

# STUDIES OF TRIBES AND TRIBALS

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## Study on the Effect of Socio-Demographic Parameters on Disease Prevalence Among Tribal Communities in West Bengal, India

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**ABSTRACT** *Santhals* are the third largest tribal population in India and they vary from other ethnic groups in terms of socio-economic status and disease prevalence. The study was undertaken to evaluate the impact of socio-demographic parameters on disease prevalence among *Santhals*. Total 250 adult people were selected from five villages of Purba Burdwan, West Bengal randomly. Various socio-demographic data were collected through oral questionnaire and blood samples were collected and examined by appropriate methods. Older aged people were more prone to various diseases like vision problem, dental problem, liver disease and arthritis. Use of alcohol and tobacco was very common among *Santhals* in both males and females. Use of alcohol and tobacco aggravated dental problem. Skin rash was common among this community due to unhygienic living conditions. The study revealed the health status of the *Santhals'* community and may be useful for implementing the health services to these vulnerable population.