



Role Of Hostels In Lodha Communities Educational Development: A Case Study Of Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangha Ashram Hostel In Debra Block, West Bengal

Anjushri Ghorai* & Dr. Amalendu Paul**

*Research Scholar of Department of Education, Dimond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal, India.

**Associate Professor, Department of Education, Dimond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal, India.

Abstract: In the present time where the importance of Computer Technology and Artificial Intelligence has increased, by that, the modern system of the present world is in the hands of people. Yet there are some people who are deprived of modern facilities. Those who do not have the means to eat two meals a day. If we observe, we will see that there are about 75 tribes in India who are socially and economically backward. They are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. In West Bengal only three communities are regarded as a Vulnerable Tribal Groups viz. Bihor, Lodha and Toto. They don't know much about modern technology. The minimum they need is food, clothing, shelter and education. Some hostels have been created for their educational development. One such hostel is Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangha Ashram Hostel, Debra. The study investigated the facilities and the educational services provide for school going students in the Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangha Ashram Hostel. The study was qualitative in nature. A case study design was used on this study. The study concluded that: (1) As per the present educational structure the hostel needs to be technologically modernized, (2) Per head Government grant of students is very low, (3) For staying at hostel specially girls class limit should be increased (from class IV to onwards).

Key Words: Hostel, Lodha students, Lodha Communities and Education.

INTRODUCTION:

Since the dawn of civilization following the tradition of evolution some part of primitive society has come in present society among the primitive tribal group having group conflicts, they sometimes divided different groups, some reached at the pick development, at the same some groups following old traditions till existed is own society. In West Bengal mainly some parts of Medinipur, Jhargram, Kharagpur, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur districts primitive tribals are living. Analysing primitive tribal history it is seen that except Santal other tribes following evolution process/tradition entering modern society till now. According to some researchers most aboriginal people is Santal tribes. According to Vabiste Puran - Santal Pargana, Birbhum, medinipur related jungle are encircled by deep sal, mehua trees, middle heighted, brown people lived. At present such 38 groups live in the area. Most popular tribes are –

Santal, Lodha, Munda, Sabar, Mahali, Bihor, Hoe, Bhumig, Kharia, Kora, Toto etc. Among them most backward groups are Lodha, Bihor, Toto (Guru, 2019).

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) earlier called as Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) is a government of India classification created for the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development indices. In India, 75 communities are regarded as PVTG and in West Bengal only three communities are regarded as a PVTG viz. Bihor, Lodha and Toto (Panda, 2015). In West Bengal among Primitive Tribal Groups, the researcher gave focus on Lodha community.

In West Bengal Lodha community is seen mainly Medinipur, Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia specially Junglemahal region. They belong to old-Austral group. In the district of Paschim Medinipur in Midnapur Sadar (headquarter) and different places of Jhargram district maximum of Lodha community is noticed. For the educational development among them Government & non Government initiatives are found such as establishing hostels and Ashrams. Some rehabilitation planning has also been done. For example, 'Bidisha Samaj Sevak Sangha', Daharpur Narayangarh, established by Dr. Probodh Kumar Bhoumik. 'Bipasha Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangha', Debra, established by Prahallad Bhakta (Ashram Hostel). Besides, 'Tolakath Pukueia, Bharat Sevashram Sangha', Jhargram. 'Dhanshol Punarbasan Parikalpana' in Lalgargh etc (Bhaiya, 2019).

Many works has been done related to impact of hostel life of students in education. On reviewing the various literatures it was observed that the students are satisfied with the room facilities and safety service provided in the hostel. However, they are not satisfied with the communication service(Khan, Alshekili, Badi & Khanbashi, 2020). Another study found that the improve the present level of satisfaction of students in hostels which might lead to an increase in their academic performance(Mansoor & Ali, 2015). Chougule, Salunkhe, Patil, Kolhe & Patil (2021) pointes that respondents were dissatisfied with the adequacy and functionality of some facilities such as purity of drinking water, lackness of mess facility, health center facilities and internet facility provided in college campus. Kavadi & Jansari (2019) investigated that the students at home group is having good social adjustment then students residing in hostel group. Memon, Solangi & Abro (2018) investigated that there is strong evidence of significance relationship between the results of the parameters (Food Quality, Cleanliness, Water Supply and First aid) service. Iftikhar & Ajmal (2015) found that hostels have great importance in the educational journey of students.

OBJECTIVE:

To find out the critically investigate the facilities and the educational services provide for school going students is the Lodha Samaj Sevak Sanghs Ashram Hostel, Debra.

METHOD:

The study was qualitative in nature. A case study design was used in this study. To study only investigate Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangh Ashram Hostel. Techniques of collecting data used were observation and interview.

RESULT & DISCUSSION:

In some Countries the term 'Hostel' is used boarding place for students and travellers. Although in India the word 'hostel' is related to boarding place related to school, college, university. Those hostels are supervised by warden, hostel super. Some workers also engaged for proper management in different sectors like gardening, cooking, serving etc. In hostels hundreds of students stay. Those students come to the hostels from different social, geographical, economical, moral fields. But in hostel they form a group.

At the same time in India there are some hostels that are not related to school, college, and university. Those hostels are run by some independent educational agencies. Those hostels are established for down trodden students. Sometimes the students pay partially / partly as hostel charge, in some cases the authority can remit hostel charge totally depending on the economic condition of the student. So that all types of students can continue their studies.

Hostels are places where different types of students come for formal education from their homes. But hostels are not like only boarding places- it is the practical laboratory of students. It is the centre of education. At hostel life learners can learn from their teachers side by side from their other boarders. So besides learning character formation is formed in hostel life. In hostel life learners not only learn theoretical knowledge but also learn skill development, self sufficiency etc.

In the society to uplift the boys & girls from down trodden area for most lagged behind community 'Lodha' hostels are established like Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangha Ashram hostel. Which is situated in Debra block at Chaksahapur & Pakui village under the district of Paschim Midnapur, West Bengal. This ashram hostel is established in 12 th March by 1978 first graduate from Lodha community Mr. Prahlad Kr. Bhakta. This hostel is named as 'BIPASHA' – the name of a daughter (girl) – as daughter is reared by love & affection by the parents, so as Bipasha is formed. The hostel is totally residential. As the Lodha community is mainly found in Paschim Medinipur & Jhargram in WestBengal, so lodha students from different blocks of those two districts used to come at 'BIPASHA'. With the passing of time the hostel has been developing day by day by its own way/ procedure:-

HOSTEL ENVIRONMENT:

- i) The hostel is situated between Chaksahapur & Pakui village surrounded by a boundary wall the lap of village nature.
- ii) Outside the hostels lodha community people live.
- iii) There are separate buildings for male ('BANKIM BHAWAN') and female ('MAHASWETA BHAWAN') students within the hostel area (as Mahasweta Devi once visited the place). In addition, there are office room, teachers' room, staffroom, playground, flower garden, two big ponds, kitchen, health centre, dining, tube well & submersible for drinking water.



NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

As the report of the hostel staff – about 130 students stay here. Among them 57 boys & 73 girls. In the hostel for Government grant for boys I to X, for girls up to class IV. But the hostel authority arranged for girls up to class VIII by their own effort.

HOSTEL STAFF:

For maintenance 15 staff are there. Among them 6 male & 9 female. Among 9 female 3 female are engaged in cooking.

GOVERNMENT GRANT:

The government gives a monthly grant of Rs 1000 per student and some money for running the association.

FACILITIES AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

❖ Daily study and work rules of students in Ashram Hostel.

SL.NO.	Time	Things to do for students
1	5.00 a.m.	Wake Up
2	5.00 a.m. – 5.30 a.m.	Make your own bed, Brush your teeth, Take a bathroom.
3	5.30 a.m. – 5.50 a.m.	Prayer and work responsibilities.
4	5.50 a.m. – 6.15 a.m.	Clean up. Keep the room clean.
5	6.15 a.m. – 6.45 a.m.	Morning tiffin
6	6.45 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	Education is provided by full-time hostel staff and teachers from outside.
7	9.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	Take a bath. Clean the necessary clothes and clean the room.
8	10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Lunch before going to school. Lunch time changes on holidays.
9	10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m./4.30 p.m.	Students go to the school adjacent to the hostel in line.
10	4.00/4.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m./5.00 p.m.	After returning from school, the room is cleaned and afternoon tiffin is eaten.
11	5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Playing sports in the hostel grounds.
12	6.15 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Praying and reporting on a student's strengths and weaknesses.
13	6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.	Studying is done
14	8.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	Night meal
15	9.45 p.m.	Go to sleep

❖ Besides those, some rituals are followed by the learners at hostel

1. Every Sunday students wash their dresses.
2. Students are not allowed in the kitchen/ dining hall except lunch or dinner time.
3. Boys cannot enter girls' hostel at the same time girls cannot enter boys' hostel.
4. Students maintain time as the bell rang.
5. Guardian is not allowed to meet their wards except last Sunday of every month (For special purpose or emergency guardians are allowed).

❖ Diet Chart of students for Lodha Samaj Sevak Sangha hostel: -

SL.NO.	Day	Tiffine of morning	Lunch	Tiffine of Evening	Dinner
1	Monday	Parched rice, gram, boiled potatoes	Rice, Vegetable, Egg broth	Parched rice, Boiled peas	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse
2	Tuesday	Parched rice, Boiled peas	Rice, Vegetable, Fish broth	Parched rice, Sweet	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse
3	Wednesday	Parched rice, Boiled peas	Rice, Vegetable, Egg broth	Parched rice, Motor curry	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse
4	Thursday	Parched rice, Chickpeas are Boiled	Rice, Vegetable, Nutrela curry	Parched rice, Boiled peas and Milk	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse
5	Friday	Parched rice, Chickpeas are Boiled	Rice, Vegetable, Fish broth	Parched rice, Fried potatoes	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse
6	Saturday	Parched rice, Boiled peas	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse	Parched rice, Peas and gram or Chickpea boiled	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse,
7	Sunday	Parched rice, gram, boiled potatoes	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse	Parched rice, Motor curry	Rice, Vegetable, Pulse, Meat broth every 15 days

Special note: Food list may be changed for special needs.



PROBLEMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOSTEL:

1. Per head Government grant of students is very low.
2. For staying at hostel specially girls class limit should be increased (from class IV to onwards).
3. At modern time hostel rooms should be modernised.
4. Guardians of Lodha students are very poor and uneducated. So they have negative attitude for sending their wards to the hostel. Those guardians have no proper idea regarding educational prospect.
5. Staffs of the hostels do not get any Government grant.

CONCLUSION:

77 years of our independence have passed. Today's civilization is based on technology civilization and artificial intelligence. At this situation most lags behind community, Lodha have failed to come forward in the mainstream of the society. About 90% of the Lodha community are now landless. They are mainly daily labours for earning. So wards of those families engaged in earning rather than learning. So those families could not realise the importance of learning. That is why Lodha Samaj Sevak Ashram hostel is established. Many problems are there. In spite of those problems the hostel 'BIPASHA' is trying day and night for the development of the Lodha community. So Government & NGOs should come forward more and more for proper development of 'BIPASHA' to uplift the Lodha community.

References:

- Bhaiya, R. C. (2019). Britisa Sasankale Kharagapur Saha Jangalmahaler Arthasamajik Abastha . In Y. Khan (Ed.), *Junglemahal Samaj Sanskriti o Sahitya (Bengali Book)* (pp. 246-255). College Street, Kolkata: Progressive Publishers.
- Chougule, P. S., Salunkhe, S. T., Patil, S. V., Kolhe, V. V. & Patil, G. T. (2021). A Review of Hostel Students Regarding Facilities Provided by the College, Using Statistical Measures. *International Journal of Engineering Research and Applications*, 11(2), 28-36.
- Guru, M. (2019). Medinipur Junglemahalbasi: Akti Sankhipta Parichiti. In Y. Khan (Ed.), *Junglemahal Samaj Sanskriti o Sahitya (Bengali Book)* (pp. 149-165). College Street, Kolkata: Progressive Publishers.
- Iftikhar, A. & Ajmal, A. (2015). A Qualitative Study Investigating the Impact of Hostel Life. *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health and Human Resilience*, 17(2), 511- 515.
- Kavad, H. D. & Jansari, A. (2019). Social Adjustment of Students' Residing in Hostel and at Home. *The International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 7(4), 719-723.
- Khan, F. R., Alshekili, N. S. H., Badi, A. S. A. & Khanbashi, H. A. A. (2020). Exploring the Impact of Hostel Life of Students on Academic Performance: Sohar University – a Case Study". *International Journal of Research in Entrepreneurship & Business Studies*, 1(1), 1-14.
- Mansoor, U. & Ali, M. H. (2015). Impact of Hostel Students Satisfaction on their Academic Performance in Sri Lankan Universities. *5th International Symposium*, 43-45.
- Memon, M., Solangl, M. A. & Abro, S. (2018). Analysis of Students' Satisfaction with Hostel Facilities: A Case Study. *Sindhu University Research Journal (Science Series)*, 50(1), 95-100.
- Panda, S. (2015). The Development of Primitive Tribal Groups: A Case of Lodha and Birhor of West Bengal. *World Wide Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development*, 1(6), 28-35.