



**ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

National Research Project in Cultural Anthropology - 2023-2025

**RURAL LIVESTOCK MARKETS IN INDIA: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACETS**

PARTICIPATING UNITS

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE - MYSORE
NORTH-WEST REGIONAL CENTRE - DEHRADUN
WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE - UDAIPUR
CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTRE - NAGPUR**



About the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)

Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) is a government organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It is the only research organization to pursue anthropological research in physical/biological and social/cultural anthropology in a Governmental setup in India. Initially, there was an anthropology section in Indian Museum, Kolkata. Later the Zoology section was bifurcated from the Indian Museum to establish the Zoological Survey of India in 1916 and the Anthropology section became part of ZSI. Finally, the Anthropology section became a separate entity as Anthropological Survey of India in 1945. First it was headquartered at Varanasi and in 1948 it was brought to Kolkata. Besides the Head Office at Kolkata, there are seven regional centres and a sub-regional centre under AnSI. While the regional centres are located at Port Blair, Nagpur, Shillong, Mysore, Udaipur, Dehradun, and Kolkata, the sub-regional centre is functioning with headquarters at Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh state, India.

Anthropological Survey of India is a premier research institute for anthropological research in bio-cultural studies. It is also recognised as one of the most advanced centres for research and training in anthropology and allied disciplines. It endeavours to bring in a multi-disciplinary approach, with both social/cultural and physical/biological divisions. The allied sections under the Cultural Anthropology Division are Linguistics, Human Ecology, Psychology and Folklore; while those under the Physical Anthropology Division are Paleo-anthropology, Biochemistry, and Statistics. The DNA laboratories form an integral part of the Physical Anthropology Division. Besides, there are seven Zonal Anthropological Museums and one Central Museum to document and disseminate the bio-cultural diversity of Indian population. The documentation and dissemination activities are supported by different units, such as Visual Anthropology (carved out from the photography section during the twelfth five-year plan period), Photography and Sound Sections. The Survey has an excellent collection of rare and rich national and international books and journals, which enrich the library section, making it of national significance. For distribution and sale of the Survey's publications, there is also a publication, distribution and sale unit.



Research in the Field of Cultural Anthropology by AnSI

In the field of Cultural anthropology, AnSI undertakes research on aspects relating to unity and diversity of the Indian society, Indian civilization, ethnic identities, interethnic relationships, man-environment relationships, cultural syncretism, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and any other topic of importance for nation building and promotion of socio-economic development of the communities.

Recent Research Projects by Cultural Anthropology Section of AnSI

Anthropological Study of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities of India (2018-2023)

The AnSI launched this project in 2018 and some communities listed in the Idate Commission Report have been studied. Thereafter, the NITI Aayog assigned AnSI to continue working on the same project. Under this project, a total of 268 DNT communities were studied. First communities listed in List C were studied, followed by the communities listed in the Additional List of Idate Commission Report. These communities were either invisible or least known, hence the AnSI was asked to identify and carry out a detailed anthropological study on them. The project aimed to give recommendations regarding granting of appropriate constitutional status to these communities to overcome all discriminations faced by them.

Development and Sustainability (2017-2018)

The project evaluated the impact and sustainability of development programmes and schemes undertaken by the government and local bodies in 15 selected villages across the country.

Man and Environment: Study of Biosphere Reserves of India (2011-2017)

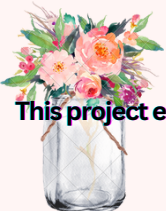
The Government of India became a signatory to the 'Man and Biosphere Programme' of UNESCO in 1988 and under this programme, number of biosphere reserves were created. The main aim of this project was to document and analyse such socio-economic practices which help in the sustainable use as well as conservation of biosphere reserve resources. Under this project, a total of 15 biosphere reserves were studied. Eight reports of the project have been published.

Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development (2012-2017)

The project aimed to assess implementation of government schemes and programmes and changes in four parameters namely livelihood, education, health, and development. A total of 45 villages were studied across the India during the years 2012-2017. All these villages were studied earlier by American or Indian anthropologists/sociologists or as census monographs. Another focus of this study was to ascertain the structural changes took place in all those villages diachronically.

Economic Status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India (2012-2014)

This project endeavoured to analyse the impact of various schemes of government which were particularly meant for the development of PVTGs. All 75 PVTGs were studied under this project and the report has been published.



Current Project

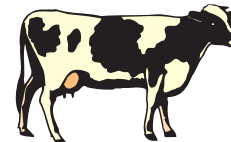
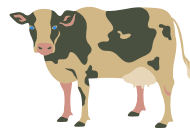
Rural Livestock Markets in India: An Anthropological Exploration of Economic, Social and Cultural Facets

The Research Gap and the Rationale of the Study

With enormous importance attached to cattle, the rural and tribal households in India desire to keep some cattle for both economic and cultural reasons. This need naturally leads to the emergence of weekly or fortnightly local markets locally called by various names like *Haats* for buying-selling and exchanging cattle. These weekly/fortnightly local livestock markets in India are integral to Indian society. These markets are traditionally conducted mostly once a week at some 'central' places for a group of about 50-100 rural villages such that all villages have access to one or more markets at a distance of less than 20-30 km. These markets are organized in small semi-urban places in almost all the districts of the respective states. Of late, these *Haats* have emerged as important business centres.

The most striking feature of these markets is that they have sustained for many years in India despite very little regulation and fulfilled the needs of the local people. As observed by some scholars, 'the Government policies helped the establishment of regulated markets, development of market yards and created infrastructure to facilitate marketing of agricultural produce, but could not give adequate attention towards the development of livestock markets' (Working of livestock exchange markets in Rajasthan). According to Bharti et al. (2015), livestock markets come under the jurisdiction of the state governments, and the local self-government controls supervision. As such, there is hardly any striking regulation of these markets.

Despite the socio-economic significance of cattle markets in rural and tribal areas, there are hardly any in-depth studies conducted in India, and particularly at the national level. The cattle fairs or *Melas* are organized in different corners of the country since time immemorial and reflect the immense importance of cattle in the social and cultural matrix of Indian society, particularly in the State of Rajasthan on which some studies are made. These studies are however conducted from the perspective of tourism potential. A few miscellaneous studies on cattle markets have only focused on aspects like the inadequate facilities for cattle smuggling, the transporting issues, the medical consequences for livestock and also others in the unregulated live markets.



Dimensions Proposed to be Covered in the Current Study

The many dimensions of the livestock markets call for an in-depth anthropological perspective. As economic institutions of the rural and tribal societies, they must first be studied from different economic dimensions. Such economic dimensions include the estimation of the economic transactions and the nature of these economic transactions. The direct sale transactions, the exchange transactions, the buyback facility, the transactions with credit and instalment facilities etc., perhaps form the important items relating to the nature of transactions. The other economic dimension that is equally important to understand is the proportion of traders and livestock farmers among the participants of livestock markets. Likewise, the enquiry on the proportion of 'distress' and 'comfort' sale operations by the livestock farmers and the reasons for 'distress' sale are important to study as they may inform on the economic situation of the marginal farmers and the social security the cattle rearing provides to marginal farmers.

The social dimensions are also important to study in connection with the local livestock markets for multiple reasons. Firstly, these markets are enablers for establishing and expanding social networks and forming social groupings cutting across caste, religion and such other factors. They are the sites for social reconciliations and promotion of interethnic relationships. The aspects like who takes to the livestock trading in these local markets and how they establish their credentials for successful trading are also important social dimensions of these studies. Similarly, investigation on who acts as middlemen in the exchanges and trading of livestock and what their qualifications are is important. Equally significant is to know the extent to which the traditional knowledge relating to cattle health and behaviour is considered important in these economic transactions and how such knowledgeable persons are identified from amongst their social circles and involved.



The fact that these local markets have sustained for generations in India without stringent regulations also calls for understanding these markets' cultural facets. The social norms and mores (morals) followed in the trading and exchange operations, the means of disseminating such codes of conduct, and the enforcement mechanisms of these codes of conduct are one aspect. The speech styles, symbols, metaphors, and body language that become part of the economic transactions between the buyers and sellers and exchangers are important as they reflect the core Indian ethics and character.

The emerging issues relating to the local cattle markets are like how they have absorbed the changes in the lifestyles of people and facilities, especially in the transport sector. The increased access to 'pick up' vehicles in the tribal and rural areas may have increased the transactions, expanded business opportunities for others and widened the scope of these markets as growth centres. Again, these developments have implications for emerging new social groups and increasing one's social capital. The availability and increased use of smartphones and other devices may have brought substantial changes in the nature of operations, including the digital dissemination and exchange of information, digital payments, keeping of records of payments etc., and so accordingly changes may have occurred in the other ethical practices followed earlier.



Research implications

Assessing implications for policy and programmes relating to infrastructure and safety of animals and participants of cattle markets

Understanding of socio-economic changes in rural market operations and policy for facilitating the desirable changes

Understanding on the sustainability of rural institutions and community management of institutions

Understanding of the significance of indigenous veterinary practices and the mechanisms of knowledge dissemination relating to veterinary practices

Contribution to the body of knowledge on the interface of rural economic institutions, social interactions, and cultural symbols



RESEARCH TEAM

Principal Advisors

Prof. BV Sharma, Director, Anthropological Survey of India

Dr. M Sasikumar, Joint Director, Anthropological Survey of India

Prof. (Retd.) Satyanarayan Rath, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Sambalpur University, Burla, Odisha

Principal Investigators

Dr. Amit Kumar Ghosh, Deputy Director (Cultural), AnSI, Head Office, Kolkata

Dr. Nilanjan Khatua, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural), CRC, Nagpur

Dr. Santanu Mitra, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural), WRC, Udaipur

Principal Coordinators

Dr. Ravindra Kumar Koshal, Anthropologist (Cultural) - Data Recording and Qualitative Data

Dr. Aheibam Preetibala, Anthropologist (Cultural) - Data Recording and Qualitative Data

Smt. Shyamoshree Borah, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural) - Data Recording, Data Entry and Quantitative Data

Shri Dalibandhu Pukkalla, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural) - Data Recording, Data Entry and Quantitative Data

Shri Sudarshan Oraon, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural) - Administration

Shri R Rajendra Prasad, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural) - Administration

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH TEAM FROM CULTURAL DIVISION

Southern Regional Centre - Mysore

Shri C Raghu - Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural)
Shri M Gurushantha - Senior Statistical Officer
Ms. Banita Behera - Assistant Keeper
Smt. Rakhi Kumari - Assistant Linguist
Dr. Veena B Nair - Research Associate (Cultural)
Shri Narayana Rao Bonthu - Research Associate (Cultural)
Shri Akhil Unnikrishnan - Senior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Ms. Shiule Gope - Senior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Ms. Reethu Das - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Shri Rahul N.R - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Shri Amit Kumar Maiti - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)

North-West Regional Centre - Dehradun

Shri B. D Sharma - Senior Statistical Officer
Dr. Vijay Kumar - Research Associate (Cultural)
Dr. Karuna Shanker Pandey - Research Associate (Cultural)
Dr. Raj Kumar - Research Associate (Cultural)
Shri Arunesh Kumar - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Ms. Ankita Das - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Ms. Sudeshna Subhramayee - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)

Western Regional Centre - Udaipur

Ms. Sudipa Mandal - Assistant Keeper
Dr. Arsi Prasad Jha - Research Associate (Psychology)
Shri Nirupam Raj Khanikar - Research Associate (Cultural)
Shri Daya Ram Singh - Research Associate (Cultural)
Ms. Shivangi Bahadur - Senior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Shri Ranvijay Yadav - Senior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Shri Rajdip Ghosh - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)

Central Regional Centre - Nagpur

Shri Sudarshan Vaidya - Assistant Keeper
Dr. B. R Hansdah - Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural)
Shri Raj Kishor Mahato - Research Associate (Cultural)
Ms. Gangarapu Sandhya - Research Associate (Cultural)
Shri Asif K. Mulla - Research Associate (Cultural)
Ms. Shruti Duradundeshwar Hiremath - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)
Ms. Sunita Soren - Junior Research Fellow (Cultural)

FOLLOW US

