

Biology of the Pahariya and the Santhal Tribes of the Rajmahal Region of Bihar

Murlidhar Singh¹, Rajendra K. Singh² and S.P. Sinha³

¹Department of Zoology, S.S.V. College, Kahalogaon 813 203, Bihar, India

²Department of Botany, Sahibganj College, Sahibganj 816 209, Bihar, India

³Department of Zoology, Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur 812 207, Bihar, India

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ABSTRACT A door-to-door survey by recall-method was carried out among Sauria, Kumarbhadg and Mal sub-tribes of Pahariyas inhabiting the Rajmahal hills of Central-East Bihar. The Santhal population of the locality was also surveyed to facilitate comparison. The Pahariyas are financially crippled, half-fed, illiterate and socially deprived people. In spite of practicing adult-marriage and having normal fertility, the selection-intensity in them is alarmingly high (always more than 1.0) mainly because of increased mortality component. The Santhals, on the other hand, have much better socio-economic status, fair proportion of literates among them, satisfactory reproductive fitness with milder selection intensity of 0.66. Biological differences, calculated on the basis of nine anthropogenetic traits of attribute nature, is little among the three endogamous sub-tribes of Pahariyas, each of which differs markedly from the Santhals.