

SANTALS - TRIBAL GROUPS OF WEST BENGAL - A FACT FINDING SURVEY WITH REFERENCE TO FOLK CLAIMS

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Abstract

In order to investigate aspects related to health status among the rural population and to identify various causes for imbalance in health levels and their relation to socio-economic circumstances, standards of living and environment and to document common folklore claims among the tribal people-Santals in particular, a survey has been conducted by Central Research Institute (Ay.), Kolkata under Survey & Surveillance Programme of C.C.R.A.S., New Delhi during the period from 1990 - 98. During the survey efforts have been made to study some of Tribal Pockets where 'Santals' are dominant. Accordingly the survey was conducted in many villages of Purulia, Midnapore, Bankura & Birbhum Districts of West Bengal. Efforts were made to study on various aspects like: Historical background (Past & Present) of The Santals, Demographical/ Geographical locations, Language, Educational/Occupational pattern, Social / Family structure and their Religious beliefs etc and also tried to record some of folklores commonly being used by the Santals.

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