



# Impact of the Traditional Knowledge on Informal Education

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## Abstract

*There are three form of Education as- Formal, Informal and Non-Formal. In this Education system, Informal Education is the valuable form of Education, where people gather a huge knowledge that helps native people to survive this world. In this Informal Education, there have no curriculum no school boundary. People learn many thing from this sector. In this Informal Education many thing that have increase the learning probability. Traditional Knowledge is one of them that enhance tendency to learn Informal Education. Crab Hunting also a traditional job that has been learning through Informal Education. Traditional knowledge is a kind of knowledge that involves innovations and practices of indigenou and local people around the world. It developed from experience gained over the many years and adapted to the local culture and environment. We will discuss how Traditional Knowledge has been making a great impact to the Informal Education.*

**Keywords:** *Traditional Knowledge, Informal Education, Crab Hunting, Schema, Learning,*

## Introduction:

Human learn from born to death for surviving in this world. If we analyse the Knowledge that a person or a child learns for surviving this world, we can see various form of learning sector where he learnt. If we analyse the form or sector of education, we can classify it into three part. Those are Informal Education, Formal Education and Non Formal Education. The term Informal Education is a sense, that consist outside of a structure curriculum, where haven't any norms any classroom or boundary. In this sector of Informal Education people gather knowledge from his interest, by his observation and activity. Interest, Observation and Practice are the basic rule of Informal Education. In our surrounding area the several job that has been performing Traditionally by the worker. In this various job, we can see the worker didn't learn the technique or activity from Formal Education to do the job. Generally, the knowledge about these kind of job they gather from there inherent generation. Those kind of knowledge we can call Traditional Knowledge. Basically this Traditional Knowledge is transform from generation to generation. In this study the crab hunting one of them Traditional Knowledge that fully perform by Informal Education.

## Objectives of the study:

This present study was conducted among the people who are involved in Traditional jobs. In these jobs, how have people been performing their activities? From where have they learnt these kinds of activities? In these activities, what kind of knowledge are involved? Is there any relation to Informal Education? How do many persons adapt their family jobs as well as traditional jobs? Are they satisfied to be involved in family jobs? Keeping in view of the above points, the study has focussed on the following objectives of understanding the-

1. To describe a brief concept of Traditional knowledge.
2. To analyse the formation of Traditional Knowledge and how it transforms from generation to generation?
3. To discuss the relationship between Informal Education and Traditional Knowledge.
4. Will be found out, do they enjoy their Traditional job?
5. To explore how many persons want to learn their family jobs?

## Research Methodology:

In this study, I used the survey method in the Sundarban area at Kultali in South 24 Parganas. In this area, I saw various kinds of jobs that have been performed by Traditional Knowledge. In this Traditional job, crab hunting is one of them that has been learned by the people through Informal Education who are living in coastal areas in Sundarban. Therefore, I collected fifty (50) samples from ten (10) villages, which are situated on the riverside. In this study, I followed purposive sampling method. Hence, I used various tools and techniques such as questionnaire and observation to collect data. Data resources are both primary and secondary sources used as sources of collecting data. Here, secondary data sources were also used. Data were collected from various books, articles, research journals and websites. This study is qualitative and quantitative because, here I used qualitative and quantitative data. For data analysis and interpretation, analytical methods were used in this study.

## What is Traditional Knowledge:

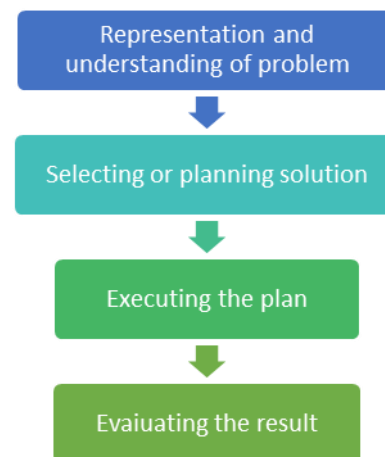
If we analyse the words 'Traditional Knowledge' we can see there are two words, one is 'Tradition' and the other is 'Knowledge'. The word 'Tradition' is derived from the Latin word 'traditio' that means hand over or confer. In this word, we can say "A way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time." The other word 'Knowledge' means 'fact, information, and skills acquired through experience; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. So we can call Traditional Knowledge is local and culture-specific; it is orally transmitted through imitation and demonstration; it is the consequence of practical engagement in everyday life and is constantly reinforced by experience, trial and error and deliberate experiment; it tends to be empirical and empirical-hypothetical rather than theoretical in the strict sense; it is 'people's science' and is asymmetrically distributed in a population; the organization of Traditional Knowledge is essentially functional, denotative 'know-how' geared to practical response and performance; and it is holistic, integrative and situated within broader cultural traditions.

Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge are often used as synonyms. However, indigenous knowledge is more confined to a group or locality, while traditional knowledge can be indigenous or non-indigenous for the practising community. Hence, we would prefer the term Traditional Knowledge, the knowledge which is collectively held, which grows from experience and which is transmitted inter-generationally.

Traditional knowledge is a kind of knowledge that involves innovations and practices of indigenous and local people around the world. It developed from experience gained over the many years and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge is transmitted from generation to generations by oral and observation. It tends to be collectively owned and takes the form of hunting, earning food, cultural values, beliefs, rituals, community laws, local activities, and agricultural practices, including the development of plant species and animal breeds. Traditional knowledge is mainly of a practical nature, particularly in such fields as agriculture, fisheries, health, and forestry.

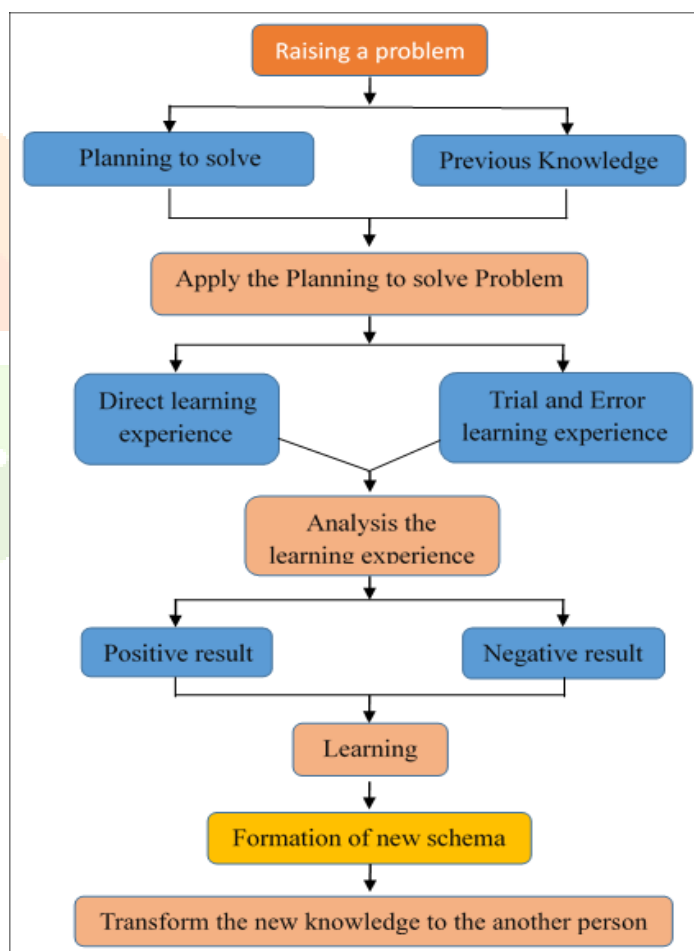
## Formation of Traditional Knowledge:

Every person always wants to fulfil his needs; that is why, they fall into several problems. After that, they want to overcome it. When he trying to solve the problem, he goes through several steps to solve the problem. That has known as Representation and understanding of problem, Selecting or planning solution, Executing the plan, Evaluating the result. We can see those steps as a diagram-



Apart from this stage of Problem solving, we will see the other part where the people gather traditional Knowledge as well as Informal Education. According to Piaget our cognitive development is influenced by social transmission, or learning from other. Without social transmission, we would need to reinvent all the knowledge already offered by our culture. The amount people can learn from social transmission varies according to their stage of cognitive development. In his opinion (Piaget), our thinking processes change radically, through slowly, from birth to maturity because we constantly strive to make sense of the world. How do we do this? Piaget identified

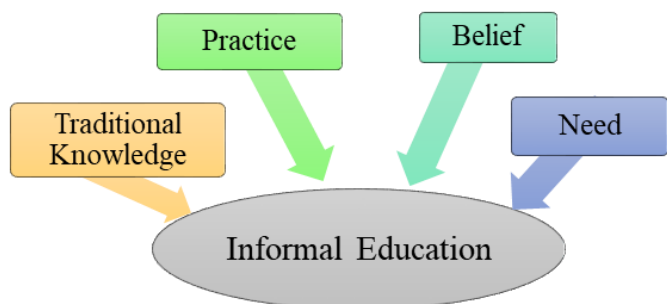
four factors – Biological maturation, activity, social experiences, and equilibration – that interact to influence changes in thinking. People always combining, arranging, recombining, rearranging of behaviours and thoughts into coherent systems and adjusting to the environment. When he facing some problem, at first he makes a plan to solve it. Obviously he had some knowledge about the problem matter. About this previous knowledge of the problem, we can call ‘existing schema’. This ‘existing schema’ and ‘plan’ that he made, are apply to solve the problem. When he goes to solve the problem, he gets two ways to solve the problem. One of them is ‘direct method’, that’s mean he tries one time and solve it by one chance at a time. But several time he tries to more than one time to solves the problem and finally able to do that. This procedure that he got more and more trying is call ‘Trial and Error method’. After solving the problem, the person got two kind of experience one is ‘direct learning experience’ and other is ‘trial and error learning experience’. Finally,



when he has finished the job he analyses whether is it right or wrong that he wants? In this aspect there are two output cam in front him. One is positive result and other is negative result. If it has done perfectly that’s he wants it is call positive result but it did not finish that he wants is call negative result. Both the negative and positive result make him learning. This learning help him to build a new schema that’s we can call ‘Assimilation’. Assimilation is fitting new information into existing schemas. Formation of new schema or new knowledge he can able to solves such as like as problem. If, this kind of knowledge is made based on sustainable development then it spread from known to unknown. This kind of knowledge is call Traditional Knowledge. Here I drew some diagram for understanding how Traditional Knowledge is build and reconstruct.

### Traditional Knowledge and Informal Education:

Informal Education is the valuable form of Education, where people gather a huge knowledge that helps native people to survive this world. If we follow or search around our living area, we will see various kind of job as, fishing, hunting, wood cutting, farming, cooking, handicraft, house making, etc. that has been doing by their traditional knowledge. The people who are involve of those kind of job, where they get such of those knowledge to perform those kind of jobs? Nowadays, we do not think about this! We believe that every valuable knowledge that can help to survive this world, get from formal education but It is not true. There is huge knowledge, huge job in our surrounding area that has been helping to solve our problem, every day every life every moment. Hence the question arises, from where and how people learn such as those technique and knowledge? In this purpose, we can say it comes to the people from Informal Education by Traditional Knowledge.



### Satisfaction on their Traditional Job

Before here, I have mentioned that crab hunting is a traditional job. It is a big difficult to learn such as critical job. In Sundarban area people do not learn it from formal education. They have not any trainer also. They have been learning it from informal way. So, it is a question that arrive in my mind that, are traditional knowledge able to make happy; who are involve it? Here I kept a question on my questionnaire, which I used in research survey that- **‘Do you enjoy your job?’** (In the Statistics J.S means – Job Satisfaction) From this question, which data I have got that, there are 49 people have said ‘Yes’ and one person has said ‘No’ in fifty sample. So here we can see ninety-eight percent people who are involve in crab hunting are enjoy their job and two percent people are not satisfy in their job. Therefore, we can say, it is good.

| Statistics |         |           |         |               |                    |
|------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| J.S        |         |           |         |               |                    |
| N          | Valid   | 50        |         |               |                    |
|            | Missing | 0         |         |               |                    |
| Mean       | 1.0200  |           |         |               |                    |
| J.S        |         |           |         |               |                    |
|            |         | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid      | Yes     | 49        | 98.0    | 98.0          | 98.0               |
|            | No      | 1         | 2.0     | 2.0           | 100.0              |
|            | Total   | 50        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

### How many person want to learn their family job:

In this questionnaire, I have kept another two question that is, **‘what kind of job had your father’s?’** and other is, **‘what kind of job do your son like?’** it may be arise a question, why I have use such as question? Because, my objectives is impact of the traditional knowledge on informal education. That is why I wanted to see how many person want to learn their father job to survive their life? Aspect of this first question (Here in statistics F.J means Father’s Job) I have received several answer. Many people said their father was involved crab hunting, other said their father was farmer and few person said crab hunter and fisher. Here we see seventy-six percent people come from traditional way from informal education. Twenty-four percent people come from other sectors; obviously, that was informal education as well as traditional knowledge.

| Statistics |                          |           |         |               |                    |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| F.J        |                          |           |         |               |                    |
| N          | Valid                    | 50        |         |               |                    |
|            | Missing                  | 0         |         |               |                    |
| Mean       | 1.2800                   |           |         |               |                    |
| F.J        |                          |           |         |               |                    |
|            |                          | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid      | Crab Hunting             | 38        | 76.0    | 76.0          | 76.0               |
|            | Farming                  | 10        | 20.0    | 20.0          | 96.0               |
|            | Crab Hunting and Farming | 2         | 4.0     | 4.0           | 100.0              |
| Total      |                          | 50        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |



The other question was ‘**what kind of job do your son like?**’ (Here in statistics S.J means Son’s Job) through this question, I have received many answers. In the survey, eleven peoples said that, now their son has involved in crab hunting. Two person said crab hunting and farming. Apart from this, we can say twenty-two percent people have interested from their family job. Four percent are involve crab hunting and farming. In the study we can say traditional knowledge is going on still now based on Informal Education.

| Statistics |                            |           |         |               |                    |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| S.J        |                            |           |         |               |                    |
| N          | Valid                      | 50        |         |               |                    |
|            | Missing                    | 0         |         |               |                    |
| Mean       |                            | 3.7200    |         |               |                    |
|            |                            |           |         |               |                    |
| S.J        |                            |           |         |               |                    |
|            |                            | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid      | Crab Hunting               | 11        | 22.0    | 22.0          | 22.0               |
|            | Crab hunting and farming   | 2         | 4.0     | 4.0           | 26.0               |
|            | Everything Nothing special | 16        | 32.0    | 32.0          | 58.0               |
|            | Nothing                    | 21        | 42.0    | 42.0          | 100.0              |
|            | Total                      | 50        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

### Major findings of this study:

In this study, my focus was how people has been performing there activity, who are not learnt from Formal Education? From where, they have learnt these kind of activity? In these activity what kind of knowledge are involve? Is there any relation to the Informal Education? How many persons adapt their family job as well as traditional job? Are they satisfy to involve in family job? Through these questions we can able to say that-

1. Traditional Knowledge is a concept that human learn from previous generation. It has not any manuscript. It has been transmitting orally from generation to generation. Traditional Knowledge always helps to sustainable development.
2. Traditional Knowledge always develop by Problem Solving Learning, Trial and Error Learning. It always helps to build a new schema.
3. Informal Education and Traditional Knowledge both depend on each other. It has deep relationship. It helps to perform the native people to do their duty.
4. In statistical analysis, we have seen ninety-eight percent people like their traditional job. As like as these jobs basically performed by Traditional Knowledge through the Informal Education.
5. In this study, we saw seventy-six person people have learnt their job from their parents. In this present context, twenty-two percent people have taught to their child this kind of traditional job. There for we can say this traditional job has been going popularly.

### Conclusion:

After an in-depth study, we can say Traditional Knowledge and Informal Education is an important part of our daily life. We do not know how many job we are doing by Traditional Knowledge through Informal Education. Traditional Knowledge, Practice, Beliefs, Need etc. are involve in Informal Education. We saw, how Traditional Knowledge transform generation to generation from known to unknown. Nowadays many people are involve in traditional knowledge. Traditional Knowledge may be analyse by Cognitive, Affective and Psychomotor domain. This learning domain also involve in Informal Education. So we can say Traditional Knowledge always make a great impact on the Informal Education.

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