



LANGUAGE PROBLEM AMONG THE SANTAL STUDENTS IN PURULIA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

India is one of the diversified and multi-cultural countries in the world. Here difference kinds of people live together without any conflict. The population of the country includes of different castes, communities, social and ethnic groups. Santal is one of them. In India the tribes are known to be the autochthonous people of the land. But it is true that tribal peoples are one of the backward sections in the society and even in this modern age they face various kinds of problem. Language problem is one of the major problems. On the focus of this problem this paper tries to point out the language problem among the scheduled tribe particularly Santal tribe students in Purulia District. A questionnaire was used for knowing the language problems of Santal students in purulia district. The sample consists of 100 Santal students (Male-60 & Female- 40) reading in Primary schools of Purulia district, West Bengal. The study revealed that 100% students are responded that Santali language can't be teaches in the school. It is also found that 38% Santal students agreed with the school provides Santali books for the study and 62% Santal students said that no Santali books has been provided for their study. It is also found that all Santal students responded that teacher can't teach his lesson in Santali language. Present study also revealed that 78% Santal students said that they are not found any friends to talk in Santali language and 22% Santal students said that they found friends to talk in Santali language. On the other hand, this study revealed that 67% Santal students responded that government has taken many steps for improve the Santali language and 33% Santal students said that government could not taken any steps for improving the Santali language.

KEYWORDS: Language Problem, Scheduled Tribe, Santal Students, Santali Language

1. INTRODUCTION

Tribal people of India is one of the socially and economically background people and in 21st century they are still facing various problems. With a population of more than 10.2 crores, India has the single largest tribal population in the world. This constitutes 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country (Census of India, 2011). There is no set definition of tribes. The Tribal people are the oldest ethnological segment in the Indian population. The tribal people live in rather inaccessible parts of the country and their social life have different cultures, faiths, traditions and value. The tribal way of life is very much dictated by the forest right from birth to death. It is ironical that the poorest people of India are living in the areas of richest natural resources. Traditionally tribal people live away from the civilized world and their main occupations are gathering forest product, agriculture and hunting. For the lack of consciousness and corruptions tribal peoples are not developed properly. After independence both central and state government have adopted various welfare scheme for the upliftment of tribal people. But still they are strangling to developing their social, economic, educational status. Among the Scheduled Tribes Santals are also facing so many problems. Language problem is one of the major problems among the Santal people and students. Santali language, Santali also spelled Santali, a Munda language spoken primarily in the east-central Indian states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa (www.britannica.com). It is believed that Santali language is actually older than Indo Aryan languages. Moreover, it is estimated that Santal script is comparatively a current advancement as Santali language did not have any written

language. It used Devanagari, Latin or Roman and Bengali writing systems (Kisku, 2012). Santals have their script called Olchiki, which was developed by Dr Raghunath Murmu in 1925. The members of the Santal people have accepted the dialect Santali as their mother tongue

(www.indianmirror.com/tribes/santhaltribes.html).

As we all know that mother tongue is very essential for communication, study or any other activity. With the help of mother tongue we are fluently communicate with other and we are filling very comfortable when we used mother tongue. Tribal people are an integral part of society but in 21st century they survive for communication, education and interaction. All these problems are related with their language problem and it is the major problem of tribal people. As Language being the most important medium of communication and education and if we are used own language for communication that is very successful. Language problem is the major problem of tribal (santal) people which prevents them access to education. But they can't use their own language for communication and study. For the luck of proper infrastructure of tribal language they are survive. Everyone have the right that they used their own language for study or communication but unfortunately tribal language can't be used as a medium of communication. They are not able to participate in the process of communication or interaction with other friends who are not Santal communities. Tribal people have their own language and they always want to use their own language but lack of proper institute, books and proper teacher they are not improved in their own language. To improve their own language various steps should be taken for



developed the communication process and interaction of tribal people. The central government and state governments have initiated schemes for the improvement of Santali language of Santali students but still all programs are not reaching effectively.

2. STATEMENTS OF THE PROBLEMS

The problem for the present study is specifically stated as below:

“Language Problem among the Santal Students in Purulia District”

3. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

A. Varghese & P. Nagaraj (2013) have conducted a study on *“English language & Tribal learners”*. The result of this study as there is different language at home and school the education system of the tribal learners should be hampered. So, at first, we have to improve their language and according to the construct of curriculum.

Goutam, V. (2003) has conducted a study on *“Education of tribal children in India & the issue of medium of instruction, A jansala programme”*. The result of the study as the importance of social, cultural and psychological opportunity was not given to the tribal children, it hampers their language. So the importance must be given to them.

Jha & Jhingran, D. (2002) have strongly advocated the use of the mother tongue or home language as medium of instruction in early stages of education. This assumes greater significance in the context of education of tribal children because their mother tongue is often quite distinct from the prominent languages in the state or regional languages and it is desirable to have a local teacher from the same tribal community.

Rani, M. (2000) observed in her study that due to the language barrier the tribal children are unable to establish communication link with the teacher and thus leading to the termination of their education in some point or the other.

NCERT (New Delhi: 1994) has conducted a study *“Education problem of tribal learners”*. The result of the study a teacher should used the mother language of the tribal children at the time of teaching .the regional language must be used at the time of classroom interaction and curriculum must be constructed according to the regional language.

4. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

(A) Geographical Area

The investigation was delimited to only Purulia district of West Bengal, India.

(B) Level of Education

- (i) The study was restricted to the students reading at Primary school level in Purulia district.
- (ii) Among the Primary school students only Santal (Tribe) (both Male and Female) students were considered as the subjects of the present study.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To point out the use of Santali language in the study.
2. To point out the availability of sufficient books in Santali language at schools.
3. To assess the teacher teaches Santali language or not.
4. To point out the Santali learners speak to others friend in Santali language or not.
5. To point out the governmental steps of the development of Santali language.

6. RESEARCH QUESTION OF THE STUDY

The research question of this study is as following:

1. Is the Santali language teaches in the school?
2. Is there any book in Santali language for study?
3. Are the teachers teaches Santali language as the medium of communication?
4. Are you found any friends in your school to talk in Santali Language?
5. Does any step can be taken by government to improve Santali language?

7. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Method of the Study

The present study is descriptive type in nature. The researcher has used the descriptive type survey method in the present study.

Population of the Study

All the Santal students (both male and female) reading at primary schools in Purulia district of West Bengal (India) comprised as the population of this study.

Sample and Sampling

Ten Primary schools of Purulia district, West Bengal were selected randomly. The researcher selected 100 Santal students randomly (male- 60 & Female-40). Here stratified random sampling technique was adopted. The sample profile is given in **Table 1.**

Table-1 Sample Profile

Male	Female	Total
60	40	100

Tool of the Study: The researcher prepared a questionnaire for knowing the language problems among Santal students.

Analysis marks of per Research Question

Research question	Yes	No
1. Is the Santali language teaches in the school?	1	0
2. Is there any book in Santali language for study?	1	0
3. Are the teachers teach Santali language as the medium of communication?	1	0
4. Are you found any friends in your school to talk in Santali Language	1	0
5. Does any step can be taken by government to improve Santali language?	1	0

8. ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATIONS

Objective-1: To point out the use of Santali language in the study.

Table-2: Shows the percentage of student’s responses of use of Santali Language.

Research Question	Yes %	No %
Is the Santali language teaches in the school?	0%	100%

Figure-1: Graphical Presentation about the research question one.

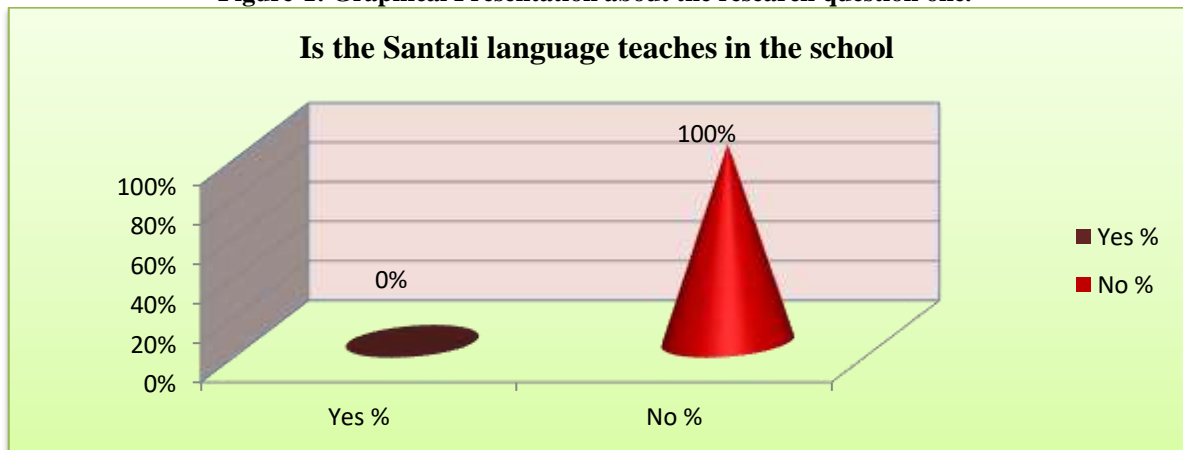


Table-2 Shows that 100% Santal students are says that Santali language can’t be teaches in schools.

Objective-2: To point out the availability of sufficient books in Santali language at schools.

Table-3: Shows the percentage of student’s responses towards second objective.

Research Question	Yes %	No %
Is there any book in Santali language for study?	38%	62%

Figure-2: Graphical Presentation about the research questions two.

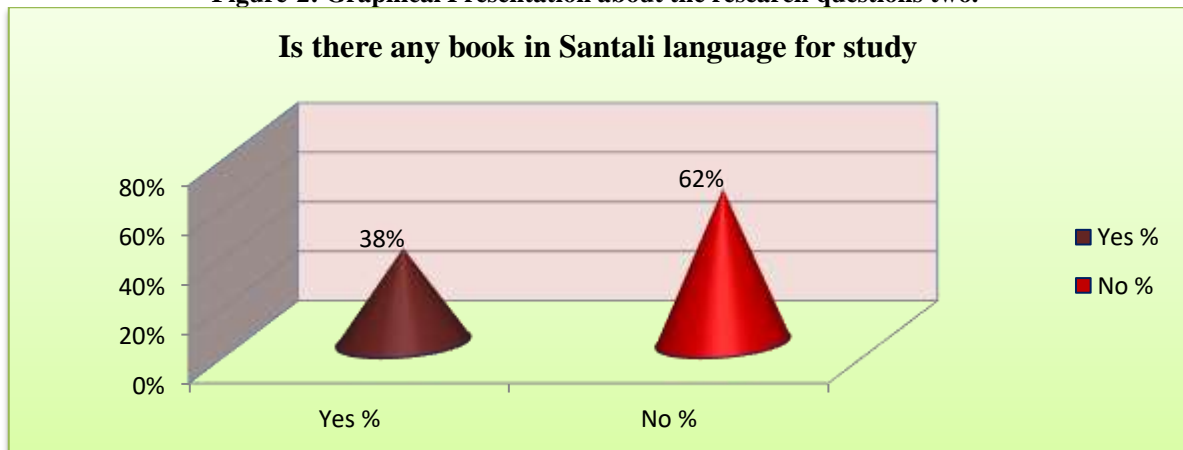


Table- 3 shows that 38% Santal students are responded that school provided Santali books for their study and 62% Santal students are said that no Santali books has been provided of school for their study.

Objective-3: To assess the teacher teaches Santali language or not.

Table-4: Shows the percentage of student's responses towards third objective.

Research Question	Yes %	No %
Are the teachers teaches Santali language as the medium of communication?	0%	100%

Figure-3: Graphical Presentation about the research questions three.

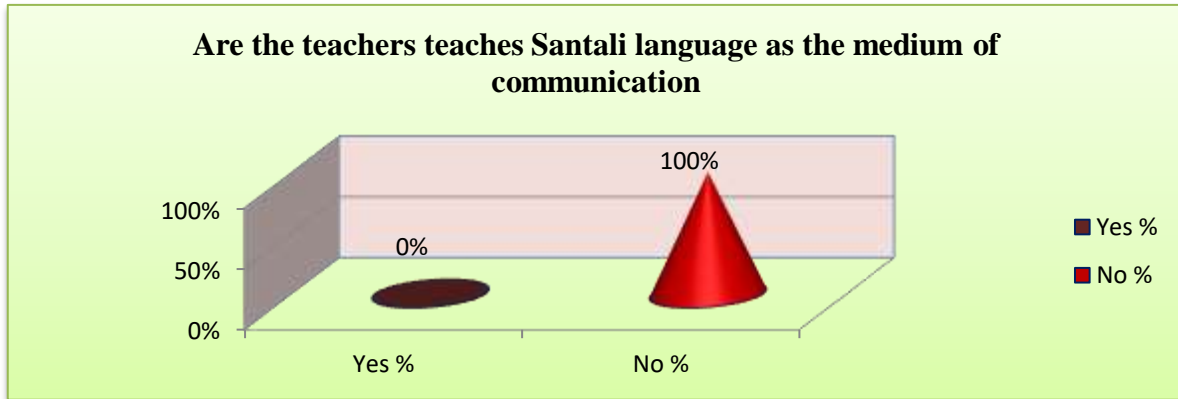


Table- 4 shows all the Santal students responded that teacher can't use Santali language as the medium of communication.

Objective-4: To point out the Santali learners speak to others friend in Santali language or not.

Table-5: Shows the percentage of student's responses towards forth objective.

Research Question	Yes %	No %
Are you found any friends in your school to talk in Santali Language?	78%	22%

Figure-4: Graphical Presentation about the research questions forth.

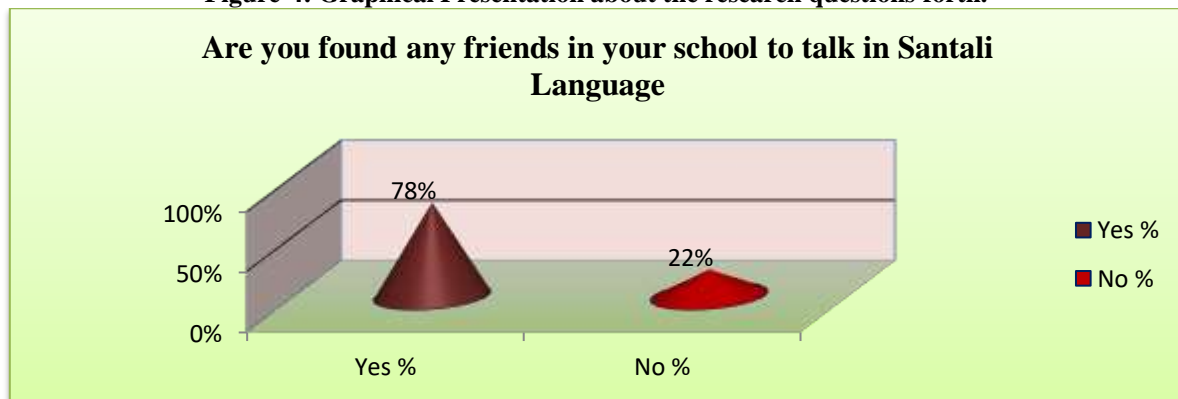


Table- 5 shows that 78% Santal students said that they are found any friends to talk in Santali language in school and 22% Santal students said that they not found friends to talk in Santali language in school.

Objective-5: To point out the governmental steps of the development of Santali language **Table-6:** Shows the percentage of student's responses towards forth objective.

Research Question	Yes %	No %
Does any step can be taken by government to improve Santali language?	78%	22%

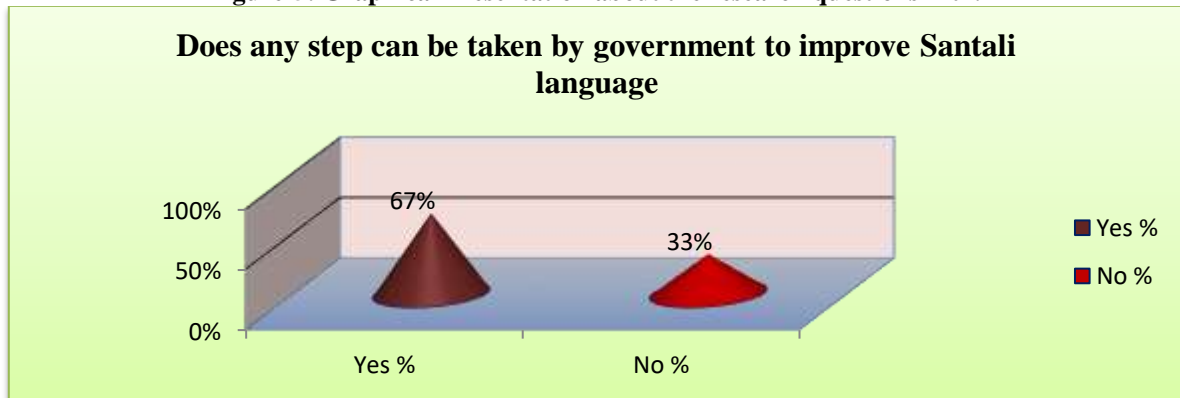
Figure-5: Graphical Presentation about the research questions fifth.

Table- 6 shows that 67% Santal students responded that government has taken many steps for improve the Santali language and 33% Santal students says that government could not taken any steps for improve the Santali language.

9. DISCUSSIONS & CONCLUSION

100% Santal students are responded that Santali language can't be teaches in schools. Once analysis it's additionally found that 38% Santal students are responded that school provided Santali books for the study and 62% Santal students says that no Santali books has been provided for their study. In this study, this is also found that 100% Santal students responded that teacher can't use Santali language as the medium of communication. On the other hand, this study revealed 78% Santal students says that they are not found any friends to talk in Santali language and 22% Santal students says that they found fiends to talk in Santali language. At the last, this study found that 67% Santal students responded that government has taken many steps for improve the Santali language and 33% Santal students said that government could not taken any steps for improve the Santali language.

On the above study it's clear that language problem is one of the vital problems in Santal communities. They can't talk in their own language in schools. On the other hand schools and schools teacher can't use Santali language as a medium of instruction. For the lack of Santali books Santali students are not able to read their mother tongue. As a result the gap has been creating between Santal students and other students. That is very dangerous for any society. So hence time has come to think it seriously about tribal language. So, there is a critical need for different govt. interventions, planners and policy makers to address this problem and allocate more funds in the central and state budgets for Santal language.

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