



A Socio-Economic and Cultural Study of Tumbuni Village, Birbhum District

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Abstract

Tumbuni, a small tribal village on the northwestern border of Birbhum district in West Bengal, India, stands at the intersection of natural beauty and industrial encroachment. Surrounded by lush trees, red soil, and the cultural rhythms of madal drums, Tumbuni’s environment is changing under the influence of nearby industrialization, which introduces a layer of dust over its once-green landscape. The study presents an overview of Tumbuni’s socio-economic conditions, demographic trends, cultural festivals, educational and health conditions, and overall living standards based on a study done in 2021. This research seeks to provide a foundation for future development planning by highlighting the unique attributes and pressing challenges of Tumbuni’s community life.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, Cultural trends, Bandna Festival, Hull Festival

Introduction to Tumbuni Village

Geographical Location: Tumbuni is a small, tribal-dominated village on the border of West Bengal’s Birbhum district, adjacent to Jharkhand and accessible along the Rampurhat-Dumka road.

Environment: Encircled by sal, sonajhuri, mahua, mango, jackfruit, and the vibrant palash, the village radiates natural beauty. However, industrial activities are transforming this green haven as stone dust settles over the flora, turning greenery into brown.

Objective of the Study: This survey aims to provide insights into the socio-economic and cultural aspects of Tumbuni, contributing to knowledge that may support future community development. The findings and recommendations are a step toward enriching similar studies in the future.

2. Regional Identity of Tumbuni

Geographical Overview: The Kusumba region, which includes Tumbuni village, lies 12 km from Rampurhat station in Birbhum and borders Jharkhand.

Accessibility: The Rampurhat-Dumka main road runs through the area, making Tumbuni village easily reachable.

Diverse Population: Though primarily inhabited by tribal communities, Tumbuni is also home to Hindu residents, reflecting a rich cultural blend.

Neighboring Areas: To the north of Tumbuni lies Sampahari village, notable for its educational institutions and weekly markets.

Significance: As a central settlement within this rural region, Tumbuni serves as a focal point for community and commerce.

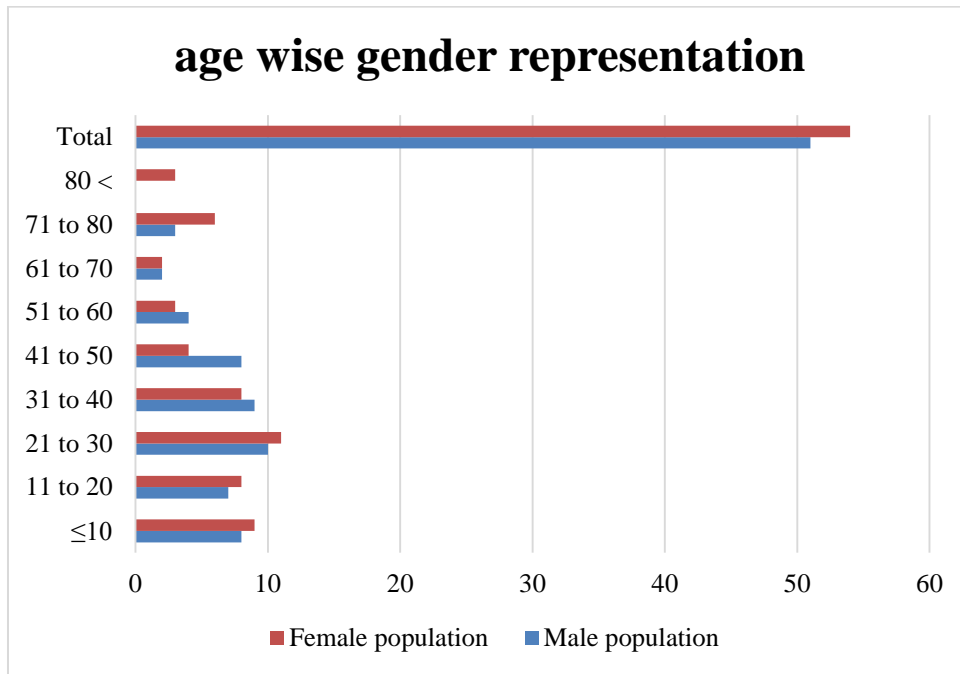
3. Age and Gender-Based Population Structure

Purpose: Analyzing the age and gender structure provides insights into dependency levels, economic participation, workforce trends, and population growth dynamics.

Age-wise distribution of male and female population in Tumbuni village:-

- The village is predominantly tribal, with approximately 87 out of the 105 residents belonging to tribal communities, while the remaining population consists of Hindu residents.

Table with 3 columns: Age, Male population, Female population. Rows include age groups from ≤10 to 80 <, and a Total row.



The data reveals a slightly higher female population overall, with women significantly outnumbering men in the older age groups, indicating greater female longevity. While both populations decline with age, the drop is steeper for men in later years. Additionally, the adult population aged 20 to 40 forms the largest group, surpassing all other age categories.

4. Cultural Heritage

Bandna Festival:

Overview: A prominent festival of the Santal tribal community, Bandna is celebrated post-harvest in the month of Poush.

Traditions: During mid-Magh, married women return to their parental homes for singing, dancing, and family gatherings.

Decorative Practices: Homes are artistically decorated with clay, blue soil, and cow dung.

Festive Foods: Rice-based sweets, homemade drinks, and other traditional delicacies are shared.

Cultural Significance: The festival is celebrated with traditional songs and dances accompanied by the beat of madal, creating a festive atmosphere.

Hul Festival:

Historical Background: Known as the Hul or “war” festival, it commemorates the Santal Rebellion led by freedom fighters Sidhu and Kanhu, who were twin brothers from Purnia.

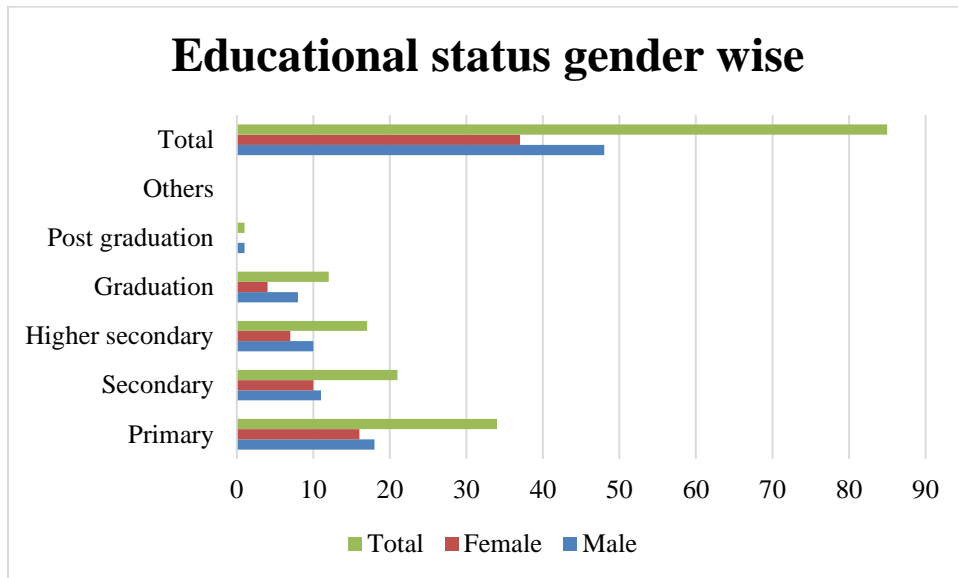
Background: The rebellion emerged as a response to British oppression, forced indigo farming, and exploitation of Santal women.

Legacy: The Santal resistance spread throughout the Chotanagpur plateau, symbolizing unity and resilience against colonial rule.

5. Educational Status

Educational Data Table: A table summarizing literacy and education levels is included below.

Educational level	Male	Female	Total
Primary	18	16	34
Secondary	11	10	21
Higher secondary	10	7	17
Graduation	8	4	12
Post graduation	1	0	1
Others	0	0	0
Total	48	37	85



Literacy Levels: Education rates have improved gradually, with most villagers literate, though female literacy remains lower than male literacy.

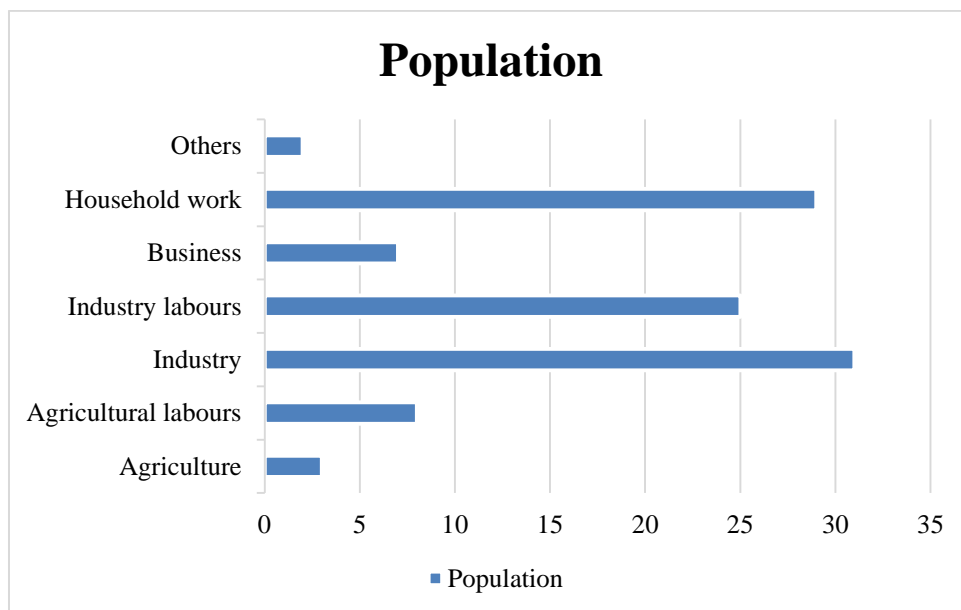
School Attendance: A majority of villagers, especially children, attend Sampahari's

Ramakrishna Vidyapeeth, with most completing primary and secondary levels, though higher education rates remain low.

6. Economic Conditions:

Economic Data Table and Graph: Additional data on occupations is provided in a table and graph.

Occupation	Population
Agriculture	3
Agricultural labours	8
Industry	31
Industry labours	25
Business	7
Household work	29
Others	2



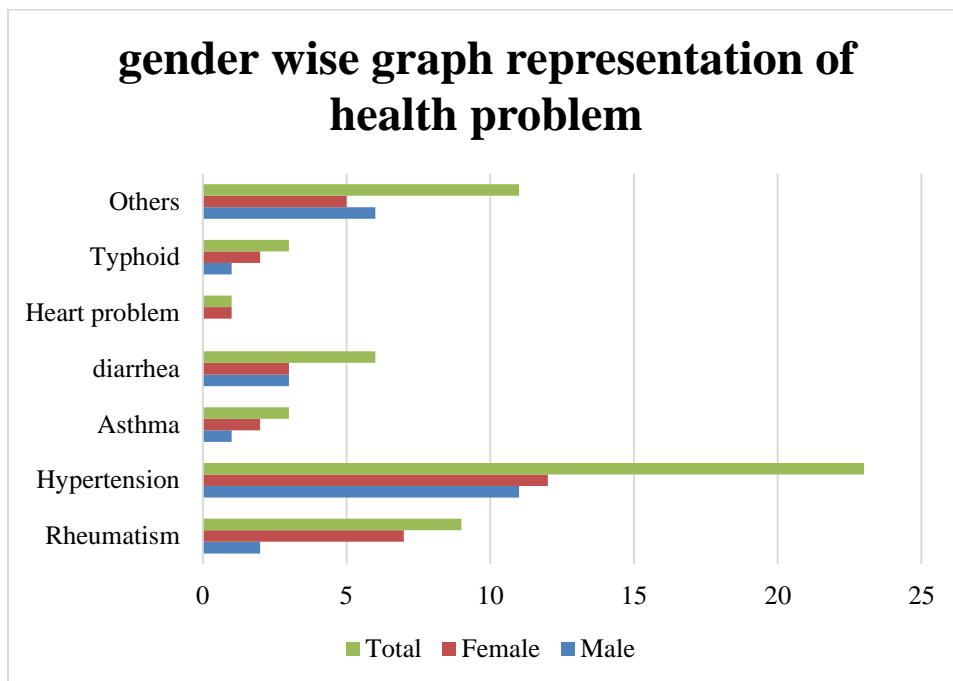
Occupations and Livelihoods: Most villagers engage in industrial work, primarily the local crusher industry, with fewer people involved in

farming due to limited arable land. Other forms of employment are minimal, and women primarily handle household work.

7. Public Health

Gender-wise Breakdown of Common Health Problems:

Health problem	Male	Female	Total
Rheumatism	2	7	9
Hypertension	11	12	23
Asthma	1	2	3
diarrhea	3	3	6
Heart problem	0	1	1
Typhoid	1	2	3
Others	6	5	11

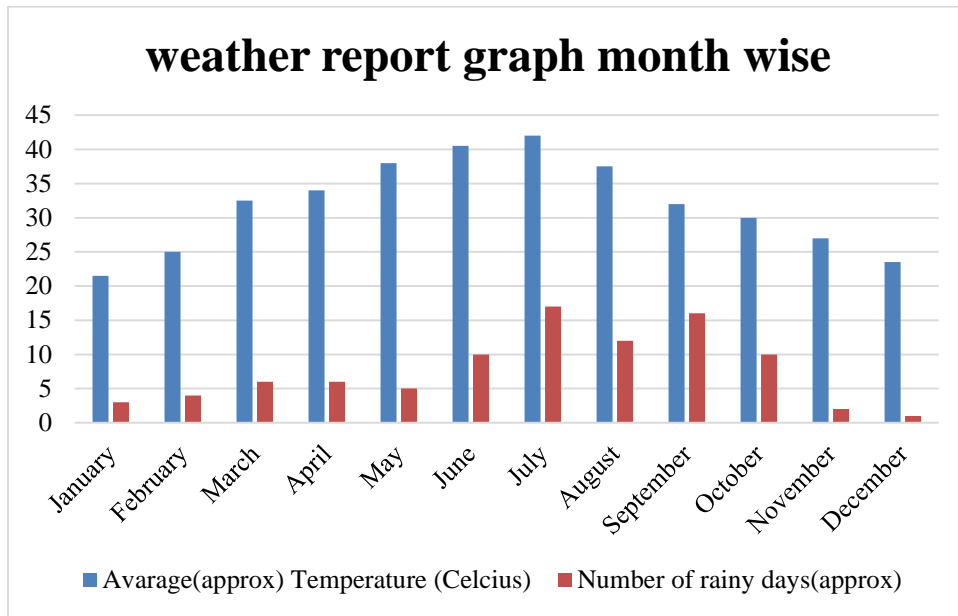


The most common health issue is hypertension, affecting both males and females equally. Rheumatism is more prevalent in females, while other conditions like asthma, diarrhea, and

typhoid have relatively few cases. Heart problems are rare and only reported in females. Overall, hypertension and rheumatism are the dominant health concerns in this population.

8. Climate of the area:

Month	Avarage(approx) Temperature (Celcius)	Number of rainy days(approx)
January	21.5	3
February	25	4
March	32.5	6
April	34	6
May	38	5
June	40.5	10
July	42	17
August	37.5	12
September	32	16
October	30	10
November	27	2
December	23.5	1



The region experiences a hot, humid summer, with extreme heat from March to mid-June, where temperatures peak. Monsoon rains occur between June and September, bringing significant rainfall and some relief from the heat. After the monsoon, temperatures gradually cool, leading into a mild and dry winter.

9. Transportation:

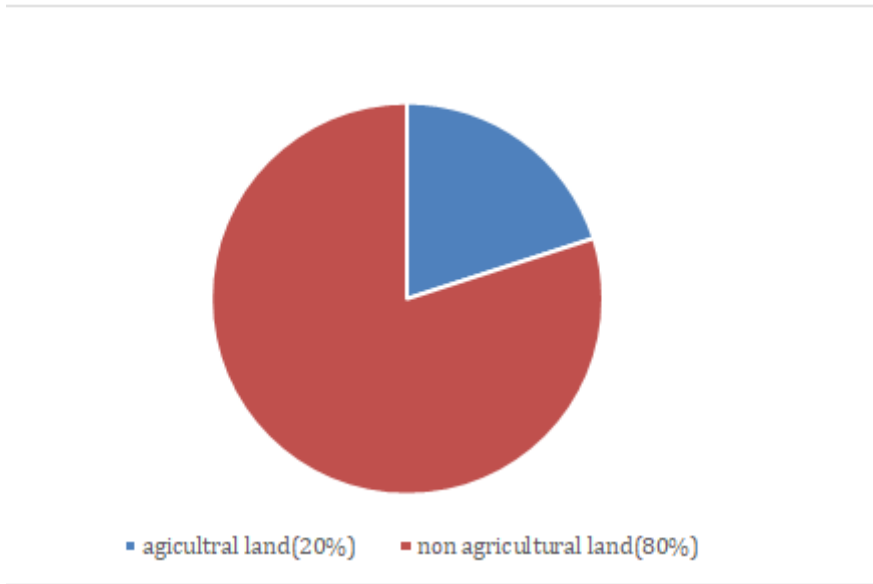
- Rampurhat Railway Station is the nearest station to Tumbani village, located approximately 10 km away. From the station, jeeps and totos are readily available to take passengers to the village.
- The village is well-connected by the Dumka-Rampurhat road, which links it to Jharkhand on one side and West Bengal on the other.
- Within the village, there is a 1 km stretch of paved road, while the other roads remain unpaved.

10. Tourism in Tumbani Village

- Tumbani (or Tumboni) is a scenic tribal village on the border of Jharkhand and West Bengal, offering a peaceful rural atmosphere.
- The Brahmani River flows nearby, and the village is surrounded by Kalipahar Forest, making it ideal for nature lovers.
- Tumbani is also close to Moluti, the childhood home of the famous Bengali saint, Bamakhyapa, enriching its cultural appeal.

11. Agriculture and Land

Agricultural land in the village is limited, comprising only about 20% of the total area. Due to inadequate water supply, farming is not highly productive. Occasionally, crops like maize and wheat are cultivated with the help of rain, but the yield remains quite low.



12. Suggestions:

To improve the socio-economic condition of Tumbuni village, the following suggestions can be made:

1. Infrastructure Development:

- Improve transportation by constructing better roads.
- Make transport vehicles readily available for the community.

2. Diversification of Industry:

- Since most of the population relies on the cottage (casa) industry, introduce other industries and employment opportunities to diversify the economy.

3. Healthcare Improvements:

Address the major healthcare concerns by urging the government to take immediate steps to improve healthcare facilities and services.

4. Agricultural Development:

- The land is not very fertile and lacks sufficient water supply, so focus on improving irrigation systems and introducing modern agricultural techniques.
- Provide subsidies for fertilizers and other agricultural inputs to enhance productivity.

13. Limitations of the Study:

1. Limited time frame, covering only a short period in 2021.
2. Small sample size, possibly not representative of larger populations.
3. Restricted scope, lacking in-depth analysis of political or land ownership issues.
4. Dependence on self-reported data, which may introduce bias or inaccuracies.
5. Lack of detailed environmental measurements (e.g., air and water quality).
6. Findings are specific to Tumbuni, limiting generalization to other villages.
7. Absence of comprehensive historical data for long-term socio-economic analysis.

Conclusion

The socio-economic and cultural study of Tumbuni village reveals a community at the crossroads of tradition and modernization. Despite its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, Tumbuni faces significant challenges due to limited infrastructure, a fragile agricultural sector, and inadequate healthcare. Industrialization, while providing employment, has also brought environmental degradation, threatening the village's natural resources. Educational progress has been made, but gaps remain, especially in higher education and female literacy.

To foster sustainable development, it is crucial to address these issues holistically. By improving transportation, diversifying economic opportunities beyond the cottage industry, and enhancing healthcare and agricultural practices, the village's socio-economic conditions can be uplifted.

These measures, combined with preserving the cultural identity of the tribal community, will ensure that Tumbuni can progress without losing its unique heritage. Future development initiatives, with the support of government and community efforts, can build on the findings of this research, laying the groundwork for a balanced and thriving rural society.

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