



International Journal of Current Research Vol. 11, Issue, 04, pp.2981-2983, April, 2019

DOI: https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.35035.04.2019

RESEARCH ARTICLE

JARADAGADA - A BORDER VILLAGE ADJOINING TO ANDHRA PRADESH AND MAHENDRAGIRI

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 10th January, 2019 Received in revised form 20th February, 2019 Accepted 17th March, 2019 Published online 29th April, 2019

Key Words:

ABSTRACT

Jarada is an ancient zamindari estate of Ganjam district of Odisha. It was situated in 19⁰ 05' Latt. and 84⁰ 33' Long. It is about 16 miles from Ichhapur in a south westerly direction and 32 miles from Berhampur. It is bounded by the zamindari estate of Surangi, Chikiti, Badakhemundi and Jalanthara (now in Andhra Pradesh). Jarada is the Headquarter of this estate. It is a small village under Chikiti MLA Constituency of Patrapur C.D.Block. The village proper is very beautiful one bounded by the dense forests in south, the Jarasandha Hill of Mahendra Mountain in the north-west and a large tank on the east. The name Jarada is derived from two names – Jara and Daha. According to the local traditions and legends, there were two Sabara *sardars* namely Jara and Daha who were ruling over this area in early period. But one Khatriya prince Veerabhadra defeated and killed these two brothers and founded this kingdom and named it after the name of these two Sabara sardars Jara-daha. In course of time it came to be known as Jarada. This village is famous for its temple Parthasarathi where the presiding deity is Lord Jagannath.

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Citation: Bhagabana Sahu. 2019. "Jaradagada – a border village adjoining to Andhra Pradesh and Mahendragiri", International Journal of Current Research, 11, (04), 2981-2983.

INTRODUCTION

Veerabhadra Singh was the founder of this zamindari estate who founded it in 1440 A.D¹. Since then 28 kings ruled over this estate in succession. The genealogical list of the kings is as follows:

- Birabhadra Singh Samantaray Mahapatro
- Brundaban Singh Samantaray
- Ramabhadra Singh Samantaray
- Balunkeswara Singh Samantaray
- Subarneswara Samantaray
- Sibaram Samantaray
- Bamana Samantaray
- Balabhadra Samantaray
- Venkataraya Samantaray
- Mrutyunjaya Samantaray
- Nilakantha Samantaray
- Gangadhar Samantaray
- Srikrushna Samantaray
- Harihara Samantaray
- Jagannatha Samantaray
- Madhusudan Samantaray
- Gopala Samantaray
- Lokanath Samantaray
- Shyam Sundar Samantaray
- Pitambara Samantaray

- Madan Gopala Samantaray
- Raghunath Samantaray
- Krushnachandra Samantaray
- Sarathi Chandra Samantaray
- Raghunath Samantaray
- Kishor Chandra Samantaray
- Prasanna Chandra Samantaray
- Dipaka Chandra Samantaray²

Population of this village according to the 1981 Census was 2,300. According to 2011 Census its population was increased to 4388. The place is famous for the temple of Sri Parthasarathi. According to the temple records, it was established by Gajapati Purushottama Deva of Suryavamsi Gajapati dynasty in the 15th century on his way of the invasion of Kanchi. The speciality of this temple is that Lord Sri Krishna is worshiped here as Partha Sarathi. Jagannath is the presiding deity of this temple and the Rath Yatra is the main festival here which attracts a large number of people from Ganjam district and the adjoining Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. As per the legends, the Ratha (Car) of Partha Sarathi moves first then Nandighosa of Puri. This is still in practice even today. The affairs of the temple are managed by an Endowment Board³. The village Jarada is connected by a metalled road from the National Highway at Ichhapur in Andhra State. There is one kutcha road from Jarada to Budasingi of the Andhra State, passing through Tumba.

Sl. No.	Name of the zamindary	Name of the zamindar	Total Revenue	Tribute they pay Rs.	Year
1	Chikiti	Rajendra Deo	70,000	35,001	1769
2	Mohuri	Narayan Deo	85,000	45,001	1769
3	Dharakote	Rajendra Singh	60,000	25,001	1769
4	Badagada	Purnananda Singh	18,000	6,001	1769
5	Ghumusur	Krishna Bhunja	2,50,000	30,001	1769
6	Athagarh	Harischandra	1,20,000	37,001	1769
7	Khallikote	Murdaraja	80,000	34,001	1769
8	Palur	Gajendra	7,000	3,501	1769
9	Birudi	Mahurtah	18,000	5,001	1769
10	Hummah	Santrow	5,000	3,001	1769
11	Sorada	Raya Singh	12,000	2,801	1769
12	Sheragada	Harikrushna Singh	17,500	11,001	1769
13	Surangi	Harischandra	22,500	12,001	1769
14	Jarada	Santra	13,000	7,501	1769
15	Badakhemundi	Ananga Bhima Deo	60,000	47,001	1769
16	Sanakhemundi	Ananga Bhima Deo	90,000	47,001	1769
17	Paralakhemundi	Jagannath Deo	1,87,000	86,000	1784
18	Jeypore	Vikram Deb	76,000	30,000	1784

Tributes paid by the zamindars of south Orissa to East India Company in 1769 A.D⁴

The principal crop of this village are paddy, ragi, pulses, ground-nut, tobacco, etc. There are Post Office, office of the Panchayat Samiti, Inspection Bungalow, Government Dispensary, Police Station, Revenue Inspector's office, High School, M.E.School and a branch of the Indian Bank at the place. The Parthasarathi Library is located here and is managed by the local people. The Panchayat Samiti is the local self-Government here. A weekly market sits here on every Thursday. Vegetables and forest products are the chief commodities in trade⁵. The village is surrounded by hills and jungles but is tolerably well watered by a small stream that falls into the Bahuda River. Previously this zamindari estate contained 59 villages consisting of 52 ryoti and 7 inam. The peshcush of the estate was Rs. 7501/- in 1769. But, the estate was abolished on the 1st June 1953. The name of the last zamindar was Raja Prasanno Chandra Samantaray Deo who is the son of the Raja of Talcher. When the treaty engagements were signed between the zaminadari Rajas of Ganjam with the British Govt. the following yearly peshcush payable to the East India Company was perpetually fixed in 1769. The people live in village are mainly of many castes such as Badhei, Bania, Bhandari, Brahmin, Chitrakara, Dera, Gouda, Gudia, Kachara, Karana, Kansari, Khandayata, Kumbhara, Kumuti, Mali (Raula), Paika, Patara, Sundhi, Teli, Bouri, Dandasi, Dhova, Domb, Haddi, Jaggili, Keuta, Mediri, and Pano⁶.

There are, generally, two rows of thatched houses standing shoulder to shoulder, with a wide road (badadanda) running in between, and with a temple and a tank at one end and a Bhagavata Ghara or a village Akhada at the other. There are also many sub-streets in the village. The village homes are invariably decorated with mural paintings of some sort, and have a shady garden at the back. The Bhagavata of Jagannatha Dasa and the village priest (purana panda) still wield considerable influence on the social and individual life of the people in the village. Even today, the *Bhagavata* of Jagannatha Dasa is recited daily, either in the common Bhagavata Ghara or in the Hindu families of most of the villages. The existence of guhala- the cowshed, reserved at the frontal part of the house was one of the main characteristics of this village. The houses consist of three to four rooms which are small and badly ventilated. The verandah outside is used as a place for gossiping and in the warm weather forms a convenient sleeping place with the simple addition of a rush mat.

When the family is divided, the division takes place longitudinally. The walls are built of wooden lattice work plastered on both sides with a mixture of cow dung and mud. The mud floor is also plastered with clay and cow dung. The houses are of row type with common walls shared by two families adjacent to each other. The village site or Basti consists of two rows of houses with common Danda in between which intercepted with a Chaupadhi (community hall) or a temple. The Danda- infront of each house is also dotted with Khanis (underground store for storage of paddy) where paddy is kept after harvesting season for about three to four months but again dug out before the rainy season to improve the taste of food grain and to save the grains from paste attack⁸. In the extreme south of the village is situated the dilapidated and abandoned palace of the Raja, the bungalow of his Diwan, the royal stable and the elephant shade, etc. On the side of the Royal palace the temple of Partha Sarathi is situated. The village is very near to the Mahendra mountain and the river Mahendratanaya. The Sabaras of Jarada are known as Jara-Sabaras. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. The people depending upon trade and commerce amounting to 10% of the population. But the village is very famous for cottage industries like pottery, wood works and wood carvings, bamboo works and weaving. But there is a competition and crazy among the educated people of the village to migrate to the urban areas like Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Ichhapur, Visakhapatnam, etc⁹. *Thakurani Jatra* is another important festival of this village. The people perform a number of folk dances like Bharata Leela, Radha Prema Leela, Prahallada Nataka, Bagha Nacha, Dasakathia, Osakothi, etc. But these folk performances are fast disappearing from the village due to the increasing impact of urban mode of cinema, television, etc. An attempt should have been started to check the people who are leaving the village for settling in the towns and cities otherwise the charm of the village life will be over within a short period.

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