

# Little Magazine: The Prime Space for Study of Sociology, Anthropology and Folklore of Rural Bengal

Biswajit Adhikary

## ABSTRACT

*Little Magazine, which just crossed the centenary year (2014) of its initiation, is a special kind of periodical generally meant for arts and literature. Alongside the experimental literary works by younger authors, Little Magazines also publish articles on different branches of Social Sciences. This paper tries to check the significance of such magazines in study and research of Sociology, Anthropology and Folklore in rural Bengal. It also examines the exclusiveness as well as the exhaustiveness of the published information, and the regional responsibility of the magazines. 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: Little Magazine, Social Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Folklore, Library acquisition, Document selection, Information sources, Information storage, Information dissemination, Article indexing.*

## 1. Introduction

Large number of studies had been conducted into the requirements of scientists for information, but very few had been done in the field of social science information. There are a number of possible reasons for that. Social scientists have been much less information-conscious and less inclined to seek for solutions because there was much smaller total volume of information available for them. Moreover, there are very few specialist libraries for social sciences, and few librarians have to confront with social scientists' information needs.

One of the major problems in the research of Social Sciences is the absence of proper information systems. The available resources from Libraries and

Information Centres are not enough to meet the increasing demand of the recent times. The conditions are even worse in the developing countries like India. Therefore, the Librarians must keep themselves busy to anticipate the information needs of the Social Scientists and should always in quest for the potential resources.

Though the word magazine is associated with their name, the Little Magazines are not magazines in true sense. They do not have big circulation, popularity and regularity as well. They are not research periodicals or popular journals. Actually, they belong outside the existing categorization. Little Magazines are not the traditional sources for Social Science information. They were initiated in

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*Librarian, Raja N.L. Khan Women's College, Midnapore 721102, West Bengal, India.*

the West as well as in our country as the modernist literary periodicals. 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 sciences like sociology, folklore etc.?

## 2. What is Little Magazine

### 2.1 Definition and History

Jibanananda Dash, one of the leading Bengali poets in the post-Tagore era, wrote in an essay named "*Kovitar katha*" that, not everyone but only few are poets. In that same tone, it can be inferred that not all the poor noncommercial irregular short-lived and slender periodicals are little magazines. *Little Magazine* is a rare intellectual phenomenon. To be a Little Magazine a publication has to satisfy some strict ideological criteria.

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.

*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 30/40 years. Until 70s of the last century, there were four principal periods of the Little Magazines in the West. Those were- (i) The introductory Age (1890-1915), (ii) The Golden Age (1915-1930), (iii) The Age of Leftist Little

Magazines (1930-1950), and (iv) The Age of Spreading out (1940-1970).

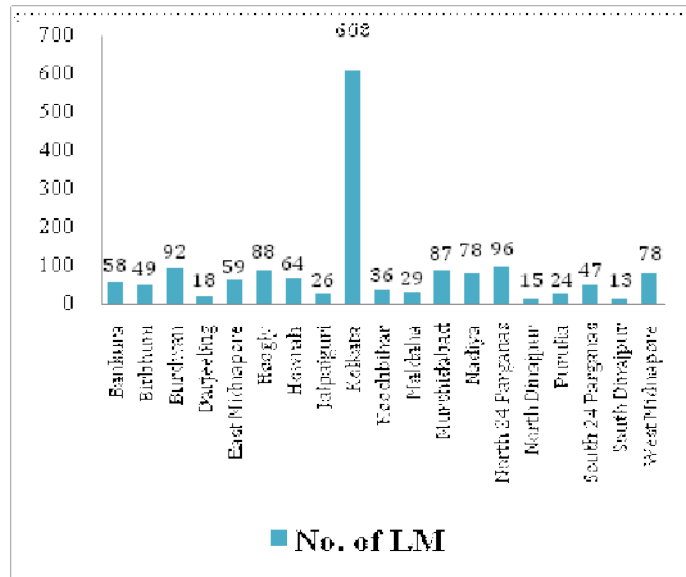
In India, the first Little Magazine *Sabujpatra* was launched at Kolkata under the editorship of Pramatha Chudhury on 1914. It was none other than Rabindranath Tagore who mentored and inspired Chaudhury to edit such a magazine. Predecessors like *Bangadarshan* (1872), edited by the great novelist Bankimchandra 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 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: (i) Sprouting Age (1914-30), example: *Sabujpatra*, *Kallol*, *Kalikalam*; (ii) Golden Age (1930-40), example: *Parichay*, *Dhumketu*, *Purbasha*, *Kovita*; (iii) Age of Spreading Out (1940-50), example: *Ekak*, *Samasamayik*, *Uttarsuri*, *Chatuskon*; (iv) Age of Poetry (1950-60), example: *Shatavisa*, *Krittibas*, *Simanta*, *Samakalin*, *Kovipatra*; and (v) Age of Ideological Influence (1960-70), example: *Aneek*, *Anustup*, *Alinda*, *Ekshan*

**Diagram 1: District wise breakup of the Little Magazines**



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 some qualitative yardsticks.

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.

## 2.2 Key features of the Little Magazines

Why such magazine is prefixed with the adjective 'little'? Which among the symptoms like 'little size', 'small circulation', and 'little lifetime' is responsible? Every reason is true but those are not exhaustive; more meanings are lying hidden inside the word 'little'.

According to Buddhadeb Basu (Basu, 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 administered 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.

**3. Scope and Methodology of the Study**

**3.1 Scope**

For the present study, the entire “300” class of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**3.2 Sources of Data**

All the contents of the five sample Magazines form five comparatively backward districts published during the period of 12 years (2001-2012) are the main sources of data for the present study. The sample magazines are listed below-

- **Rardhkatha.** Edited by Kishore Das. Siuri, Birbhum. (presently shifted to Hooghly)
- **Anriju.** Edited by Subhas Ray. Manbhum Loksanskriti Kendra, Puruliya.
- **Lokayata Sanskriti.** Edited by Achintya Jana. Katjuridanga. Bankura.
- **Ebang Sayak.** Edited by Surya Nandi. Dantan, Paschim Medinipur.
- **Sahajjiya.** Edited by Madhusudan Mukhopadhyay. Kolaghat, Purba Medinipur.

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

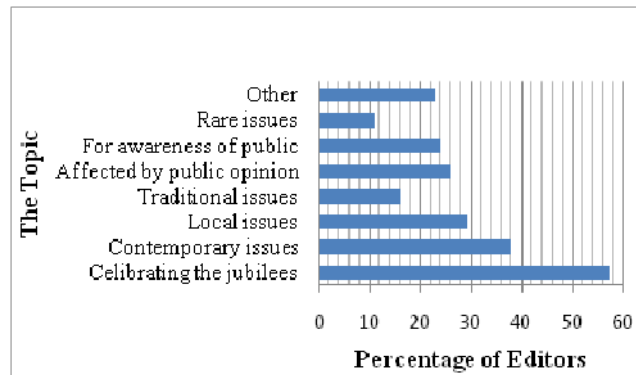
**3.3 Methodology**

All the collected articles are entered into a spreadsheet to design a bibliographic database. The articles are classified as enumerated in Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC, 21<sup>st</sup> Ed) Scheme. And, general subject headings have been assigned to them. The responses of the editors and the scholars interviewed have been tabulated objectively.

**4. Analytical Study of the Sample Articles and the Responses from Interviews**

**4.1 Editors’ Strategy to Select the Topic(s) of the**

**Diagram 2:** Editor’s strategy of the Little Magazines to choose the topics



**Magazines**

20 editors of Little Magazines from those 5 districts 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. Among local issues anthropology and folklore have the prominent shares.

**4.2 Little Magazines and scholar community**

Persons did not have interest in modern or postmodern literature, are 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.

To know the impact of such periodicals interviews have been conducted with 50 scholars of Social Science of those five districts.

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

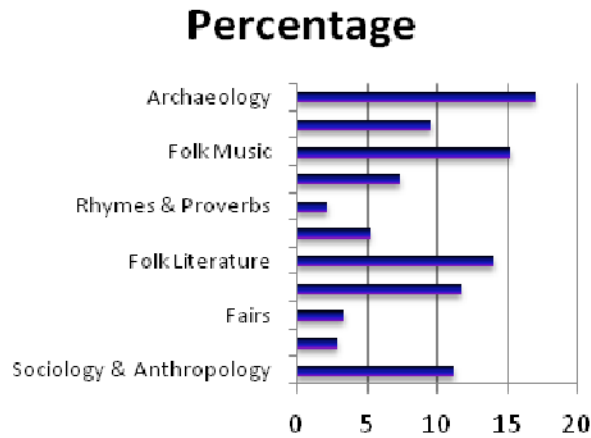
<u>Questions</u>	<u>Scale</u>				
	4	3	2	1	0
Novelty of the articles	12	18	21	38	11
Are they substitute*	7	14	26	29	24
Are they complementary*	20	36	20	13	11
Are they exclusive	6	13	27	43	11
Are they exhaustive	6	11	12	44	27

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

**4.3 Tendency of the Magazines in selection of subjects**

There are tendencies of the magazines from rural

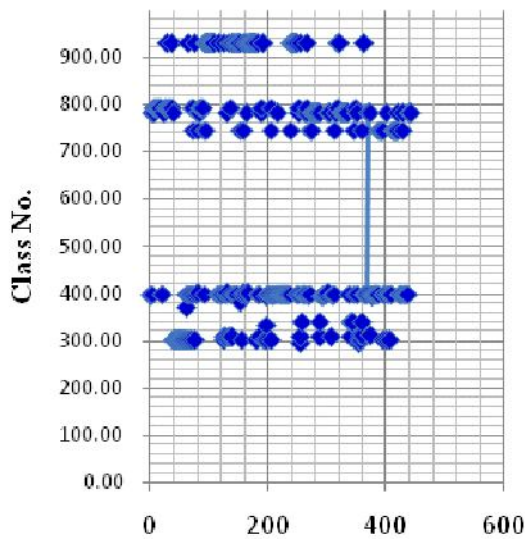
**Diagram 3:** Percentage share of the subjects of the sample articles



areas to publish articles on subjects like Sociology, Anthropology, Folklore, Folk music, Folk dance, Archaeology etc. And, the tendency seems quit natural if we properly study the rural society of our state. The subject shares out of the sample articles are given below.

Arranging all the entries (titles of the articles) according to their Class No., we got some dense clusters around the Class like 301 (Sociology & Anthropology), 398 (Folklore and Folk literature), 745 (Folkarts), 781 (Folk Music), 793 (Folk dance), and 930 (Archaeology). The graphical representation of the data is given in the following diagram.

**Diagram 4:** Cluster of the entries according to their Class Numbers (DDC, 21<sup>st</sup> Ed.)



**Record No.:** Anriju (1 - 115), Ebang Sayak (116 - 180), Rardhkatha (181 - 255), Lokayata Sanskriti (256 - 387) & Sahajiya (388 - 443)

#### 4.4 Panel of almost unknown authors

Non-academic 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, which is the major section of the population of our country, a true reflection of the society is found in their literary and cultural activities. Browsing the magazines published from rural areas, we can get some fresh thoughtful works from almost unknown authors. That freshness is one of the specialties of a true little magazine. Who knows better about the customs etiquettes or folklore of certain community than the common people belonging closer to that community? The writings of those unknown authors are more reliable than the research articles of any academic scholars living in distant city.

#### 4.5 Non-academic as well as anti-establishment attitudes

The content and the style of representation in Little Magazines are generally nonacademic. Structured and mechanized methodology of research is not followed here. The articles in these publications are based on primary and first hand experiences. Those articles may not be regarded as customary research works but they have the potency to raise some research questions and show the probable way for solutions.

Previously the aborigine societies as well as the downtrodden societies were studied from a traveler's point of view by the urban civilized

Diagram 5: A Snap of Database showing some titles on local issues

	A	B	C	D	E	F
241	লোকায়ত সংস্কৃতি	২০০১	বিষ্ণুপুরের রাবাকটা নাচ: পরম্পরাগত মুখোশ নৃত্য	প্রদীপকুমার ঘোষ	Folk Dance	793.31
242	লোকায়ত সংস্কৃতি	২০০৪	বিষয় - বাঁকুড়ার গল্পীকাঁথা	রাজরাম	Folk Arts	745
243	লোকায়ত সংস্কৃতি	২০১২	বিষয় লোকশব্দ	দিগেন বর্মা	Folk Literature	398.2
244	রাত্‌কথা	২০১২	বিশ্বত লোককাবি আলেকজান্ডার ওমেদ নাই: জীবন ও কাব্যসাধনা	শ্রীপদকুমার ঠাকুর	Folk Literature	398.2
245	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৭	বিশ্বতপ্রায় কবি জামিরুদ্দিন দরাদার, বীরভূম ও ফকির বিদ্রোহ	নাসিম-এ-আলম	Folk Literature	398.2
246	সবজিয়া	২০১৩	বিয়ের গানে সগ-কাপ	রত্না রশ্মিদ	Folk Music	781.6200954
247	রাত্‌কথা	২০১১	বীরভূম জেলার পুরাকীর্তি	দেবকুমার চন্দ্রবর্তী	Archaeology	930.1
248	রাত্‌কথা	২০১১	বীরভূম জেলার পুরাকীর্তির বাঁহরে	সিকেশ্বর মুখোপাধ্যায়	Archaeology	930.1
249	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৪	বীরভূম জেলার বিপন্ন পুরাকীর্তি	অর্ণব মজুমদার	Archaeology	930.1
250	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৫	বীরভূমের কথাভাষা (সংকলন)	অর্ণব মজুমদার	Folk Literature	398.2
251	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৬	বীরভূমের কথাভাষা: শব্দকাষ (সংকলন)	অর্ণব মজুমদার	Folk Literature	398.2
252	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৬	বীরভূমের খনিজ সম্পদ	গৌরীশের মিত্র	Minerals	330
253	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৩	বীরভূমের জনবিন্যাস ও জনসংস্কৃতি	অরুণ চৌধুরী	Anthropology	301
254	রাত্‌কথা	২০১১	বীরভূমের পুরাকীর্তিতে প্রত্নবিচিত্র ও বৈশিষ্ট্যের তত্ত্ব অন্বেষণ	অর্ণব মজুমদার	Archaeology	930.1
255	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৩	বীরভূমের প্রাচীন শিলালেখ: সংক্ষিপ্ত সমীক্ষা	অর্ণব মজুমদার	Archaeology	930.1
256	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৭	বীরভূমের বহুরঙ্গী: সমীক্ষা ও বিশ্লেষণ	সবলী চট্টোপাধ্যায়	Folklore	398
257	রাত্‌কথা	২০১১	বীরভূমের মন্দিরে বৈষ্ণবীয় প্রসঙ্গ	শ্রীনা বসু	Archaeology	930.1
258	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৯	বীরভূমের মনসা: একটি সংক্ষিপ্ত সমীক্ষা	সঞ্জয় পাল, কিশোর দাস	Gods - Folklore	398.40954
259	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৩	বীরভূমের লোকসংস্কৃতি	অজিতকুমার মিত্র	Folklore	398
260	রাত্‌কথা	২০০৯	বেংনার পীত (সংকলন)	মুহম্মদ আবু হোসেন	Folk Literature	398.2
261	অনুষ্ঠান	২০০১	বৌ নাচ	কারীনাথ দেওয়রিয়া	Folk Dance	793.31
262	অনুষ্ঠান	২০০৯	বদন কালিন্দীর দৃষ্টিতে নাচনীর জীবন দর্শন ও নাচনের হুচার কথা	তপন ঘোষ	Folk Dance	793.31
263	লোকায়ত সংস্কৃতি	২০০৪	বদলা গ্রামের রায়পাড়ার মহামায়া ধানের ইতিহাস	দিলীপ রায়	Archaeology	930.1



scholars. That kind of approach was failed to find out the actual truth about the ancient inhabitants of India. Recently the trend has been changed and terminology like ‘subaltern’ has been introduced. Little Magazines played a significant role in this context. The sample magazines of this study are some good examples for this.

**4.6 Regional Responsibilities**

Regional responsibility is a salient feature of the magazines published from the rural Bengal. Topics on local folklore, custom, archaeology etc. are published in priority basis. The following snap shows some articles on archaeology of *Birbhum* in the magazine *Rardhkatha*.

**4.7 Exclusiveness and Exhaustiveness of published information**

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, Chhou-nach, 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:

- a) *Ebang Sayak* published a special issue on the excavation of “Moghulmari”, an ancient 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.
- b) *Sahajiya*, from Kolaghat of Purba Medinipur, prints several article on folk literatures like *Sitalamangal* etc. and their poet *Nityananda*, who lived at a nearby place.

**Diagram 6:** A snap of the database displaying some articles on folklore etc.

Magazine	Year	Title	Author	Subject	Class No
এবং সায়ক	২০০৭	জয়ন্তিকা এবং লোকবিশ্বাস: একটি পর্যালোচনা	স্বপ্ন সে	Folklore	398
এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	প্রাচীন এলাকায় খেলেসি সংস্কৃতির কনকবিশ্বাস: বিশেষ আন্তিমুখ গিজ নাড়াগোল গ্রা: প।	শীলারনা কুমার	Folklore	398
এবং সায়ক	২০১০	বংগার ধান ও শস্য পরব	বকিন নাইতি	Folklore	398
এবং সায়ক	২০০২	নহিনা ধর্ম: সতকবি ভীমভাই	তপন কুমার বড়া	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০২	সতী চম্পাবতী বা বামদর গাল: এবং একটি বিতর্ক	শ্যামল বেয়া	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০০	জকিগী তত: সীমান্ত রাত্রা	বকিন নাইতি	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	ললিতা - শব্দ পালা	শ্যামল বেয়া	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০০	সাপের মত: দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম সীমান্ত বাংলা	বকিন নাইতি	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	অবলুপ্ত লোকবাঙ্গালা শব্দশব্দরী	সুব্রত চুখোপাধ্যায়	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০৫	বংগার লোকনাট্য ভীড়মাত্র ও একটি পালা "বেয়ালী রাজা"	শ্যামল বেয়া	Folk literature	398.2
এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	লোকচিকিৎসা ও লোকঔষধ: মেদিনীপুর	বকিন নাইতি	Folk Medicine	398.27
এবং সায়ক	২০০১	গৌকিক সেবতা - পতাসুর	উপেন পাত্র	Folk belief	398.41
এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	ভারতে বর্ষবাস ও একটি বর্ষপত্রের জন্মকথা	শীতল বিশ্বাস	Folk belief	398.41
এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	বিরাটেশ্বরী মন্দির	বকিন নাইতি	Folk belief	398.41
এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	শীতলার মূর্তি কল্পনা - কামানিক না প্রামানিক	সুব্রত চুখোপাধ্যায়	Folk belief	398.41
এবং সায়ক	২০০৭	মেদিনীপুরের লোক মেবসেবী	শীতল চট্টোপাধ্যায়	Folk belief	398.41
এবং সায়ক	২০১০	গৌকিক সেবী শীতলা আজ সর্বজনীন রূপ পেয়েছেন: একটি সন্নীক	গোপীকান্ত কোষর	Folk belief	398.41
এবং সায়ক	২০০২	ছড়ার প্রত্যুত্থ	অমিত্যেবকান্তি পল	Rhymes	398.8
এবং সায়ক	২০০৭	বংগা ছড়ার প্রায় অবলুপ্ত লোকসীতা	?	Rhymes	398.8
এবং সায়ক	২০০৪	বংগা প্রবাদ ও পুণ্যবাণি	শ্রীশীল সাতরা	Proverbs	398.9
এবং সায়ক	২০০৬	ছড়ার প্রবাদে বিশ্ব - অর্থ	স্বপ্নসেন আচার্য	Proverbs	398.9
এবং সায়ক	২০১১	পুরীমপূর্ণ প্রবাদাদি	স্বপ্নসেন আচার্য	Proverbs	398.9

c) *Anriju* and *Lokayata Sanskriti* from Puruliya and Bankura respectively published several valuable issues on *Tushu-gan*, *Vadu-gan*, *Chhou-nach* etc.

### 5. Conclusion and Findings

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, and noncommercial attitude, 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.

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 Sciences, they may be considered as the complementary sources beside the conventional research journals. They provide an important space for study and research of the subjects like Sociology, Anthropology and Folklore.

The findings from the above study are listed below:

1. The number of published articles on Sociology, Anthropology and Folklore is found enough (within a period of 12 years 5 magazines

published approximately 450 articles).

2. Local nonacademic intellectuals along with 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 the backward districts are responsive to their time and space.
6. Little magazines 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

After the above discussion, it is clear that the Librarians must have a definite role to preserve process and disseminate such magazines. 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 certain branches of Social Sciences published every year.
2. On topics like folklore, archaeology, anthropology the information are exclusive.
3. They reflect the thoughts of the regional learned

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.

We may conclude with the comments that the Little Magazines are 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. Moreover, 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. A collaborative approach of the stakeholders of such publications may be fruitful in this regard.

There are various Committees and Associations of editors in every district, who usually cooperates with each other to enhance the quality of the content and to promote such publications in the book fairs or other such occasions. Those Associations should take the primary initiatives to digitize and preserve the selected articles published in local magazines with all necessary bibliographic details.

That bibliographic database would be a handy document for researchers of Social Sciences. The Librarians of nearby Academic and Public Libraries should also extend their assistance and technical support for such noble project.

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