

## MODERNIZATION AND SANSKRITIZATION OF KORA TRIBES IN WEST BENGAL: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

Biswajit Goswami

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Swami Vivekananda Centre for Multidisciplinary Research in Educational Studies, University of Calcutta recognized Research Centre under Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira, Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal

### Abstract

The present study is about the modernization and Sanskritization at one of the distinctive tribe, the "KORA" in eastern India. As per the Indian constitution order (1950), the KORA community had been placed of twentieth number in West Bengal. KORA is a small tribal community in the eastern India. In West Bengal, the Kora tribes have rightly adopted all the religious customs and practices of Hinduism. Kora are somehow isolated from the sophisticated Hinduism through their economic background, social segregation and a general lack of direct access to literate Hindu Tradition. Certain symbolic traits at the Kora also do not support their abovementioned aspiration and pull-down their claim to the level at 'very low' castes. Therefore, this study intends to focus upon the effects of modernization and sanskritization on the Kora community in West Bengal with special reference to Bankura and Purulia district.

**Keywords:** Kora tribes, Modernization, Sanskritization

### INTRODUCTION

The present study is about the modernization and sanskritization at one of the distinctive tribe, the "KORA" in eastern India. According to the constitution of India (Scheduled Tribes orders), the second amendment Bill; 2011 – "Tribal follow some specific criterion like having primitive traits, distributive culture geographical isolation, shyness at contact with the community at large and backwardness. In General usage, the word "tribe" is taken to denote a primary aggregate of peoples living in a primitive or barbarous condition under a headman or chief. The unnecessary moralistic overtones that this usage implies can be avoided or minimized by the use of the expression "tribal society," which is to be preferred to such synonyms as "primitive society" or "preliterate society." At the same time, the word "tribe" need not be discarded. Indeed, it has become a technical term denoting a territorially defined political unit, a usage that recalls the original Latin use of the word for

Volume - 12, 2020

the political divisions or patrician orders of the Roman state. The concept "tribal society," therefore, although having general utility as an idealized type of society, is in no sense an absolute category. Some societies are merely more or less tribal than others. In the classification of societies according to their scale, "tribal society" can be regarded at most as a loosely bounded area at the opposite end of the continuum to that of "modern society."

As per the Indian constitution order (1950), the KORA community had placed the twentieth number in West Bengal. KORA is a small tribal community in eastern India i.e in West Bengal. In West Bengal houses KORA tribes are found in every hook and look at the region. KORA has its habitats all over West Bengal especially in Paschim Midnapur, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Burdhaman, Hoogly. Besides West Bengal KORA tribe is located in the state of Bihar, Jharkand. The KORA is also known as KHORA or CORA are indigenous tribes at the great Andaman's people, originally living on the eastern part at north, Andaman Island (George weber, 2009). As per the 2001 census Report, the total population at the KORA community was 142,789, and 3.2 percentage at the total scheduled tribes' population in West Bengal.

The word 'KORA' has got a significant meaning. It signifies earth digging. So it becomes quite obvious that the profession that this KORA is related to cultivation. "The caste (kora believes tank digging, road making and earthwork generally to be their characteristics. Profession and it may be surmised that their adoption of comparatively degraded occupations, necessarily involving a more or less wondering Manner of life may be the cause which lad to their separation from the Mundas, who are above all things settled agriculturists, conspicuous for their attachment to their original villages" (Risley: 1891, 506-507). As per the 2011 census report, in the state at West Bengal the total no.of scheduled tribes was 5,296,953 (Rural - 4,855,115 Urban- 441,838). Literacy rates at tribes (2011) 68.2% male, 47.7% female in West Bengal.

The West- Bengal the KORA tribes have rightly adopted all the religious customs and practices at Hinduism. KORA are the same what isolated from the sophisticated Hinduism through their economic background, social segregation and a general lack of direct access to literate Hindu Tradition. Certain symbolic traits at the KORA, also do not support their above. Maintained aspiration and pull-down their claim to the level at 'very law' cases.

Therefore, this study intends to focus upon the effects of modernization and sanskritization on the KORA community at West Bengal which special reference to Bankura and Purulia district.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To examine the social changes in the KORA community with reference to modernization and sanskritization.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present researchers want to study one of the most dominant tribes in West Bengal i.e. the KORA in respect of their education and how it affects their day to day lives with the help of Ethnographic methodology. Ethnography deals with the study of the diversity of human cultures in