

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

SELECTION INTENSITY AMONG THE SANTHAL POPULATION OF WEST BENGAL IN DIFFERENT ECOLOGICAL NICHES

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Abstract: *The aim of the study was to investigate the selection intensity index in Santhal population living in two ecological niches. Data from two groups of Santhal population were examined, one consisting of native Santhals from Birbhum, and the other consisting of Santhals who had migrated to North 24 Pargana from Birbhum. A total of 180 households were surveyed, including 48 post-reproductive women who had been married at some point in their lives. Using household censuses and detailed pedigree analysis focusing on pregnancy history, data on socio-demographics, fertility, mortality, and fetal losses were collected. The selection intensity index was calculated using both Crow's (1958) formula and Johnston and Kensinger's (1971) modified formula. The results showed that the selection intensity index using Crow's (1958) formula was 0.278 for migrants and 0.129 for native Santhals, respectively. Using Johnston and Kensinger's (1971) formula, the selection intensity index was 0.540 for migrants and 0.505 for native Santhals. In both cases, there was a significant difference in the selection intensity index between migrant and native Santhal populations ($z=0.05$), with the native population showing lower selection pressure. It can be inferred from the study that migration significantly impacts population survivability compared to non-migrating native populations.*

Keywords: Selection intensity, migration, Santhal, Birbhum district, North 24 Parganas.

Communicated: 25.11.2023

Revised: 2.12.2023

Accepted: 3.12.2023