

Little Magazines of Medinipur:

The alternative sources of Social Science information

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Abstract:

Little Magazines are the principal media to publish articles on local and contemporary social events of the district of Medinipur. This paper tries to evaluate the magazines as the source of scholarly information on different branches of Social Sciences. It also examines the exclusiveness as well as the exhaustiveness of the published information. The paper concludes with the comments that the volatile and short-lived publications should be archived with care and the information lying scattered there should be indexed properly.

Keywords:

Social Science, Social Science information, Little Magazines, Information sources, Information storage, Information dissemination, Article indexing.

Introduction

According to *The Social Science Encyclopedia* (Kupar & Kuper, 2003), “Social Science is the ambitious concept to define the set of disciplines of scholarship which deal with aspects of human society.” This Encyclopedia includes only four subjects like Economics, Sociology, Anthropology (social) and Political Science within the domain of Social Science. However, we know that the area is much bigger; many disciplines other than these four have their characteristics required to being included in the agglomeration.

The history of the subjects like Sociology, Economics or Political science is as old as the history of the human knowledge. However, the term “Social Science”, the umbrella notion over number of subjects including those three, is much newer. John Stuart Mill coined the term “Social Science” in an article in *The London and Westminster Review* (Mill, 1836) in October 1836. Another source reveals that the same term first appeared in 1824 in a book named *An Inquiry into the Principles of the Distribution of Wealth Most Conducive to Human Happiness; applied to the Newly Proposed System of Voluntary Equality of Wealth* by William Thompson (1775–1833) (Thompson, 1824). These are the earliest examples of usage of the term in English. However, in French, Charles Fourier introduced a term synonymous to “social science” in 1808 in his *Theorie des quatre mouvements at des destinees generals* (Iggers, 1959). Therefore, it can be said that the term was unfamiliar to the lexicographers even in the 1800.

Social Science occupies vast continent of knowledge with some still unexplored grey areas. As the area and the horizon of Social Science cannot be strictly defined, the scope of the information sources for the research on those subjects also remained unmapped. There is no structured information system for some brunches of the Social Sciences. Therefore, the Librarians have to confront various challenges to meet the information needs of the social scientists. They have to keep on searching newer sources and to collect and process those sources to make the Libraries prepared for probable quarries.

Little Magazines were first initiated in the West as the modernist literary journal. However, right from the beginning they had a rich tradition to publish thoughtful essays on different social issues. As there were magazines like *Poetry* or *Little Review* dedicated for creative literatures, *Freewomen* or *Dial* were also there to analyze and comment on contemporary social phenomena. Now the question is—‘do the magazines have eligibility to being preserved in the Libraries?’ Their importance as the literary media have been tested and recognized decades back. Yet, ‘are they equally relevant for the study of social science?’

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Scope of the Study

Little Magazines are not so familiar sources for Social Science information. Though the word magazine is associated with their name, they are not magazines in true sense. They do not have big circulation and regularity as well. They are not research periodicals or popular journals. Actually, they belong outside the existing classification. They are offbeat. The present paper tries to evaluate the Little Magazines of Medinipur (both the East and West) as the information source of different branches of social science.

For the present study, the entire “300” class of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC, 21st Ed.) has been taken into consideration. Moreover, the subjects which belong outside “300” class but deals with the human society are also included within the parenthesis. The outsider disciplines are- Information Science, Media Studies, Social Psychology, Dialects, Social Geography, Folk Arts, Folk Songs, Local History and Biography, Archaeology etc.

Sources of Data

All the contents of the six sample Magazines published during the period of 12 years (2001-2012) are the main data for the Present study. The sample magazines are listed below-

- *Amritalok*, edited by Samiran Mazumdar from Midnapore, Pachim Medinipur
- *ShabderMichhil*, edited by Ajharuddin Khan from Midnapore, Paschim Medinipur
- *EbangSayak*, edited by Surya Nandi from Dantan, Paschim Medinipur,
- *Srijan*, edited by Lakshman Karmakar from Ghatal, Paschim Medinipur
- *Sahajiya*, edited by Madhusudan Mukhoadhyay from Kolaghat, Purba Medinipur
- *Punyipukur*, edited by Bhaskarbrata Pati from Panskura, Purba Medinipur

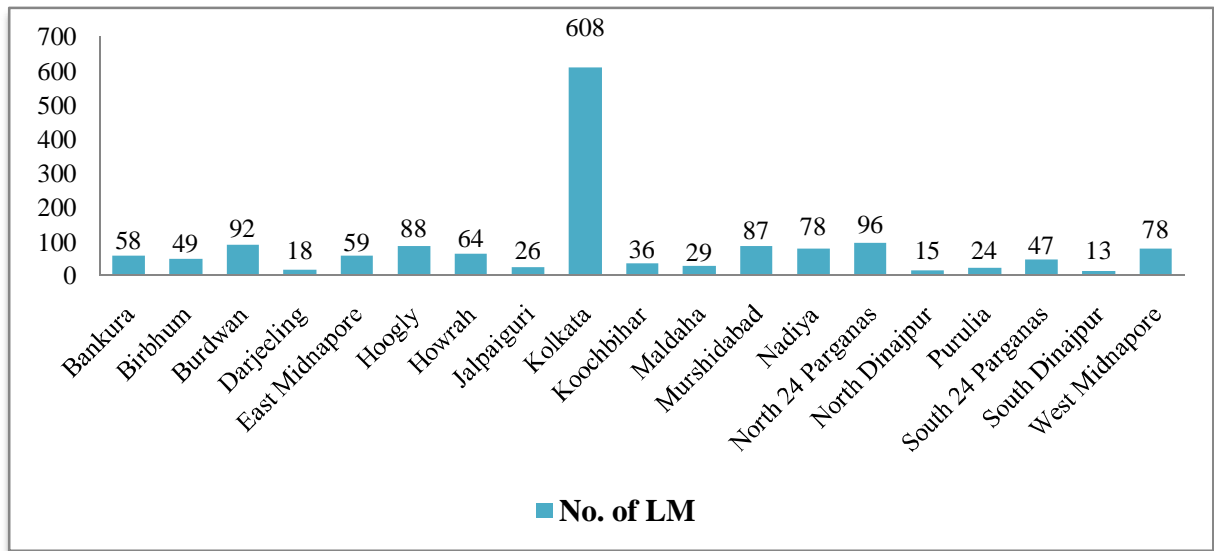
Moreover, some interviews have been conducted with the editors (20) of such magazines of the district and with some scholar peoples (50) of the local University and Colleges.

Sample design

In 2013-2014, there were approximately 1565 living Little Magazines in West Bengal (Hasan, 2014). The district wise breakup is given in the following diagram. However, the exact number of small magazines is much greater. Some of which might have been eliminated by Hasan from the list, depending upon the quality of their contents and getup. The combined figure of the numbers of the Little Magazines published

from the two parts of Medinipur (137) is only next to the number of such magazines from the greater Kolkata (608).

Diagram: 1 District wise breakup of the LMs



It is generally found that, out of the total, almost 70 to 75 percent magazines are dedicated only for poetry (Dutta, 2014). The residue, i.e. 25 to 30 percent of magazines also prints poetry with fiction, essay and criticism. Little Magazine without poem is very rare in West Bengal. The Magazines, which have rich prose section, publish thoughtful articles on various disciplines.

Table: Types of LM

Types of LM	Percentage	
Pure Literary LM	Only poetry	65.9
	Only Fiction	5.3
	Only Essays	2.0
	Mixed	10.2
	Others	0.8
Literary and Socio-Cultural LM	13.5	
LM with Special Interest	2.3	

Analyzing the regularity of publication, minimum life span (e.g. 10 years), topics and quality of the contents (publish articles on social science regularly), 12 Little Magazines are found eligible. Out of

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them, 6 have been selected as the sample for the present study. They are Amritalok, Ebang Sayak, Shabder Michhil, Srijan, Sahajiya and Punyipukur. The last two are specialized for the study of folklore and folk culture while the rests have their rich socio-cultural section with other regular literary columns.

Methodology

All the collected articles are entered into a spreadsheet to design a bibliographic database. The articles are classified and general subject headings have been assigned to them. The responses of the editors and the scholars interviewed have been tabulated objectively.

The Little Magazines

“It takes very little to start a little magazine.” With this witty sentence, Whittemore starts his text for the series ‘University of Minnesota Pamphlets on American Writer’ (Whittemore, 1963).

For a copybook definition, we can quote--“A non-commercial periodical of limited circulation, usually dedicated to publishing experimental art and literature and/or unconventional social ideas and political theories. The term *little* refers to the circulation, rather than the physical size, and is a relative and variable measure. These magazines fueled the turbulent movement called modernism.”(Index of Modernist Magazines, 2014)

The popular mass magazines began to flourish in Europe and America at the end of the nineteenth century; and, the Little Magazines appear in reaction to them (Peterson, 1956). Little Magazines were initiated from about 1880, and flourished in the United States and England. Moreover, the French writers often had access to a similar type of publication and German literature of the 1920s too was indebted to them. Foremost examples of such magazines are the *Poetry* (1912-) and *Little Review* (1914-29) from US; *Egoist* (1914-19) and *Blast* (1914-15) from the UK; and the *Transition* (1927-38) from France.

According to the theoreticians, the adjective ‘little’ actually came from another contemporary movement namely the ‘*Little Theatre*’ in the US. The objective of that movement was to free dramatic forms and methods of production from the limitations of the large commercial theatres by establishing small experimental centres of drama. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, the first known use of the term *Little Magazine* dates back to 1900.

In US and Europe, the mass magazines began to flourish at the end of the nineteenth century; and, the Little Magazines appear in reaction to them. *The Dial* was the first ever magazine with features of a little magazine. It was an American magazine published intermittently from 1840 to 1929. In its first form, from 1840 to 1844, it served as the chief publication of the Transcendentalists. In the 1880s it was revived as a political magazine. From 1920 to 1929 it was an influential outlet for Modernist literature in English.

After the 1880 there was a sudden explosion in number of the Little Magazines in the US and in Europe in between a period of 30/ 40years. Until 70s of the last century, there were four principal periods of the Little Magazines in the West.

1. The introductory Age (1890-1915)

The Dial, The Savoy, Blast, The Egoist, The Little Review, Poetry

2. The Golden Age (1915-1930)

The Seven Arts, The Monthly Chapbook, The Owl, S4N, Criterion, Transition, Horizon, Dial (last phase)

3. The Age of Leftist Little Magazines (1930-1950)

Partisan, Left Review, Southern Review, Accent, the Kenyon Review

4. The Age of Spreading out (1940-1970)

This was the age of spreading out the movement outside the US and Europe, e.g. in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Examples of magazine in this era are-

Antioch Review, Modern Fiction Studies, Paris Review, Beatitude

In India, the first Little Magazine *Sabujpatra* was launched at Kolkata under the editorship of Pramatha Chudhury on 1914. It was none other than Rabindranath Tagore who mentored and inspired Chaudhury to edit such a magazine. Predecessors like *Bangadarshan* (1872), edited by the great novelist Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and *Sadhana* (1891), edited by Tagore prepared the soil for sprouting of *Sabujpatra*. From then on numbers of such magazines were published from Bengal over the years. Renowned literary personalities like Nazrul Islam, Sudhindranath Dutta, Buddhadeb Basu, Premendra Mitra, Achintyakumar Sengupta, Nirod C. Chaudhury were associated with them.

The so-called "Little Magazine Movement" in India was initiated after the independence. The movements came to prominence in the fifties and the sixties of last century in many languages like Bengali, Tamil, Marathi, Hindi, Malayalam Gujarati etc. However, Bengali Little Magazines always lead from the front. Some kind of unyielding activism and madness were associated with the movement in all over the

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Bengali-speaking region including Bangladesh. Leftist political ideology influenced the movement largely in the 70s, as it occurred in the West during the 30s to 50s.

The principle eras of the Bengali Little Magazines are-

1. Sprouting Age (1914-30)
Sabujpatra, Kallol, Kalikalam
2. Golden Age (1930-40)
Parichay, Dhumketu, Purbasha, Kovita
3. Age of Spreading Out (1940-50)
Ekak, Samasamayik, Uttarsuri, Chatuskon
4. Age of Poetry (1950-60)
Shatavisa, Kritibas, Simanta, Samakalin, Kovipatra
5. Age of Ideological Influence (1960-70)
Aneek, Anustup, Alinda, Ekshan

Key features of the Little Magazines

Why little? Due to its little size? Due to its small circulation? Or, due to its little lifetime? Every reason is true but those are not exhaustive; more meanings are lying hidden inside the word 'little'.

According to Buddhadeb Basu (Basu B. , 1953), firstly, the word 'little' is for protest: protest against the importation of everything in between a pair of covers, protest against the big publicity and the extensive mediocrity. Little Magazine, by the name, it is clear that the stigma of popularity will never touch its soul, and it will never be available in an open market for cash price, but some day there may be some eagerness among the learned society for an old issue of the magazine. It would be possible because it never tried to entertain; it tried to awake the mind.

Pondrom, Cyrena (Pondrom, 1965) describes the little magazine as serving in avant-garde function, whether the publication is commercially motivated or not, whether it appears regularly or irregularly, whether it is short-lived or long-lived. It simply must be in the vanguard, help establish a mainstream current. Pondrom suggests that avant-garde magazines exhibit six characteristics:

1. Publish "little known writers with ability";
2. "produce a ferment of ideas, . . . serve as a gadfly to the status quo";
3. maintain literary standards to "shield the writer from some of the demands of the commercial press and social convention";
4. "extend the audience for good work";
5. create a "place where experiment is untrammelled"; and lastly
6. Maintain a stimulating and congenial environment of personal relationships-a community of interest and friendship among writers and editors and readers.

Shibnarayan Ray (Ray, 1988) pointed out some reasons, for which a magazine cannot be regarded as a Little Magazine-

1. Magazine having the main objective to earn money is not a Little Magazine.
2. Magazine published to entertain the public is not a Little Magazine.
3. Magazine administrated by any political party, even if its circulation is very little, is not a Little Magazine.
4. Magazine speaks for any professional group or organization is not a Little Magazine.
5. Magazine depends upon the income from the advertisements or upon the compassionate writings by famous authors is not a Little Magazine.

So we can summarize, Little Magazines are short-lived and non-commercial periodicals having courage to protest against any kind of establishments. They publish little known writers with ability and provide the space for experiments. With very little capital and small circulation they extends the audience for good work.

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“*Tamoluk Patrika*”, the first literary magazine published from the district of Medinipur, was launched in 1873 (Basu & Mamun, 2005) under the editorship of Trailokynath Rakshit. From then on number of popular literary magazines published from different corners of Medinipur. Some prominent examples are listed below.

- *Medini*, in 1879
- *Kranti*, edited by Gopal Ghoshal from Kanthi in 1896
- *Nihar*, edited by Madhusudan Jana from Kanthi in 1901

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- *Tamalika*, edited by Shridhar Adhikary from Tamluk in 1903
- *Medinipur Hitoishi*, edited by Manmatha Nag from Midnapore town in 1907
- *Swadesh Bandhab*, edited by Chintamoni Mallik from Ghatal in 1907/8
- *Madhabi*, published by the Midnapore branch of Bangiya Sahitya Parisat and edited by Manishinath Basu Saraswati from Midnapore town in 1922
- *Shovona*, edited by Paresh Chakraborty and Prajapati Jana from Nandigram in 1922
- *Medinibani*, edited by Rasbihari Ray in 1938
- *Chetana* (quarterly) from Kanthi in 1950
- *Panchajanya* (monthly), edited by Paresh Chakraborty from Tajpur in 1952

However, those popular publications cannot be regarded as little magazines. First little magazine published from the district of Medinipur was *Piyasi* (Panda, 2013). It was launched in 1953 under the editorship of Ajharuddin Khan (the renowned researcher and biographer of Nazrul Islam). All the distinctive features of a little magazine were inscribed over its pages. In spite of its very short life span (only three issues), *Piyasi* is always remembered and referred in all the intellectual discourse about the modernist literary magazine of Medinipur.

Once *Piyasi* set up the standard, numbers of such modernist magazines started to flourish from different corners of the district of Medinipur. Some of the leading magazines are listed below:

- *Utsarga* (1956), edited by Amar Sarangi from Sankrail,
- *Mallar* (1957), edited by Chitta Sahoo from Kanthi,
- *Tarunder Mukhapatra* (1959), edited by Shyamaprasad Bhattacharya from Kharagpur,
- *Deepan* (1961), edited by Kalisadhan Phouzdar from Midnapore,
- *Angabar* (1963), edited by Mihir Dandapat from Jhargram,
- *Abad* (1967), edited by Amirul Islam from Jhargram,
- *Chandramas* (1968), edited by Gourshankar Bandyopadhyay from Mahishadal,
- *Shalpata* (1969), edited by Nalini Bera (Novelist) from Jhargram

In 70s and 80s the Little Magazine movement spread out in the district. Numbers of such publication were launched from distant villages and townships. In 80 and 90s there were at least 15 living magazines in Kharagpur and its surrounding areas. The scenario was not much different in Ghatal, Jhargram or Haldia. An excellent magazine, named *Dhulomati* edited by poet Ajay Nag was published from Chamka, a remote village under the Kharagpur (local) P.S. Shambhu Rakshit, famous poet and the activist of the hungry movement, edited *Mahaprithibi* (still living) from a nearby village of Mahishadal.

In 90s and the first two decades there are at 20 to 25 standard magazines from Medinipur, for which most of the leading authors of this time are always eager to contribute. For example, we can mention the names— Amritalok, Ebang Sayak, Purba, Bakprotima, Sankalita Suchetana, Apanjan etc. Ketaki Kushari Dyson, Arundhati Ray or Taslima Nasrin are the regular authors of the Magazine Amritalok.

Analytical Study of the Published Articles of Sample Magazines

Introduction

Three essays, “Liberty, law and democracy”; “France today: a group of thinkers” and “Women who did and who do yet” were printed in the very first issue of *The Egoist*, one of the English Little Magazines published from London, in January 1914 (Marsden, 1914). Similarly, here in Bengal, in the first issue of *Sadhana* Tagore wrote articles like “Manipurer samajchitra (Social condition of Manipur)”; “Americar samajchitra (Social condition of America)” and “Musalman mahila (Muslim women)”. *Sabujpatra*, contemporary of the *Egoist*, also had a rich tradition of publishing thoughtful essays on different social aspects. Rabindranath Tagore, Dhurjatiprasad Mukhopadhyay, Atulchandra Gupta, Nalinikanta Gupta, Kiranshankar Ray, Sunitikumar Chattopadhyay etc. were among the authors.

Historically, Little Magazines are marked as the periodical to publish experimental and avant-garde arts and literature. However, right from the beginning the magazines acted as a forum to express the thought of intellectuals about various important issues of human society and civilization. When the selected essays from any Little Magazine are collected and published as book, the scholar community discovers a new treasure of jewels so long kept inside those slender and often short-lived publications. For examples, we can mention *Samakalin*, *Ekshan*, *Dhrubapad*, *Jijnasa*, *Baromas*, *Anustup*, *Amritalok* etc.

Social Scientists as the contributor of Little Magazine

It is generally said that Little Magazines are serious magazines and vice versa. Leading thinkers are always remained associated with these types of magazines. Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Rabindranath Tagore, Pramatha Chowdhury, Sudhindranath Dutta, Buddhadb Basu had their significant contribution to such publications. In Bengal, the Civil Society and the Little Magazine movement are complementary to each

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other over the years. Almost all the leading social scientists write for these slender paperback publications. Numbers of invaluable articles by eminent scholars on different social issues are published there. Some of them write in Bengali exclusively for Little Magazines.

The scenario is not much different for the magazines of Paschim Medinipur. The illustrative list of the contributors is given below. Little Magazines are the only media to publish the thought and comments of these intellectuals in Medinipur.

Animeshkanti Pal, **Amlan Dutta**, Arindam Chowdhury, **Arundhati Ray**, **Ashin Dashgupta**, Ansaruddin, KhitishSantra, Jashodhara Ray Chowdhury, **Tarapada Santra**, **Taslina Nasrin**, Nasim-a-Alam, Pachu Ray, **Pranab Ray**, **Prabhat Pattanayek**, BankimMaity, BiplabMaji, **Betty Freidan**, **Badriddin Umar**, Shibaji Bandyopdhayay, **Shibnarayan Ray**, Shyamal Bera, **Sukharanjan Dashgupta**, **Sudhir Chakraborty**, Subrata Mukhopadhyay, **Suhrid Kumar Bhowmik**, **Sunanda Sanyal**, etc.

Variety of Subjects of the Articles

Analyzing the collected articles on Social Sciences (621 approximately, 64% of the total non-fiction articles excluding the book reviews), it has been found that maximum percentage of share are occupied by the range of classes-301 to 309 (i.e. Sociology, Social Anthropology), 320 to 329 (i.e. Political Science), 380 to 389 and 390 to 399 (i.e. Folklore etc.). The Subject wise breakup is given in the following tables. The subjects included in “Others” are Social Psychology, Dialects, Social Geography, Local History and Biography, Archaeology etc.

Table: 5.2 Class wise breakup of the published literatures

Classes	Percentage
300-309	31.80
320-329	15.18
330-339	6.24
360-369	1.44
370-379	4.61
380-389	18.73
390-399	10.66
Others	11.34

***Table 5.3**The Second layer of the breakup*

Classes	Percentage
300-	1.21
301-	4.55
302-	8.18
303-	14.24
305-	33.33
306-	23.94
307-	14.55

***Table 5.4** Third layer of the breakup*

Classes	Percentage
305.2-	13.64
305.3-	15.45
305.4-	46.36
305.5-	11.82
305.6-	9.09
305.8-	3.64

Responsiveness to Time and Space

Another salient feature of the Little Magazine is that they are always responsive to space and time. They react to every prominent social and political phenomenon by publishing special issues on contemporary topics like the Globalization, Liberalization, Industrialization, Land Acquisition, Godhra's Riot; State sponsored Terrorism, Feminism, and SEZ etc. On the other hand, they also have their regional responsibilities to study and preserve the scarce manuscripts, archaeologies, folklore, local history etc. The subject interest of the magazines vary from time to time, moreover it differs in rural to urban areas too.

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Example:

Amritalok published two consecutive special issues on “Land acquisition vs industrialization”, and “State Sponsored terrorism” in 2007

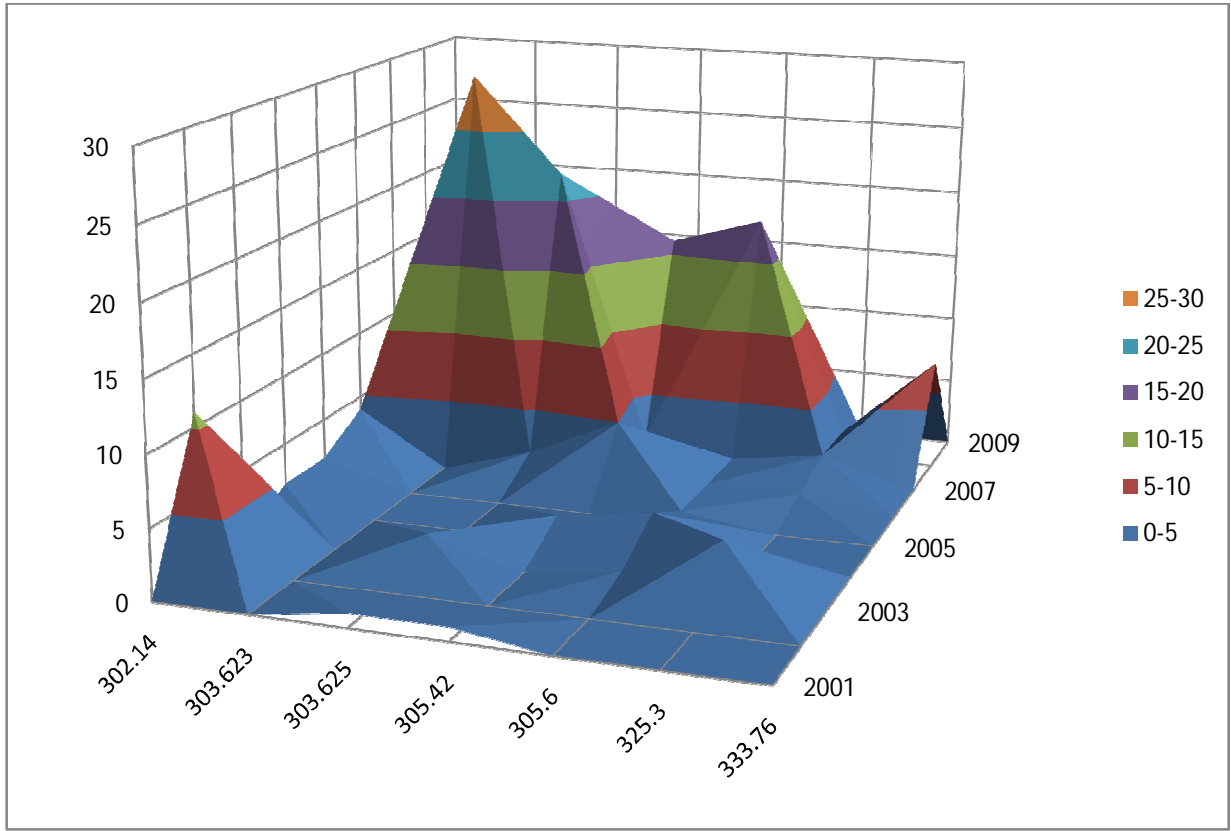
Diagram: The Contents of *Amritalok* in few issues of 2007

1	Little Magazine	Year	Issue	Title	Author
989	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১০	রাষ্ট্রীয় সন্ত্রাস	বিজয় দত্ত
990	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১০	রাষ্ট্রীয় সন্ত্রাস বুধ থেকে বুদ্ধ	সৌমেন নাগ
991	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১০	রাষ্ট্রীয় সন্ত্রাসের ভাষা ও ভঙ্গি	বেকুব মাণ্ডি
992	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১০	রাষ্ট্রীয় সন্ত্রাসের স্টাইল ও টেকনিক	রমেশচন্দ্র মুখোপাধ্যায়
993	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১০	রাষ্ট্রীয় সন্ত্রাসের হাওয়া	বিপ্লব মাজী
994	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১১	শিল্প ও কৃষির সম্পর্কে সুলুক সন্ধান	পার্শ্বপ্রতিম ছবে
995	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১২	শিল্পায়নে জমি হারানোর আতঙ্ক	নাসিম - এ - আলম
996	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	শ্রম আইন, শ্রমদণ্ড, শ্রমজীবী মানুষের হালহকিকৎ	দিবাকর ভট্টাচার্য
997	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১১	শহিদ রাজকুমার	শ্রমখনাথ সিংহরায়
998	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সংগ্রামের অপর নাম: সিঙ্গুর, নন্দীগ্রাম	সুপ্রকাশ চন্দ্র
999	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১২	স/স্ফ/৬৯/৯৯: মৌলবাদের কাছে মাথা নোয়ানো উচিত নয়	তসলিমা নাসরিন
1000	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সিঙ্গুর থেকে নন্দীগ্রাম এবং উন্নয়ন	দীপঙ্কর চক্রবর্তী
1001	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১১০	সিঙ্গুর, নন্দীগ্রাম এবং ...	হিতেন ঘোষ
1002	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সিঙ্গুর: অগ্নিবলয় ক্রমশ বাড়ছে, ক্রমশ ঘিরে ধরবে	রমেশ মুখোপাধ্যায়
1003	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সিঙ্গুর: ইতিহাস ফিরে আসে	সৌমেন নাগ
1004	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সিঙ্গুর: মার্কসীয় চোখে কিছু প্রশ্ন	বিপ্লব মাজী
1005	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সিঙ্গুর-২০০৬: একটি প্রতিবেদন	প্রদীপ ব্যানার্জী
1006	অমৃতলোক	২০০৭	১০৯	সিঙ্গুরের অশনি সংকেত	নিত্যানন্দ ঘোষ

Year wise concentrations of subjects in the Articles of *Amritalok*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
302.14	0	11	0	2	2	4	0	0	0
303.623	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	1
303.625	1	0	2	0	0	2	22	8	11
305.42	1	0	0	2	0	5	2	16	0
305.6	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	18	0
325.3	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	2	0
333.76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0

Year wise concentrations of subjects in the Articles of Amritalok



[302.14 = Communalism; 303.623 = Riots; 303.625 = Terrorism; 305.42 = Feminism; 305.6 Religious fundamentalism; 325.3 = Imperialism; 333.76 = Agricultural lands]

In the above figure, there is a pick against the class no. 302.14 i.e. communalism in 2002. That is due to the communal riot of Godhra. Amritalok published a bunch of articles on that issue in 2002. Similarly, in 2007, 2008 and 2009, there are high altitudes over the classes 303.623 and 303.625 (i.e. Riots and State sponsored terrorism respectively). Moreover, there is a small hill for 333.76 in 2008 for the issue of the land acquisition of Singur and Nandigram. These examples prove the contemporariness of the Little Magazines.

Little Magazines of Medinipur

Exclusiveness and Exhaustiveness

For subjects like anthropology, customs, folklore, folk music etc., Little Magazines are the exclusive media. It is impossible to conduct any research on *Kathakata*, *Palagan*, *Tushugan*, *Bhadugan*, *Chhounach*, *Nachni*, without the help of these magazines. They provide near-exhaustive information on topics like folk beliefs and prejudice of rural Bengal.

Some prominent examples:

- EbangSayak* published a special issue on the excavation of “Moghulmari”, a Buddhist Monastery, which discovered a missing link of the history of Bengal. All the formal media started to highlight the subject only after the issue of *Ebang Sayak* had been published.
- Sahajiya*, from Kolaghat of Purba Medinipur, prints several article of folk literatures like *Sitalamangal* etc. and their poet *Nityananda*, who lived at a nearby place.

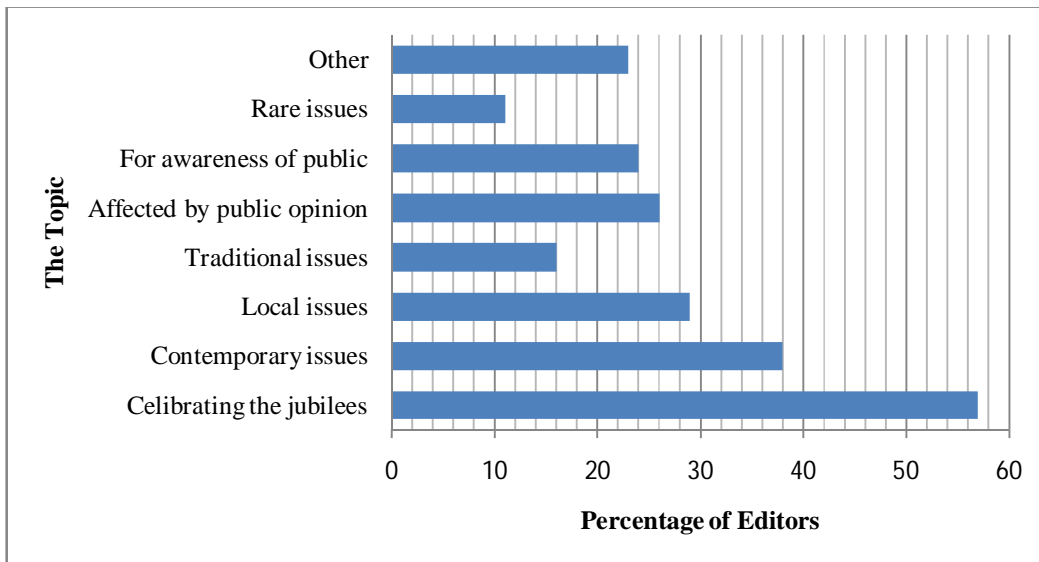
A snap of the database displaying some articles on folklore etc.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Magazine	Year	Title	Author	Subject	Class No
677	এবং সায়ক	২০০৭	জাইনি-কলা এবং লোকবিশ্বাস: একটি পর্যালোচনা	মধুপ দে	Folklore	398
678	এবং সায়ক	২০০৯	প্রাচীন এলাকায় মেয়েলি সংস্কৃতির অনুবিবর্তন: বিশেষ অতিথি 'দিজ' নাড়াগোল গ্রাম পঃ	নীলাঞ্জনা ভট্টাচার্য	Folklore	398
679	এবং সায়ক	২০১০	বাংলার খান ও শস্য পরব	বকিম মাইতি	Folklore	398
680	এবং সায়ক	২০০২	মহিমা ধর্ম: সন্তকবি গীতগোবিন্দ	তপন কুমার খাঁড়া	Folk literature	398.2
681	এবং সায়ক	২০০২	সতী চম্পাবতী বা বাঘাধর পালা এবং একটি বিতর্ক	শ্যামল বেরা	Folk literature	398.2
682	এবং সায়ক	২০০০	ডাকিনী তন্ত্র: সীমন্ত রাত	বকিম মাইতি	Folk literature	398.2
683	এবং সায়ক	২০০০	ললিতা - শবর পালা	শ্যামল বেরা	Folk literature	398.2
684	এবং সায়ক	২০০০	সাপের মন্ত্র: দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম সীমন্ত বাংলা	বকিম মাইতি	Folk literature	398.2
685	এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	অবলুপ্ত লোকযাত্রাপালা শবরশবরী	সুব্রত চৌধুরী	Folk literature	398.2
686	এবং সায়ক	২০০৫	বাংলার লোকনাট্য ভাড়াওয়া ও একটি পালা "খেয়ালী রাজা"	শ্যামল বেরা	Folk literature	398.2
687	এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	লোকচিকিৎসা ও লোকঔষধ: মেদিনীপুর	বকিম মাইতি	Folk Medicine	398.27
688	এবং সায়ক	২০০১	লৌকিক দেবতা - পণ্ডাসুর	উপেন পাত্র	Folk belief	398.41
689	এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	ভায়তে বর্বাদ ও একটি স্বর্গপুরের জন্মকথা	নীতীশ বিশ্বাস	Folk belief	398.41
690	এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	বিরাতেশ্বরী মনসা	বকিম মাইতি	Folk belief	398.41
691	এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	শীতলার মূর্তি কল্পনা - কাহ্নিক না প্রাসঙ্গিক	সুব্রত চৌধুরী	Folk belief	398.41
692	এবং সায়ক	২০০৭	মেদিনীপুরের লোক দেবদেবী	সৌপাত চট্টোপাধ্যায়	Folk belief	398.41
693	এবং সায়ক	২০১০	লৌকিক দেবী শীতলা আজ সর্বজনীন রূপ পেয়েছেন: একটি সমীক্ষা	গোপীকান্ত কোনার	Folk belief	398.41
694	এবং সায়ক	২০০২	ছড়ার প্রভুতত্ত্ব	অনিমেষকান্তি পাল	Rhymes	398.8
695	এবং সায়ক	২০০৭	বাংলা ছড়ার প্রায় অবলুপ্ত লোকক্রীড়া	?	Rhymes	398.8
696	এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	বাংলা প্রবাদ ও পতপাখি	ক্ষিতীশ সাত্তরা	Proverbs	398.9
697	এবং সায়ক	২০০৯	ছড়ার প্রবাদে বিষয় - অর্থ	মধুসূদন আচার্য	Proverbs	398.9
698	এবং সায়ক	২০১১	পুল্লীষপূর্ণ প্রবাদাদি	মধুসূদন আচার্য	Proverbs	398.9

Editors' Strategy to Select the Topic(s) of the Magazines

20 editors from the district of Medinipur were interviewed with a structured questionnaire. The factors they prefer to keep in mind for selection of the topic(s) of their magazines are graphically represented here. Except the occasions like golden jubilee, silver jubilee etc. of any author, or of any incident or of any book and journal (e.g., we just crossed the centenary year of Song Offerings by Tagore or *Sabujpatra* edited by Pramatha Chaudhury), two most important factors are the contemporary phenomena and the local issues.

Diagram: 5.5



Little Magazines and scholar community

Persons did not have interest in modern or postmodern literature, were not aware of Little Magazines. Even a large number of learned people did not hear the terminology. Those publications were only for the author, poet and editor themselves. From the 70s of the last century the scenario has been changed. Young generations become more and more passionate about different arts and literary movements. Their devotion towards the left and/ or ultra-left political ideologies had some definite influences in this context. Consequently, the term Little Magazines become familiar to the intellectuals.

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To know the social impact of such periodicals interviews have been conducted with 100 scholars of Social Science of the district. They were divided into two age groups, e.g. below 45 and over 45. The responses against different questions are grouped in the following tables.

Questions	Age Groups	
	Below 45	Over 45
Heard about LM	60	12
Know LM	24	8
Read LM regularly	12	8
Remember LM for any article	8	4
Do they have any importance outside art and literature (Y)	22	8
Are they reliable as resource for Social Science? (Y)	22	8
Use LM for research	8	0
Subscribe LM	6	2
Write in LM	2	0
Is there any necessity to preserve LM (Y)	36	8

** All the values are in percentage*

Nonacademic persons are the main contributors and readers of the Little Magazines. Academic persons as author and reader of such periodicals are minority. However, as the editor the percentage of teachers or professors is quite better. The common people with moderate education (e.g. Graduate), usually not so successful in their career, are at the forefront of the movement. As they belong closer to the lower middle class, the major section of the population of our country, a true reflection of the society is found in their literary and cultural activities.

Percentage of response from Scholars to some questions in a scale of 4 to 0

Questions	Scale				
	4	3	2	1	0
Novelty of the articles	12	18	21	38	11
Are they substitute*	7	14	26	29	24
Are they complementary*	20	36	20	13	11
Are they exclusive	6	13	27	43	11
Are they exhaustive	6	11	12	44	27

**Compared with the articles published in formal academic journals*

Conclusion and Findings

It has already been accepted by the author, reader and critic that Little Magazines are the main stream for modern literature. Novels like *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *Padmanadir Majhi* by Manik Bandyopadhyay were first published in the pages of such magazines (in *Little Review* and *Purbasha* respectively). Now, it is time to recognize those as a newer source of Social Science information. As the literary periodical the 'littles' are far ahead to their 'big' counterparts. For Social Science, they may be considered as the complementary sources beside the conventional research journals.

To be a 'Little Magazine' the slender and often short-lived publications have to satisfy some tough idealistic criteria. That is why the articles published in a 'true' Little Magazine possess a standard quality. As they have their antiestablishment, noncommercial and subaltern stance, the articles they publish always have the social responsibilities. Moreover, they create the healthy environment for rational arguments on different social and political problems. The mass voice ultimately drives us towards the truth and beauty.

The findings from the above study are listed below:

1. The number of published articles on Social Sciences is found enough (within a period of 12 years 6 magazines published approximately 621 articles on Social Sciences)
2. Leading Social Scientists contribute in these magazines regularly.
3. The information in some branches of Social Sciences (folklore, folk literature, social anthropology, archaeology etc.) is Exclusive.
4. Some near exhaustive information on some areas of Social Sciences (folklore, folk literature, social anthropology, archaeology etc.) are published in the Little Magazines.
5. The Little Magazines of Medinipur are responsive to their time and space.
6. Little magazines of Medinipur have been recognized by the Scholars
 - a) For their novelty
 - b) As they are substitute of the conventional journal
 - c) As they are complementary to the conventional journal
 - d) As they are exclusive in some areas
 - e) As they are exhaustive in some areas

Little Magazines of Medinipur

After the discussion it is clear that the Librarians must have a definite role in this context. They are always in quest of the newer sources of knowledge and eager to add those in their collection, so that they are able to answer the all types of queries of the users.

The reasons for which a Librarian cannot overlook Little Magazines are listed below-

1. Huge numbers of article on Social Science published every year.
2. On topics like folklore, archaeology, anthropology the information are exclusive.
3. They reflect the thoughts of the civil society.
4. They are the only media to encourage the cultivation of Social Science in Bengali language.
5. These priceless publications are volatile in nature. They should be archived with professional care.

Therefore we may conclude with the comments that the Little Magazines are the still unexplored and unfamiliar sources of knowledge especially of the Social Science disciplines. The irregular volatile and even short lived publications should be collected with immense care. And the articles published there should be indexed properly. It is better to manage them digitally, so that the preservation and dissemination of the information become easier.

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Appendix

Classified list of the Articles published in *Ebang Sayak*(2001 - 2012)

Class No	Subject	Title	Author	Year
301	Sociology and Anthropology	কুলজি সন্ধানে মেদিনীপুরের নদী	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2004
301	Sociology and Anthropology	মধ্যযুগের মেদিনীপুরে জনসমাজের পরিবর্তন	রাজর্ষি মহাপাত্র	2009
306.4	Culture	বহুরূপী প্রসঙ্গে	দীপঙ্ক রদাস	2004
306.4	Culture	সংস্কৃতি ও সমাজপ্রগতি: একটি সূত্রের অবতারণা	বৈরাগ্য চক্রবর্তী	2004
306.4	Culture	গয়নাবড়ির দেশে	সব্যসাচী পড়ুয়া	2006
306.41	Culture	লেখমালায় দাঁতনের সংস্কৃতির স্বরূপ	সুলেখা রায়	2005
306.874	Culture and institutions; Mother	মায়ের খোঁজে মাটির টানে: ধাইমা	সব্যসাচী পড়ুয়া	2005
381.180954	Fair	প্রসঙ্গ দাঁতনের মেলা	বিশ্বজিৎ ঘোষ	2008
398	Folklore	ডাইনি-কলা এবং লোকবিশ্বাস: একটি পর্যালোচনা	মধুপ দে	2007
398	Folklore	গ্রামীন এলাকায় মেয়েলি সংস্কৃতির ক্রমবিবর্তন: বিশেষ অভিমুখ 'নিজ' নাড়া জেল গ্রাঃপঃ	নীলাঞ্জনা ভট্টাচার্য	2009
398	Folklore	বাংলার ধান ও শস্য-পরিব	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2010
398.2	Folk literature	মহিমা ধর্ম: সন্তকবি ভীমভোই	তপনকুমার খাঁড়া	2002
398.2	Folk literature	সতী চম্পাবতী বা বাঘাঘর পালা এবং একটি বিতর্ক	শ্যামল বেরা	2002
398.2	Folk literature	ডাকিনীতন্ত্র: সীমান্তরাঢ়	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2003
398.2	Folk literature	ললিতা - শবরপালা	শ্যামল বেরা	2003
398.2	Folk literature	সাপের মন্ত্র: দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম সীমান্তবাংলা	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2003
398.2	Folk literature	অবলুণ্ড লোকযাত্রাপালা শবর শবরী	সুব্রত মুখোপাধ্যায়	2004
398.2	Folk literature	বাংলার লোকনাট্য ভাঁড়ুয়াত্রা ও একটি পালা "খেয়ালীরাজা"	শ্যামল বেরা	2005
398.27	Folk Medicine	লোকচিকিৎসা ও লোকঔষধ: মেদিনীপুর	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2004
398.41	Folk belief	লৌকিক দেবতা - পগুসুর	উপেন পাত্র	2001
398.41	Folk belief	ভারতে বর্ণবাদ ও একটি স্বর্ণপদ্মের জন্মকথা	নীতীশ বিশ্বাস	2004
398.41	Folk belief	বিরাটেশ্বরী মনসা	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2006
398.41	Folk belief	শীতলার মূর্তিকল্পনা-কাল্পনিক না প্রাসঙ্গিক	সুব্রত মুখোপাধ্যায়	2006
398.41	Folk belief	মেদিনীপুরের লোকদেবদেবী	সৌগত চট্টোপাধ্যায়	2007
398.41	Folk belief	লৌকিক দেবী শীতলা আজ সর্বজনীন রূপ পেয়েছেন: একটি সমীক্ষা	গোপীকান্ত কোনার	2010

Class No	Subject	Title	Author	Year
398.8	Rhymes	ছড়ার প্রত্নতত্ত্ব	অনিমেঘকান্তি পাল	2002
398.8	Rhymes	বাংলা ছড়ায় প্রায় অবলুপ্ত লোককবিতা	?	2007
398.9	Proverbs	বাংলা প্রবাদ ও পঞ্চপাখি	ক্ষিতীশ সাঁতরা	2004
398.9	Proverbs	ছড়ায় প্রবাদে বিষয় - অর্থ	মধুসূদন আচার্য	2009
398.9	Proverbs	পুরীষপূর্ণ প্রবাদাদি	মধুসূদন আচার্য	2011
398.9	Proverbs	বাংলা প্রবাদ ও বাংলাসাহিত্য	ক্ষিতীশ সাঁতরা	2011
745	Folk Arts	নাড়াজেলের পটশিল্প	নীলাঞ্জনা ভট্টাচার্য	2008
745	Folk Arts	পটের গান	অনিমেঘকান্তি পাল	2009
781.620095	Folk Music	সুবর্ণরেখিক অঞ্চলের বিস্মৃতপ্রায় কাঁদনাগীত	সুব্রত মুখোপাধ্যায়	2004
781.620095	Folk Music	ঘুমপাড়ানি গান	দীপঙ্কর দাস	2010
793.31	Folk Dance	লোধা আদি জাতি ও ক্ষয়িষ্ণু লোকনৃত্য চাও	সুব্রত মুখোপাধ্যায়	2005
930	Local history	মধ্যযুগীয় আঞ্চলিক ইতিহাসচর্চা	রাজর্ষি মহাপাত্র	2011
930.1	Archaeology	দাঁতন থেকে বামিয়ান	শ্যামল বেরা	2001
930.1	Archaeology	মেদিনীপুরের স্থাননামে "করবিধি"	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2001
930.1	Archaeology	সাতদেউলা: দাঁতনের বিস্ময়কর প্রত্নস্থল	তপনকুমার দাস	2004
930.1	Archaeology	দাঁতনের বৌদ্ধ ভাস্কর্য	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2005
930.1	Archaeology	প্রত্নক্ষেত্র: মোগলমারী	বঙ্কিম মাইতি	2005
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