of our identity. It has created us a colourful, wealthy, and diversified nation, whether in religion, art, academic achievements, or performing arts. The Indian culture and tradition essay serves as a guide to India's rich cultures and customs.

India was the site of several invasions, which only contributed to the current variety. Today, India is a strong and multi-cultural nation that has absorbed and moved on from numerous cultures. People in this area have adhered to a variety of religions, beliefs, and customs.

In India, culture encompasses all aspects of people's lives, including rituals, values, beliefs, habits, caring, and knowledge.

Any location's culture reflects its social structure, beliefs, values, religious feelings, and underlying philosophy. India is a culturally diversified country where every culture coexists peacefully. Dialect, clothes, and religious and societal ideas all reflect cultural differences. The variety of India is well recognised around the world. These cultures and customs showcase India's illustrious heritage. In every discipline, including music, dance, and language, India has a distinct cultural perspective. India's culture and customs reflect humanism, tolerance, harmony, and social connectedness. Traditionally, we welcome individuals with namaskar, namaskaaram, and so on. To demonstrate respect, the younger generation brushes the elders' feet in several parts of the nation. There are ethnic and historic distinctions in Indian culinary habits as well.

Purulia district is a diverse district in West Bengal, the district is also home to many tribal people. In the present changing era, the researcher wants to see whether the people of Sabar community in Purulia district are carrying their culture with time or there is any change in their culture

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### Review of related literature:

**Sarkar, B.C. (2017)** conducted a study on Impact of Modernisation on Economy of Tribal People Living in Dooars. Finally they reveal that In the Dooars region for larger society the impact of modernization on [economy of tribal people](#) is still insignificant. There have been both positive and negative impacts of [modernisation](#) on tribal [economy](#). Negative impact is that they have forgotten their earlier traditional practices. They were earlier nature lover but exposures to modern economic practices teach them to exploit the nature and consume its products. Positive changes are better earning and [modern way](#) of living which are very much essential today to live in this world where natural resources like forests, earlier source of [livelihood](#), are gradually decreasing

**Das, K., et. al. (2021)** in their cross-sectional study among the adult Sabar males of Purulia they reveals a high prevalence of undernutrition among the participants, particularly among the aged people, compared to younger participants which require immediate nutritional intervention. BMI values were found gradually decreasing with age. This is the first reporting on the somatotype study among the Sabar community, where the dominant body type was mesomorph-ectomorph. Following the Heath-Carter method, 11 body types were identified where mesomorphy and ectomorphy components were found dominant. Existing correlation between somatotype elements and BMI presented highly significant values. However, this study needs to be validated in different communities with large sample size focusing on the nutritional level of the population. In this context, the present study also identifies the scarcity of data on local level dietary diversity and associated indigenous knowledge which are getting petered out with time away due to the immense pressure to change the traditional lifestyle relating to food choice and preference among the erstwhile foraging tribal groups like the Sabars. The efforts to implement the nutritional programme from government and non-government agencies would not bring the desired nutritional level unless these agencies focus at micro-level implementation to bridge the gaps in the nutritional level. Anthropological approaches and methods can be used most effectively for micro-level planning in the making of strategies considering ecological, regional, cultural and psychological value system associated with diversified food habits leading to the formulation of more realistic and effective nutrition and health improvement programmes.

**Chowdhury, A., et.al.,(2022)** in their review study they found Most tribes are concentrated in densely forested areas with low political and economic relevance. Most tribes' economies were historically based on subsistence cultivation or hunting and gathering. Based on the foregoing results and debate, it can be concluded that, despite the enormous changes brought about by urbanization and industrialization, India's various tribes have maintained their religion and culture. We might conclude that, despite the rapid speed of development, tribal peoples continue to practice their religion, morals, and culture. Article 46 of the Indian constitution emphasizes the importance of providing special attention to ST and SC persons in the educational and economic systems. During the last four decades, the distribution of schooling among the ST has been highly uneven. By offering effective education and awareness programs, ignorance, and illiteracy among tribals should be reduced and eradicated. The government should provide appropriate funding for tribal education. Opportunities for basic and adult education, as well as training that leads to better work, should be provided to improve the tribal's educational and economic position. Tribal students' hostel facilities should be examined and upgraded. The tribal welfare agency may develop and implement innovative programs to help tribe members find work. In the tribal areas, massive awareness, and literacy programs with the participation of NGOs would be held. The development and implementation of programs aimed at enhancing the brilliance of gifted ST pupils will be undertaken. Training programs, such as IT training, will be organized for tribal students, as well as programs to ensure tribals have jobs in the IT sector. The government and respective authorities must work together to implement plans at the right time, in the right place, and in the right way. Finally, but most importantly, a balanced connection between other students and teachers is critical for the development of education in native communities.

**Ghadei, P. K., Salve, S., Hota, L. B., & Sing, S. B. (2021).** Conducted a study on socio-economic impact of saura tribe under Odisha tribal empowerment & livelihood programme, a study of gajapati district Odisha. Finally, they conclude that, as compare Government are more emphasized to the tribe people for improved their quality of life. so Government allowed different scheme , programme for improved the income and quality of life of tribe community, OTELP Programme is a flagship programme of Government through this programme Government tray to improve all round of development of tribal community and enabling them to enhance their food security, increase their incomes and improve their overall quality of life through more efficient natural resource management more productive environmentally sound agricultural practices and through off-farm/non-farm enterprise development.

**Objective of the study:**

The study has the following objectives:

1. To study literacy rate of scheduled tribe population in the Purulia district.
2. To study the present status of Savar tribe of Purulia districts in respect of cultural mobilization.

**Selection of study area:****Study area:****Table 1: selected village list of Purulia Districts:**

Name of District: Purulia	
Name of the Panchayat	Name of the villages
Lotpoda	Lotpoda
	<a href="#">Shibadi</a>
Sindri	Jiling
	<a href="#">Biskudra</a>
Bandwan	<a href="#">Sirka</a>
	<a href="#">Mangal</a>

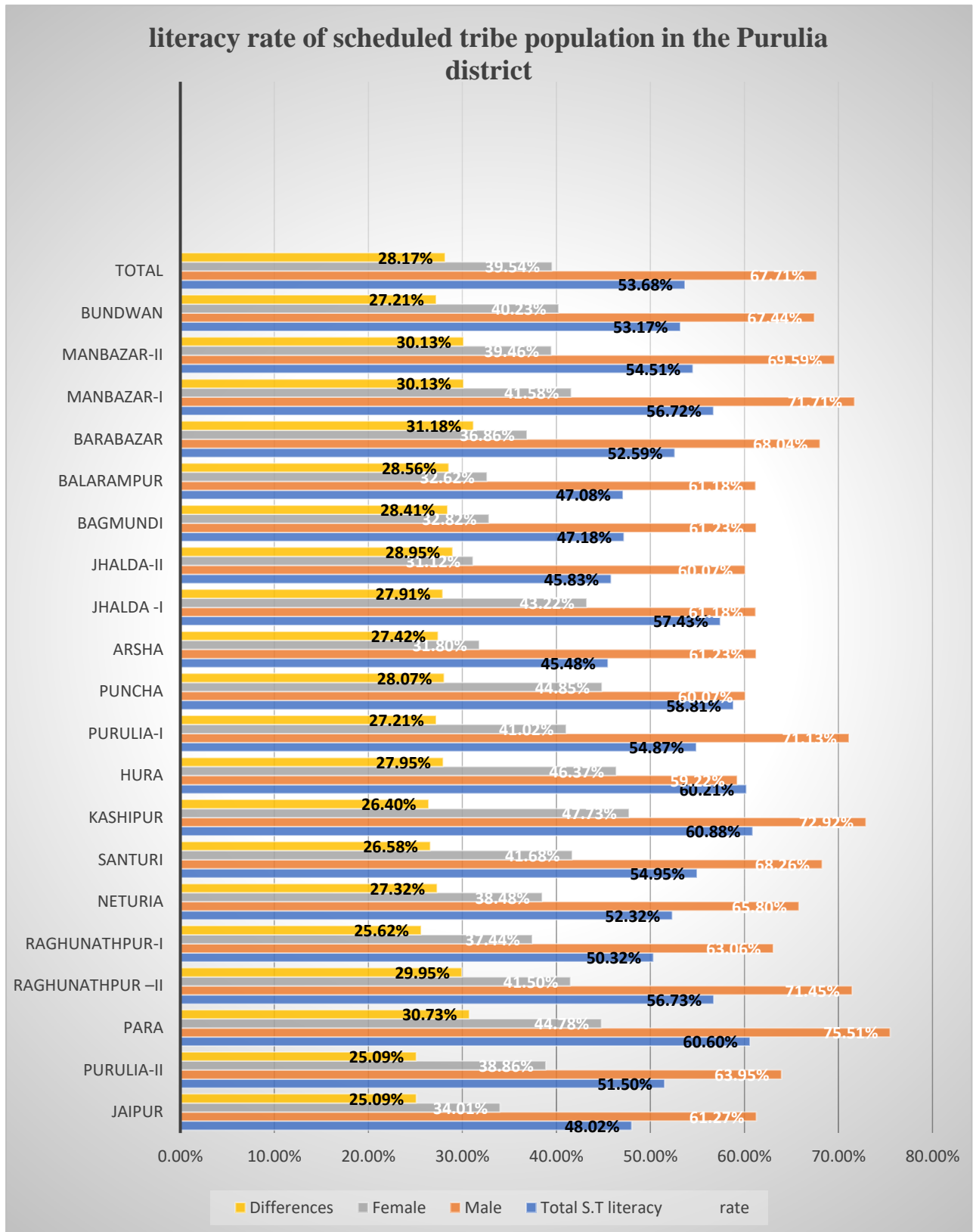
**Selection of tribal Community:**

For the sake of the present study only the tribal community of Savar has been selected.

**literacy rate of scheduled tribe population in the Purulia district:**

Name of the sub district	Total S.T literacy rate	Male	Female	Differences
Jaipur	48.02%	61.27%	34.01%	25.09%
Purulia-ii	51.50%	63.95%	38.86%	25.09%
Para	60.60%	75.51%	44.78%	30.73%
Raghunathpur –ii	56.73%	71.45%	41.50%	29.95%
Raghunathpur-I	50.32%	63.06%	37.44%	25.62%
Neturia	52.32%	65.80%	38.48%	27.32%
Santuri	54.95%	68.26%	41.68%	26.58%
Kashipur	60.88%	72.92%	47.73%	26.40%
Hura	60.21%	59.22%	46.37%	27.95%
Purulia-I	54.87%	71.13%	41.02%	27.21%
Puncha	58.81%	60.07%	44.85%	28.07%
Arsha	45.48%	61.23%	31.80%	27.42%
Jhalda -i	57.43%	61.18%	43.22%	27.91%
Jhalda-ii	45.83%	60.07%	31.12%	28.95%
Bagmundi	47.18%	61.23%	32.82%	28.41%
Balarampur	47.08%	61.18%	32.62%	28.56%
Barabazar	52.59%	68.04%	36.86%	31.18%
Manbazar-I	56.72%	71.71%	41.58%	30.13%
Manbazar-ii	54.51%	69.59%	39.46%	30.13%
Bundwan	53.17%	67.44%	40.23%	27.21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.68%</b>	<b>67.71%</b>	<b>39.54%</b>	<b>28.17%</b>

Source: census 2001 (Govt. of India)



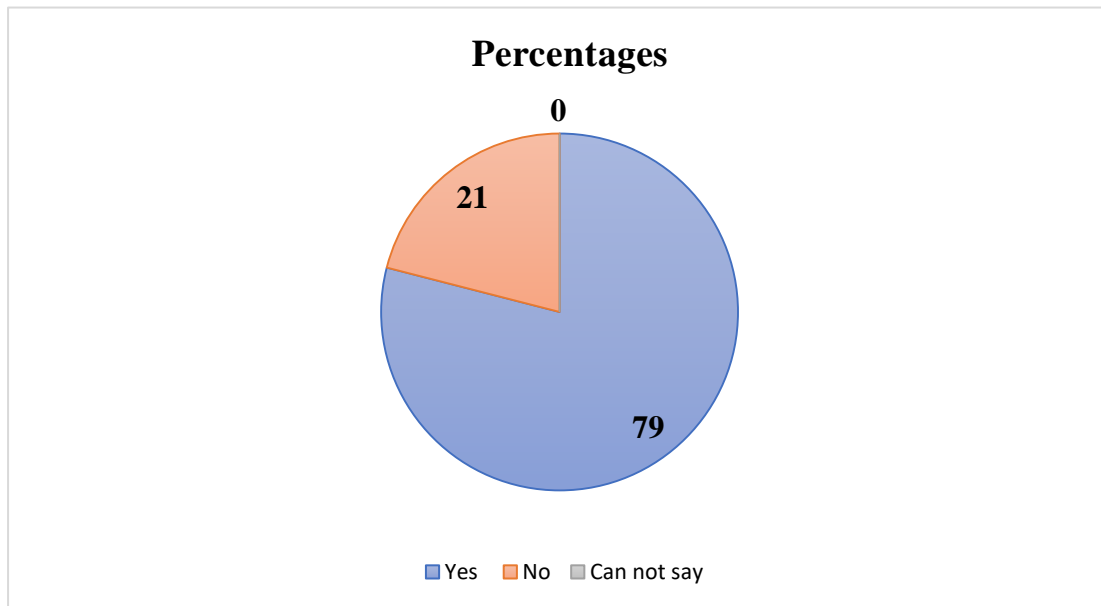
Source: census 2001 (Govt. of India)

**Classification according to observance of matrimonial customs in tribal families**

Do you follow Hindu customs during marriage?	
Opinion	Percentages
Yes	79
No	21
Can not say	00

Source: Field Work

From the above table it is clear that 79% of the tribal people in the studied area observe Hindu customs during marriage and the rest 21% tribal people don't observe any kind of Hindu ritual during marriage, they follow their traditional rituals.



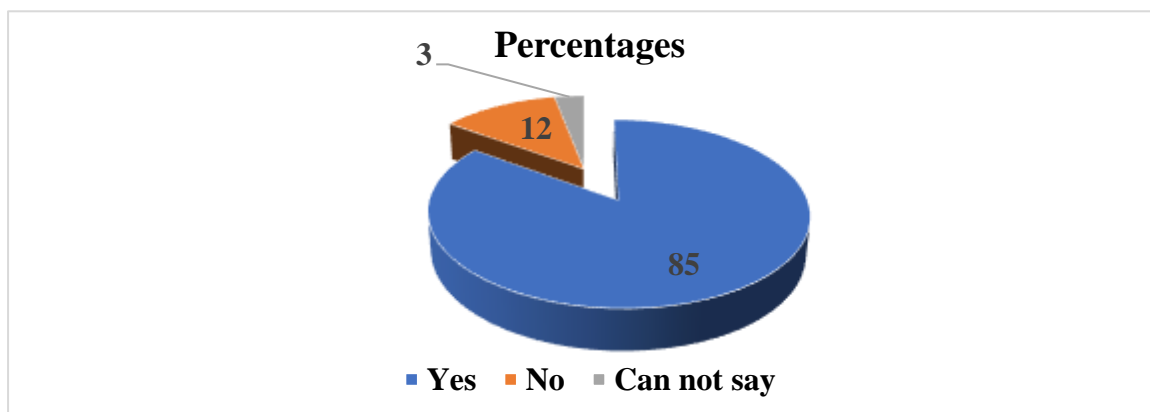
Source: Field Work

**Classification according to availability of MGNREGA employment cards among tribal households**

Does everyone (who are eligible) in your household have job cards?	
Opinion	Percentages
Yes	85
No	12
Can not say	03

Source: Field Work

In the studied area 85% of Savar people have the MGNREGA cards and 12% Savar people don't have any kind of MGNREGA cards.

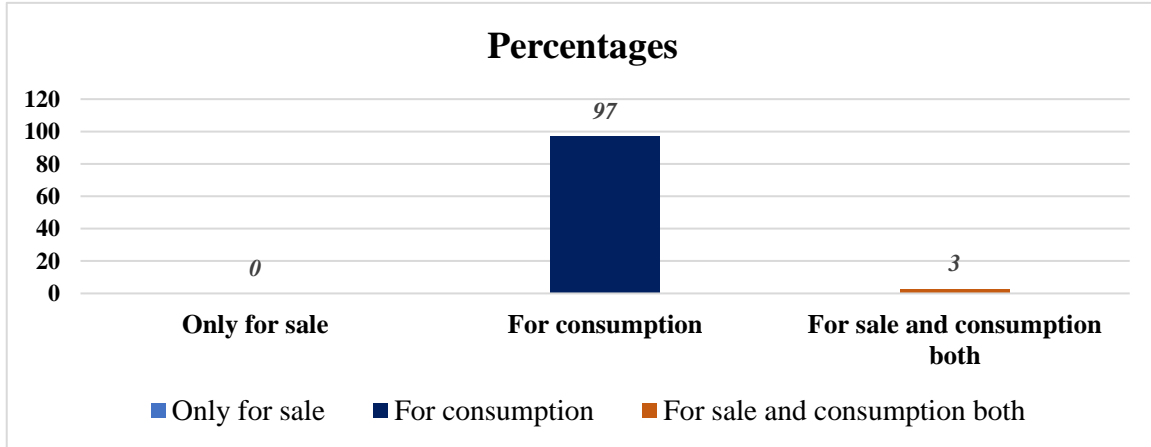


Source: Field Work

**Classification of tribal households based on purpose of cultivation.**

What is the main purpose of your farming?	
<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Only for sale	00
For consumption	97
For sale and consumption both	03

Source: Field Work



Source:

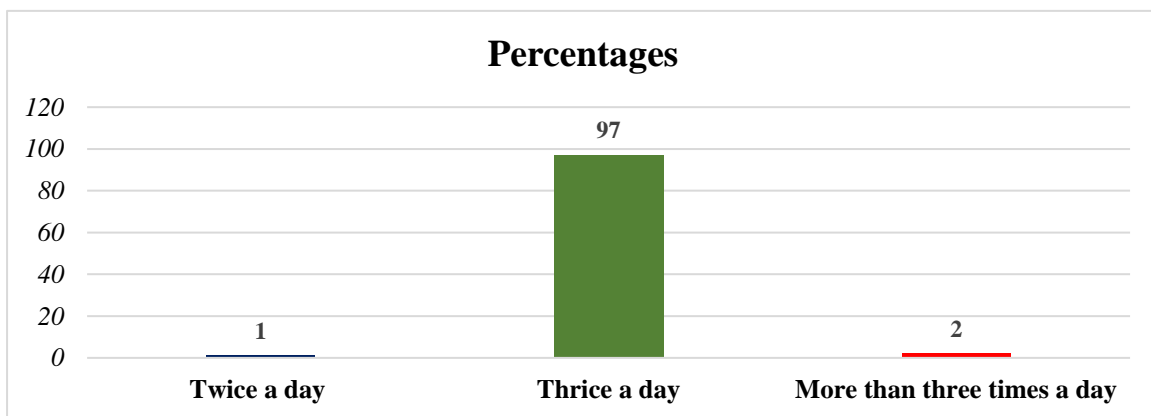
Field Work

**Classification of tribal households based on the number of times they consume food in a day.**

How many times a day do you take meals?	
<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Twice a day	01
Thrice a day	97
More than three times a day	02

Source: Field Work

In the study area it was observed that 97% of the families eat three times a day, 1% eat twice a day and two In the study area it was observed that 97% of the families eat three times a day, 2% eat twice a day and one percent of the families eat more than three times a day, percent of the families eat more than three times a day.



Source: Field Work

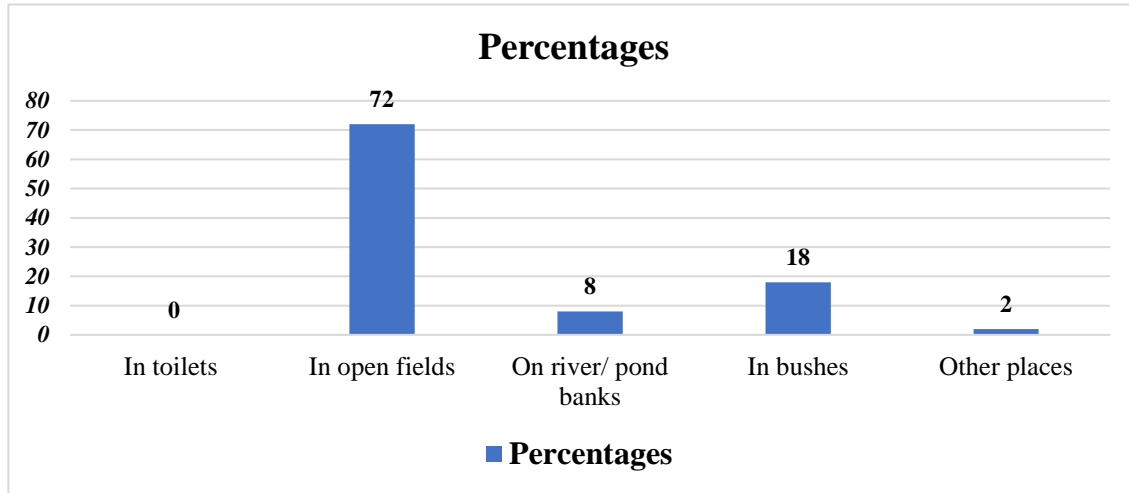
**Classification of tribal households based on toilet usage.**

What is your favorite place to defecate?	
<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
In toilets	00
In open fields	72

On river/ pond banks	08
In bushes	18
Other places	02

Source: Field Work

From the above table it is clear that in the selected area none of the Savar people use toilet for defecation, 72% people defecate in open field, 8% people defecate by river or pond, 18% people defecate in bush and 2% people defecate in other places.



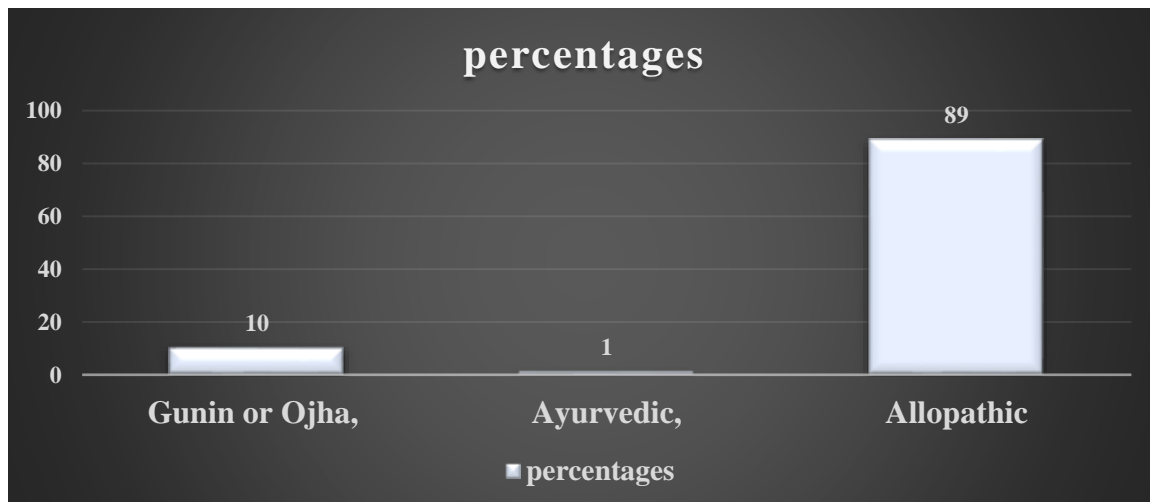
Source: Field Work

Classification of tribal people based on the type of medical treatment they believe in.

What type of treatment do you rely on most when you feel ill?	
Opinion	Percentages
Gunin or Ojha,	10
Ayurvedic,	01
Allopathic	89

Source: Field Work

89% Savar people rely more on allopathic medicine to cure their ailments. 1% of people rely on Ayurvedic medicine, and the study area showed that 10% still believe in Ojha to cure their ailments.



Source: Field Work

**Major findings:**

- Research has revealed that most of the tribal families are now more interested in following Hindu customs in marriage ceremony.

- MGNREGA is a government scheme where the earning members of the family are offered various types of work to earn livelihood. In the study area, it was seen that most of the new families have this card but 12% of the families still do not have this card (despite being able to earn).
- In the study area, it was observed that among the families who are engaged in farming, most of the families are mainly engaged in farming for food consumption and only 3% of the families sell the remaining or surplus of the produce besides consuming food.
- Most of the family members eat three times a day while a very small number (1%) of the family members eat only twice a day.
- Although some aspects of cultural progress can be seen in different directions, no family uses the toilet for defecation.
- Most of the Savar people rely more on allopathic medicine for almost 90% of their ailments.

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### Conclusion:

Both the central and state governments have provided various schemes to these tribes. In some places the tribals have got the benefits of these projects but in some places the tribal people are not aware about these projects. The main reason behind this is lack of education. In some cases, despite the constitutional protection, the inadequacy of the minimum amount of money required to reach the field of education has kept this class of people behind in the field of education. Backwardness in education is a major obstacle to financial sustainability. Finally, it can be said that during the study, the researcher has seen that the touch of modernity is clearly visible in several places among Sabar tribes.

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