

Geography of Urban Cobblers (Muchi or Shoemaker): An Over-view in Bolpur Town, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

Diversified India, diversified Castes-customs had been generated diversified Folk-occupational structure. So, our society is experiencing various socio-economic-cultural-behavioral-perception-business lives. Though we are thinking that, we are educating, improving our scientific life, felling more conscious but a part of society cannot belonging with these. We are moving to know geography, but we are not giving the importance of the Geography of Backward classes' people of society. In all classes of society have starvation geography like Geography of Muchi. The present paper highlights such a group of working people who are engaged in shoe or sandal or chappol polishing or repairing in Bolpur town as well as train route related Bolpur-Santiniketan Rail station, depicting the socio-economical dimension with behavioral approach in their working (Business Geography) vis a vis housing life, their perception on customer and give highlights on problems and suggestive measures with changing society. And through the applications of this geography, we can enrich our casket of Knowing –Geography and Improvemental-Geography of Muchi community.

Key words: Diversified Castes-customs, Geography of Backward classes, Geography of Muchi Knowing – Geography, Improvemental-Geography.

I. Introduction

Since the Empire of *Ballal Sen* (King of *Gour* during middle of 12th century AD), discrepancies was generated in *Bengal's* society and originated like–*Brahmin, Khatrion, Baishya, Sudrah*. Cobbler (*muchu* in West Bengal) is a specific untouchable backward community of *sudrah*- society. Usually cobblers belong to a heredity caste or clan and are a craftsman (or women) who specialize in repairing shoes. Due to our society's untouchable behavior, they are staying in specific pockets of any urban area (far away from main urban hub) & they can not engage in other occupation in our society. In respect of socio- economic- behavioral-political sphere they are differ from other clan of society and Indian social history has been bearing this episode with inequality status. The present day society is not exception of it & characterized by immense diversity in its non-physical realms. Indian urban centers, where a number of elite people enjoy classic life comfortably & simultaneous there is also co-existing of a few group who are socially, mentally, economically, politically and culturally backward and the touch of development they can not receive properly .

II. Study Sites, Method and Data Collection

Bolpur is a municipality town in *Birbhum* District , West Bengal, India; is located at 23°40'N 87°43'E / 23°67'N 87°72'E. As of 2001 India census, *Bolpur* had a population of 65,659. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. *Bolpur* has an average literacy rate of 73%, higher than the national average of 59.5%; with male literacy of 79% and female literacy of 66%. Here the study area has encompassed that the location point of cobblers along the *Bolpur Srinikeatan road, Trisulapatti road, By-pass road, Maccarampur road* , - those are cobbler (static working location) & on the other side train cobbler who are identified as mobile cobblers of this study area, including their all geographical aspects in present time. The study is best on primary data which includes door to door survey of the total 22 cobblers working centers and houses of cobblers, personal interview and other convenient sources due to complete non- availability of secondary data. Here random sampling techniques have been applied due to large number of observation.

III. Objectives

The objectives of this study comprise the following-1. To represent the socio-economic condition of cobblers in *Bolpur* town. 2. To show the present caste structure of *cobblers* of *Bolpur* and to search that, are the all cobblers genetically belonging in *muchu* community in today? 3. To elaborate the cobblers perception about customers (welfare aspiration, market competition) and their own culture.4. To elaborate the behavioral approach of this cobblers in their working period. 5. To find out their recent problems which they have been experienced. 6. To suggest some outcomes to solve their problems.

IV. Categorization of Bolpur-Cobbler (From the locational angle): From the whole surveying cobblers of *Bolpur* town are categorized under this as follow. On the basis of permanence they are two groups-1.**Town cobblers**; those are situated along the road side on PWD area or outside of railway station.

2.Mobile cobblers; those are found in train of this area like *Ganadevota Express, Santiniketan express, 35 local Rampurhat- Howrah train, Visva Bharati first passenger, Howrah- Malda town IntercityExpress, Hawrah- Rampurhat Sahid express,Hawrah- Balurghat Trisapthahic Express, Ma-Tara Express etc.* Again on the basis of location of cobbling centers, they are classified into two groups' i.e, **1.Cobbling center along road side** (see plate 1) like *Delua Das, Lebu Das, Gopal Das, Borua Das, Mehon Das,Bapi Das,railway station side*(see plate 2) like *Kalu Das, Rajib Das, Arun Das, Nepu Das*.**2. Cobbling in running train like Gara Das** (see plate 3) , *Mono Das, Diba Das, Bisu Das.*

V. Social Geography

Family type: Usually a cobbler is the main earning person of his family. He earns as well as dominates the household. Seldom, it is found that parents of the cobblers also contribute in the process of earning to encounter the poverty they have to face. Commonly women have to manage the family with their children and older persons and have to perform almost all the household activities ranging from cooking to washing. The family of the cobblers is primarily nuclear which includes 4-6 members in general in this town. Joint families and families headed by women are absent .This entire family character bears traditional form of Indian society.

Religion: In general, *Bolpur* town is a having no diversified religious except Hindu in cobbling community. Though the globalization process is moving to total religious along with all society, but it can be inference that, this process can not be totally touched to the *Bolpur-cobblers community*.

Caste: Most of the cobblers & their family belong in lower caste *sudraha* society. All of the cobblers of this town are carried mainly 'Das' surname. If we generalized the *Das* title of our society, then we can search a pathetic historical background. i.e. *Das* is coming from ancient *Das- pratha* in Bengali language or *Slave system* and this most *lower-sudhrah* caste is attached with cobbling in this town.

Age-sex structure: From 15-40 year cobbler peoples of this area are engaged in cobbling mainly due to lack of educational interest. Comparative young cobblers are working in train in this area because young cobblers are fitted for working along within journey in train with nucleated or mass of passengers. Interestingly, female contribution in cobbling in *Bolpur* town is nil for the maintaining of *certain system* of their traditional life.

Political life: Cobblers lives are free from any political sphere. They are not interested in politics. According to *Gara Das* (cobbler of *Makarampur*) , 'they give vote during vote period for only to give vote to any party without calculation'.

Social interaction: The cobbling place is the source of *open social interaction* because they are staying at the most popular site of this town like- *Bolpur- Sriniketan* or *Bolpur-Santiniketan* roads side or especially *Chowrasta* or the gate way of *Bolpur-Santiniketan* rail station. Specially, *train cobblers* can enjoy the most interesting social experience and interaction in running train during their working.

Educational status: The upper level educational scenario is most poor especially the educational status of their wife is also so poor. Interest about education is very less due to their poor economy and higher educational expenditure in present day. So, the recent day for their child educational status is moving to thoughtful question. But in recent, only one current generation cobbler (*Ganesh Das*) is studying in Master Degree part I (in Ancient History) in *Visva-Bharati* central university and 6.30 am to 12.30 am. he stay at his department and after that time he goes to *Chourasta* for cobbling.

Table 2: Recent (2010) level of Education

level of education	<u>Individual barbers</u>		<u>Individual families</u>			
	in %	in number	<u>Wife Education</u>		<u>Childs Education</u>	
			in %	in number	in %	in number
Up to class IV	40.90%	9	27.27%	6	40.90%	9
From V to VII	22.72%	5	22.72%	5	40.90%	9
From IX to X	04.54%	1	0%	0	9.09%	2
Above x	4.54%	1	0%	0	4.5%	1
Totally no education	31.81%	7	50%	11	4.5%	1

Data source: Field survey & according to cobblers statement.

VI. Health Geography

In House Environment: Accidentally, 90% cobbler's houses are situated on PWD area. So, they have no ownership where they are staying at present. The roof of the houses is made by rice- straw (plate 6) has not any boundary (plate 4). In respect of infrastructural facility, 92%houses are free from electricity facility, separate kitchen, toilet facility etc. Long family size and overcrowding situation in their house are the sources of polluted environment .About 74.19% of cobbler's house is 'kuccha' and the ventilation system (see plate 6) is very poor. Most of the room is characterized by 12 feet width with 18 feet length and a single window is found (18 inch length with 18 inch width) in respect of their economic status. Through the proper analysis, it can be concealed that, averagely in each room is enjoyed by four peoples in *cobbler-society*. So, in this congested room structure, the amount of Co₂ in very high and through the respiration process different diseases of among member is moved to each other and all of them are affected with same disease. Uncollected garbage & stored water in open containers are found in their house which energized to proliferation of mosquito, flies & pests (See plate 5)

Sanitation and Drainage System: Toilet facilities and proper drainage facility are very poor. Only 10% percent of cobbler's home have followed completely concrete sanitation system which has made by Government. Now temporary sanitation (Bamboo made wall locally name *Bera* with open roof) is found in 81.27% cobbler's house, where we can find out the lack of proper concrete chamber for storing human's night-soil.

Drinking Water Access: In cobbler's daily housing life, they aren't concerned about their fresh drinking water. In 79.06 % cobbler's house, deep filtration *Tube well* is not found. 25.58 % cobbler and their housing members followed *open-well* and 19.35 percent followed *general pond* in their locality. So, a questionable health status has been come out in their housing life.

Cleanness & Consciousness: Most of the cobblers in this town do not change their dresses after whole day completing cobbling. And only 50% cobblers wash hand before to take eat. Again the cobblers who are staying 10 hours at along the most popular road side , they are continuously affected with noxious polluted gaseous emitted from vehicles and they cannot any protection from it. Almost 66 % cobbler doesn't take any *mosquito net* during sleeping. It is their habits not always the cause of lack of money. Low personal hygiene, no regular bathing or washing after defecation or before cooking are the behavioral part of their life style. But with the improvement of science in *Bolpur* society, station cobblers are conscious about drinking water & they carry water bottle during cobbling in whole day in recent time.

Smokey and drinking Life: They are not concerned about their family members to protect themselves from *Smokey hazards*. More of them access *bidi* in their housing room in front of family members. In their house, cooking smethod is greatly followed to burning of logs, coal, firewood, which are the source of noxious smoke and has an adverse site on cobbler's health and his family members. After completing their work 95% cobblers of this town adopted local liquor daily before going to house in night(between 8pm to 10pm.) for example Bapi Das is a cobbler of Bolpur Rail station, who is the all time local liquor drinker (see plate 9).

Table 8: Different Sources of smoke in *cobbler-environment*, 2010

Different Sources of smoke in cobblers environment (housing & working)	Cobblers access it	
	in percentage	in number
<i>Bidi</i>	95.45	21
<i>Gaja</i>	63.63	14
Use of <i>Mortin</i> in house to reduce mosquito	30.90	9
<i>Kerosene lamp</i>	95.45	21
Cooking methods (with the burning of kerosene oil, wood, logs etc.)	40.90	9
Burning of solid waste like <i>egg castons</i> to eradicate mosquito from congested room	68.18	15s

Source: According to cobbler's statements.

Emerging Diseases Profile: The spread of diseases in the cobbler environment can be chiefly attributed to the ill drainage system, improper disposal of waste water in around houses, over population, lack of accommodation, smoky and under-ventilated houses. The diseases and living conditions are highly correlated. Poor sanitation and the use of open latrines have created unhealthy environmental conditions responsible for the occurrence of diseases. The unhygienic circumstances attract vector mosquitoes, flies, and rats, fleas, ticks, mites and Cyclopes. These vectors thrive in warm moist garbage which pilfers into the food consumed and causes dysentery. Poor people cook their food on wood, coal, cow dung cake and even on dry leaves.

These smoky fuels emit enormous amount of noxious gas and in the absence of proper ventilation the smoke gets trapped within the house resulting in acute respiratory infections.

Table 3: Most frequently reported diseases in 22 sampled cobblers situated in *Bolpur* town, Oct. 2010.

Types of Disease	% of cobbler	Total number of cobblers	Types of Disease	% of cobbler	Total number of cobblers
Chicken pox	22.72	5	Gasp	40.40	9
Asthma	95.45	21	Diarrhea	22.72	5
Measles	50	11	Dysentery	81.81	18
Cholera	40.90	9	Rashes	31.81	17
Roundworm	36.36	8	Hepatitis	40.9	9
Dust Allergy	86.36	19	Conjunctivitis	63.63	14
Pain in chest	45.45	10	Pneumonia	54.54	12
Malaria	72.72	16	Gastroenteritis	90.40s	20

Source: Field survey & according to *cobbler's* Statements.

VII. Economic Geography

Earners and Dependent: During survey, it realized that family members of Cobblers are almost dependent on earning cobbler. The depending ratio is 1: 5.5 that means 5 to 6 members are dependent on the income of a cobbler.

Income pattern: In summer period the income rate is slightly decrease, because in this time most people wear simple sandals or locally *chappol*. People do not polish it frequently because due to higher temperature of this study area, they wash their sandal as well as legs with water in most frequently. Again during winter season, peoples feel that, their dirty shoes should keep clean.

Table 4: Income pattern of *Bolpur* cobblers

Income pattern	Time of income during	Income per day (average) in Rs.
Highest	Cold season(due to higher use of shoes)	300-350
Lowest	Summer season(mostly use sandels or Chappels)	100-130
Average	Whole year	120-160

Data source: Field survey and according to Cobbler's statements, Oct. 2010

Other economic aspects: In *muchi* society of this town are free from any other economic activities rather than cobbling. Most probably it is mainly due to time factors. After completing the whole day cobbling they have no enough time to engaged own self with other economic activities (see plate 7).

Table 5: Cost structure related cobbling

Nature of cobbling	Rs. for one time
Sandal or Boot polish	5
Soal change	5-20
Partial stitching of sandal or shoes	2-5
Change of chain of bags	10
Stitching of Bags	5-10
Change of belts of bags	10
Umbrella repairing(handle changing or stitching)	5-20
Football's Bladder stitching	5
Watch Belt Repairing with gum	2
Belt Polish	5
Mobile Cover stitching	4/5

Data source: Field survey and according to cobblers statements, Oct. 2010

Working time-period: The current working *time-table* of the *Bolpur* cobblers are mainly followed by season of the year and *Train arrival & departure time Table* in *Bolpur* (mainly Mobile Cobbler). The town cobblers (staticworking location) are followed mainly day light because their cobbling center had no infrastructural facilities. The working time period of the Town cobblers from 8 a.m. to dusk period of the Sun in all season. Whereas Mobile cobblers follow from general 8 a. m. to 8 p.m.or 7 p.m.

Tools & Method of Cobbling: A Part of Business Geography

See Plate 10: Sporadic tools used in Bolpur- Cobbling

Explanation note: 1.Haxo-bleed for scrubbing lather 2. Special file only made by Bolpur cobbler to Scrubbing lather 3.chainclip for repairing bag-chain 4. Different hard brush for polishing different Colour shoes like brown or black 5. Four pockets wood made tool box of train cobbler 6. Rolling bits of tire for supporting damage sole 7. Specific wax to stretching the stitching thread 8. *Kothari* (Bengal's Muchi Language) for stitching 9. Liquor Colour for polishing 10.Brass for cleaning shoes 11. Scissors 12. Box of dust Colour power for polishing 13.*Farma*(local *Muchi* language) 14.Gum box for pasting shoes 15.Kouti in which seal & water is associated together ,in used for *Batali* (local term)shaping 16.Wood's bit use for gum Pasting on lather 17.Nylon tire thread for stitching 18. Plus for eradicate iron pin from shoes19.Batli (local term) used for lather cutting 20.File for create small whole in *chappol* 21. *Sarashi*(local term) for eradicate large size pin from shoes 22.Extra sole 23. Pin box with pin 24.*Robin* speed polishing cream in train 25. Six pockets wooden tool box used by healthy tall train cobbler.

The most important tool of cobblers is their *Tool box* mad by wood. They collect it from *Durgapur* town (West Bengal) and the price varies from Rs.250-400. The wood made cobbling box has 4 to 6 pockets. The rate of 4 pockets box is Rs.250, which purchase comparative less healthy short height cobbler and the price of 6 pockets cobbling Tool box is Rs. 400, which purchase comparative tall height good healthy cobblers in this study area. Cobblers used some other tools for cobbling like- *Robbin cream*, *Cherry cream* for glossy the shoes. Most of the cobblers used mainly *Robbin* shoe cream for polishing shoes because according to them, in train the time for polishing in very short and within this short time cobblers should have covered maximum train bogy or *camra*.

VIII. Behavioral Geography

Entertaining an adaptation with modernity: They entertain modern music system in their houses like T.V. CD players, radio etc. But only 52% cobblers entertain radio in their houses, where as only15% cobblers entertain Compact Disk facilities due to lack of sufficient economic status .The life of cobbler in not much enough adopted with modernity in respect of modern technologies. The rate of uses of Mobile phone in cobbler's community is 40%. But some cobblers for examples *Gara Das* do not support about to access Cell Phone, because he told that, 'it is not most required items for his life because his economic condition do not support it.

Table 7: Adaptation with modernity in cobbler's life in *Bolpur*, 2010

Modern items	% of cobblers adopted it	number of cobblers
In housing life		
T.V.	59.09	13
Radio	50	11
electricity	9.09	2
Cable channel with T.V.	4.54	1
CD (compact Disk) machine for sing song	13.63	3
In working life		
Mobile phone	40.90	9

Data source: According to cobblers' statements.

Belief on God: The cobblers of *Bolpur* town mainly believe on *Biswakarma*(see plate8)(God of machineries) in their working life because they perform their work with tools made by iron. But in their housing life they also believe on some other *Hindu* Gods like *Durga*, *Kali*, *Shiv*, *Ganesh* etc.

Holiday life: In rest of yearly holiday, the cobblers of *Bolpur* town enjoy some holiday like- *Biswakarmapuja* (worshipping for economic goodness), marriage, first eating day of their child (*Annayaprasan* in Bengal society).

Competitive behavior: In respect of economics demand, cobblers of this town play a competitive game in their cobbling method. Some cobblers give more patients on the glossiness about polishing, and they take some new method like use of specific cream on shoes during polishing. And to catch the more customers they act some good behavior to customers. But, a most important concept has over lighted here that, they do not create any clash in between them in train cobbling to catch more customers. And to maintain it they follow especial understanding rule that is, 'those cobbler will first enter to a specific bogy of Train, the other cobbler do not enter that same bogy and they enter another bogy of that train'.

Daily Food Habits: Food habits of their daily life are being followed to the *malnutrition* picture. Only 40 % Cobbler eat egg twice in per week averagely. The system of taking meal in their daily life is very unscientific and which is the source of *gastric ulcer*. The per capita cereals availability is 5.2kg. in per month .Nobody drink milk in their daily life. 90 % people take meat one time in per month averagely.

Table 9: Averagely food habits scenario of *Train –Cobblers* (those are moving to *Bardwan-Durgapur* railway route for cobbling in train)

Nature of food items	Time of take it	Rs. Expenditure scenario for it (average)
<i>Ghugni</i> (local name , made from peanut)- <i>muri</i> (local name , made from rice) or only one cup tea	In morning time (from 6-7am.)at <i>Bolpur</i> (in their house)	3
3 items of vegetables, rice, <i>dal</i> , <i>chatni</i> (local name) in hotel of <i>Bardhaman</i> town	Lunch meal (from 10am.-10.30am.) at <i>Bardwan</i> station	15
Egg fry or mixture <i>muri</i> or <i>jhal muri</i> -local name)	Light Tiffin(from 2pm.-4pm.)in <i>Durgapur</i> Rail station	5
Simple <i>dal</i> , rice potato fry.	Dinner at home (9pm.to10pm.)	12

Source: According to cobblers statements.

IX. Perception of cobblers to their surrounding society

Perception which reflects the norm of mental thinking about any concept where interaction play a vital role. According to train cobbler, the train passengers are good, faithful; for explanation, *Kalu* Barber deliberated a story -‘in his 12 year cobbling life once upon a time he has bad experience about railway police and also have good experience about passenger thinking. Two year before, once a morning, in *Visva Bharati fast passenger* train, *Kalu* was adversely affected by railway police. The actual story was like that, a lady passenger was seated on window site train seat. And a lad thief suddenly tear her golden necklace and rush down from train. On that time *Kalu* was doing his cobbling at Basin site of train, and when railway police came there they think that *Kalu* is actual thief. Without any discussion police hit to *Kalu’s* chest by their gun’s *butt group*, but on that same time passenger was protest to police and *Kalu* was relief from police’. So it is the reflector of train passenger on cobbler and also the reflector of perception of rail police on cobbler in this study area and Train route. *Gara Das* has another identity in *Assansol* railway station. The passenger of *Bardhaman* to *Assansol* railway route identify *Gara Das* in the name of *Bondhu- Bhai*(local name , mean friend –brother).So, it is the reflector of their expression on cobbler. About the local political concept they have no interest. About educational accessibility, they want to adopt it but their economy can not support it & also they know it. About to access the modern items in their life they think that it is not made for them. About the female education of their society they think that, education is not for their societies women because women are made for child bearing and family maintaining. Again about the deposition of money for their future planning, they think that, it is not for them because after eating with whole family in daily life, they can not save little bits of *paisa*, moreover in most cases when any member of their family become ill they fell a over burden in their mind .In respect of hereditary cobbling in their family they think that, their child also will do it as like his father. About the adopting with local liquor in daily life, they think it is appropriate to refresh their body and mind. But in most recently the money deposition behavior has been slightly changed & for example *Gara’s* like cobbler are adopting the deposition behavior of money in daily Rs. 10 through local agents of SBI (State Bank of India).

X. Problems related cobbler’s life

In housing life: Lack of sanitation ,improper sewages, unhygienic environment with prevalence of diseases, mosquito problem, Malnutrition, lack of development of education, residence, proper space in room, good pure water supply, electrification, open house without any boundary are the serious problem in their houses. Most of the cobblers are drinker and that create quarrels between male cobbler and his wife. This family quarrel create bad image about husband –wife relationship in their child’s brain.

In working life:

For Train-cobbler: *Bolpur-cobblers* cannot trust on Indian Railway Police, because most of them do not pay the charges after doing polishing their boots. During most congested population in train the work of train-cobblers are most hardy because for doing polishing or repairing shoes or sandal, they have needed some space where cobbler can seated patiently for his work.

Slightly unconscious can create a dangerous death for train-cobbler during the time of entrance in Train gate at its running phase. Train cobblers do not carry any FIRST AIDS during their train-cobbling. Some time train cobblers are being experienced with bad behavior of train passenger especially from some higher caste passenger of train because of their untouchable concept about cobbler society. Cobblers collect shoes from customers and then they move to the in front of toilet gate of train to complete his polishing which is mostly dangerous for his health condition because in that area different noxious toilet related virus are situated most frequently in air .

For Town cobblers/static cobblers: The town cobblers who are mostly affecting by co₂, so₂, and carbon monoxide etc. like noxious materials of environment which are emitted from vehicles. And cobblers are adversely affecting these polluted items because they are staying at the *Chaurasta, Bolpur-santinbikretan road, Bolpur-srinikretan road Trisulapatti road, Makarampur road* of this town. Town- cobblers are staying most accident place in this town for example *Chourasta*. So life risk due to working at roadside is another problem.

Over all problems: Lack of any cobbler association in this town. Lack of any helpful projects for their development by local municipality corporation or NGO in this area. They are belonging in to *Sudraha* lower caste community of our society, but they have no specific OBC (Other Backward Classes) certificate to take special facility in society. The female contribution in cobbling is completely absent in this cobbler-society. So in respect of *Gender issue and development* the barber society is detached from their maternal contribution about complete development.

XI. Suggestive Measures & Concluding Inference

Few steps may be recommended to improve the living conditions of the cobbler; there is a need to identify the problem and chalk out proper strategies for implementation. The problem of toilets can be solved by providing municipal facilities like *sulabh sauchalya*. For safe supply of water municipal piped water connection may be provided where feasible or alternately water through tankers may be providing. Also better hygiene taught and free check up camps may be organized on a regular basis by roping in several NGOs and government departments working in tandem. A special cobbler association is needed to organize for all around development of cobbler. To improve the educational consciousness among them with their families members, local legislative assemble should give emphasized with special welfare opportunities. To development among cobbler, OBC certificate facilities should deliver as soon as possible among them. Parallel with cobbling, cobblers should carry some other economic opportunities in their daily life to fulfill the money demand. Lastly, cobblers of *Bolpur* please follow the underlying some suggestive measures for changing yours non-fruitful behavioral site. 1. Do not prefer the in front of toilet gate of train for polishing shoes. 2. Follow the specific rule that is wash hands before taking foods. 3. Please change your perception about education that is education is only for rich people. You should adopted education at any cost. And to carry the educational cost you should follow some assistant economic work along with cobbling. 4. Do not support lower age marriage of your next generation. 5. During cobbling in train please follow a specific drinking water bottle to eradicate *gastric* problem. 6. You should change your smoky & drinking behavior from housing as well as train life. because ultimate it will help to develop a *winsome social life, fruitful economy, flowering life, glitter behavior and future prosperities in your life-time also in your child's future life-time*.

Note: All the plates or Stills in this paper are captured or sensing by Author (Pal T.), 2010.

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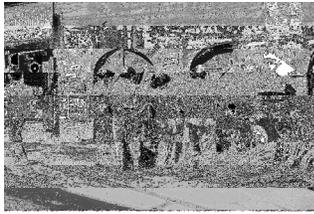


Plate 1: Town Cobblers are being engaged in their cobbling along Bolpur Station road side

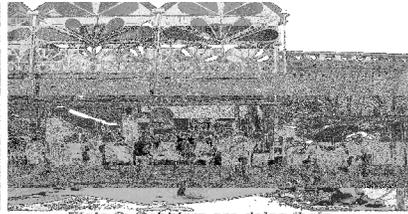


Plate 2: Cobblers are doing their works in front of Bolpur-Santiniketan Rail Station

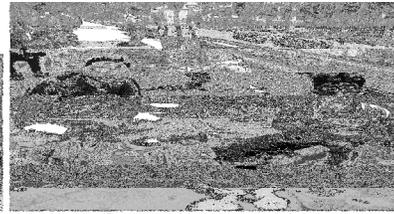


Plate 3: Gana Das (Right side of Plate) or Banaru-Bhar -a train Cobbler is waiting for Malda-Howrah Intercity Express at 8.10 am. on 03.05.2010 and author (Left most corner) discussed him about cobbling in train.



Plate 4: Open entrance way to the house of Gana Das located at Makarampur

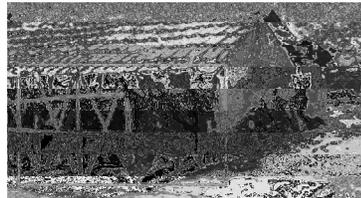


Plate 5: Partially open toilet place in front of Kaku's house at Titulapatti

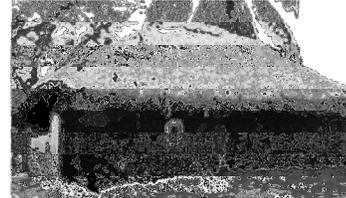


Plate 6: Outer wall of kuchha house of Bapi Das located along Makarampur road



Plate 7: Nature of different types of working by Bolpur Cobblers
A. Belt polishing, B. Mobile cover repairing, C. Hand watch's belt pasting by gum, D. Sandal stitching, E. Umbrella stitching

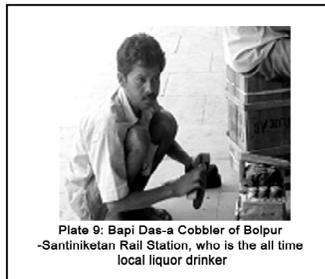


Plate 9: Bapi Das-a Cobbler of Bolpur-Santiniketan Rail Station, who is the all time local liquor drinker



Plate 8: Biswakarma-the main worshipping God the cobblers.

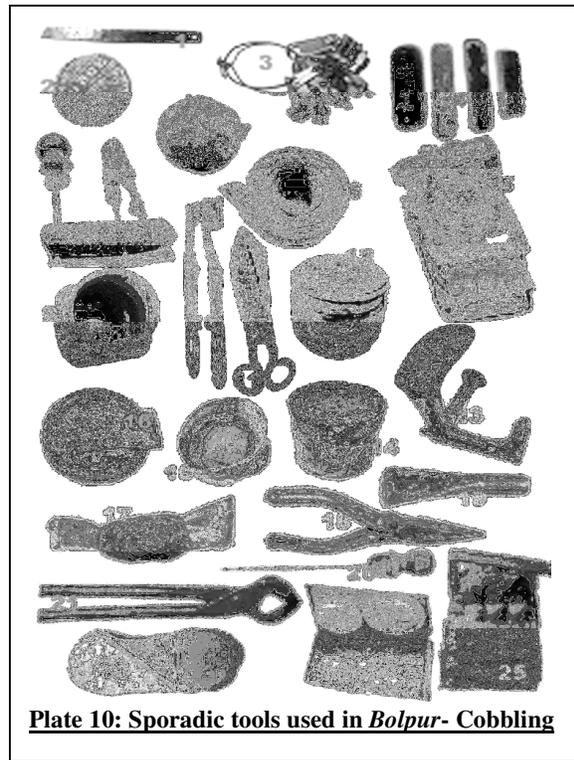


Plate 10: Sporadic tools used in Bolpur- Cobbling