

## **'HO' TRIBE OF WEST SINGHBHUM JHARKHAND**

**Rani Dubey**

Assistant Professor, Department of Education  
Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar M. P.

**Sarita Soy**

Research Scholar, Department of Education  
Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar M. P.

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### **Abstract**

*Jharkhand was created by bifurcation of the southern part of erstwhile Bihar in 2000. Jharkhand state came into existence on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2000. Jharkhand holds the 6<sup>th</sup> rank in terms of Scheduled Tribe (ST) population among the Indian States. Jharkhand is a state in Eastern India. It was carved out of the southern part of Bihar. The state has an area of 79, 710 km. It shares its boundary with the states of Bihar to the north, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south and West Bengal to the east. Two notable features of Jharkhand are its high proportion of ST population which is about 26. 3% against an all India average of 8% and a high percentage of area under forest cover which is about 29% against the Indian average of 23%. Jharkhand state has large number of tribal population. In order to protect the interests of scheduled tribes with regard to land alienation and other social factors provisions of the Fifth schedule has been enscribed under Article 244[1] of the constitution of India. This study deals with the tradition and customs of HO Tribe of west singhbhum district.*

**Keywords:** *Jharkhand, population, scheduled tribe*

Jharkhand has around 32 tribal groups, major among them being Santhal, Oraon, Munda and HO. Eight out of the thirty-two tribes of Jharkhand fall under Primitive Tribal Group. They are Asur, Birhor, Korwa, Savor, Pahariya, Mal Pahariya and Souriya pahariya. Primitive Tribal Groups remain the most isolated and disadvantaged indigenous tribal groups with noticeable reduction in their population.

The Fifth Schedule under, Article 244 (2) of the constitution defines, "Scheduled Areas" as such areas as the president may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the governor of the that state.

The tribal normally live in contiguous area unlike other communities. Their lives are closely associated with the nature as they eke out their livelihoods from the natural environment- steams, trees, plants, animals etc. It is, therefore, recognized that maintaining their identities would invariably mean keeping their environment intact with them.

Jharkhand has 32 tribes that were originally classified on the basis of culture.

Hunter Gatherer- Birhor, Korwa, Hill Kharia; Shifting Agriculture- Sauria Paharia; Simple Artisans- Mahli, Lohra, Karmali, Chik Baraik; Settled Agriculture- Santhal, Munda, Oraon, Ho, Bhumij etc.

The majority of Jharkhand tribes are concentrated in eastern and western Singhbhum Ranchi, Dumka Hazaribagh, Palamu and Giridih. According to census 2011 total population of ST, in the state is 8645042 out of which 7868130 lives in rural areas while 776892 lives in urban areas. Total percentage of scheduled tribes in Jharkhand in 2001 was 26.3 percentage while in 2011 the total population constitute 26.20 percentage of the Jharkhand population. The district with highest ST population is Khunti.

The ethnonym HO is derived from the HO language word HO meaning human. Over 90 percentage of the HO practice the indigenous religion SARNALISM. The majority of the HO are involved in agriculture either as land owners or labourers while others are engaged in mining. The HO is one of the Kolarian tribe of Jharkhand and a branch of the Mundas an Austro-Asiatic languages speaking tribe of the Chotanagpur region. They use the HO dialect to communicate among themselves and Hindi as inter-community communication language. While fewer than five percent of the HO speakers are literate in the language. HO is typically written in Devanagari Latin scripts. A native alphabet called Warang Citi and invented by LAKO BODRA in the 20th century, also exists.

**Content :** The Ho is one of the scheduled tribe of Jharkhand. The Ho in Jharkhand belong to Proto-Australoid Stock and speak Ho and Hindi languages: a corrupt version of Bengali is also spoken by the Hos of Jharkhand. In Jharkhand, Ho tribe swells near the rivers, river terraces or by the side of the springs. It is noteworthy in this largely depends on agriculture. Agriculture is the main stay of the people of the Ho tribe in Jharkhand.

Besides, the Ho at Jharkhand practice wage earning for their sustenance. In fact, the majority of the Hos earn their living through daily labor in the different industries and mines in the territory. It is to be noted that the conditions of the people engaged as daily labor are better than the people who depend on agriculture. Furthermore, the Ho at Jharkhand is known to possess a panchayat, takes decisions on behalf of the entire society. It is the fourth largest tribe of Jharkhand and mainly concentrated around the areas of Pashchmi Singhbhum, Purbi Singhbhum and Saraikela Kharswan.

### **SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF HO TRIBE**

The HO settlement region is divided into groups called PIR which is controlled by a divisional headman known as MANKI. The headman of each village is called Munda who is subject to the authority of the manki. The mundas are assisted by Dakuas or the constable appointed by the manki; HO tribe followed the maternal lineage but now they have adopted the patriarchal

type system in their society, marriage are fixed through negotiation and mutual consent. marriage in the maternal family is permissible; Monogamy is the general form in this tribe and polygamy is also practiced; The HO practice monogamy but in certain situation like barrenness widowhood and widower hood, they practice bigamy or trigamy. For the purpose of marriage, they follow the rule of tribe endogamy and clan exogamy; They follow their indigenous religious system called saran or sarnaism. Their religion resembles to a great extent that of santhals, oraons, mundas and other tribals people; Inter tribe and tribe caste marriage is not permissible. It is treated a social offence. There are many types of marriage among the HO such as andi diku andi apotipi rajikhushi and anade; The HO religion presents a mixture of tribal religion hindusim and christianty. The sun, moon, earth river, and mountain are the principal bongas of the HO. The singhbonga is the chief bonga of the HOS; The people celebrate both traditional as well as adopted festivals. Their important traditional festivals are maghe, baha, rajosala, hareo, jamnawo, kokwontanri and kolam, sohrai, and so on; Their festivals are durga puja vishwakarma, ganesh rath yatra and so on. sometimes they give less importance to their traditional festivals; They are primarily agriculturists. Their economy is also based on hunting and primitive shifting cultivation, mining works and so on. Dance is important to Adivasi culture in general and for the HO, it is more than simply a means of entertainment. Their songs are generally accompanied by dances which change with the seasons. Songs and distinctively choreographed dance are integral part of HO culture and art as well as important parts of their traditional festivals, especially mage parab. Most villages have a dedicated dancing ground, called AKHRA usually consisting of a cleared space of hard ground under a spreading tree. Dances are organized on a staggered basis in the villages so. That other villages can participate. Traditional HO music incorporated native instruments including a dama[drum] dumang[mandar], dholak and the rutu[flute]. The HO people brew handia, called by them diyeng. Sal tree is the most important tree for HO community. Almost half the population is engaged in cultivation and another one third also work as land less agricultural labourers. The Hos are comparatively more advanced than other tribes and have taken to setteld cultivation as their mode of life. Many Hos are engaged in mining towns dotting the territory have brought the HO people in close touch with the good and bad aspects of urbanization. some of the prominent mining towns in the area are chiria, gua, noamundi, and kiriburu. As per the 2011 census the literacy rate for the HO population was around 44. 7 percentage for all and 33. 1 percentage for women, much lower than the Jharkhand average of 66. 4 percentage for all and 55. 4 percentage for women.

**Notable HO people:** Late Vijay singh soy- Indian politician and a former member of Bihar vidhan sabha and elected member of 12<sup>th</sup> Lok sabha; MR.

Arjun munda. Minister of tribal affairs ministry and ex chief minister of Jharkhand; Geeta koda- Indian politician and presently serving as the incumbent member of parliament of west singhbhum; Bagun sumbrui- Indian politician and former member of legislative assembly and member of parliament; D. N. Champia- Indian politician former member of legislative council.

**Conclusion**

As we know in all caste and creed have some special characteristic. Attitude occupation and other things may occur in life of any caste and creed. The HOS and HO community lives in life style of village, they also lives in natural environment which is suitable for that community. So, peoples have distinguished cultural traditions and linguistic identity.

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