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Inclusion of Bhojpuri in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution

• Medha Bhushan • Alka Kumari • Priy Anjali
• Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

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Corresponding Author : Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

Abstract : *Bhojpuri derives its golden history from a thousand years back. It is a part of the eastern Hindi or Bengali continuum of languages which once extended from Assam and Bengal to Banaras. While the rest of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh adopted the new Hindi standard (Khadi boli), the language remained strong in areas between Patna and Banaras.*

As per the official figures of the 2001 Indian Census, there are 33 million speakers of the Bhojpuri dialect under the Hindi

language sub-family. Unofficially, the number is tremendously more. An estimated 70 million people in Uttar Pradesh and 20 million people in Bihar speak Bhojpuri as their first or second language. There are 6 million Bhojpuri speakers, living outside of Bihar and Purvanchal.

If the numerical things matter, then no one from the recently included languages in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution can compete with Bhojpuri. In terms of number of speakers, Bhojpuri is certainly in an advantageous position. The 8th schedule tells us about the admissibility and patronship of Indian languages.

Medha Bhushan

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Alka Kumari

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Priy Anjali

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

Assistant Professor, Department of History,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : sr_celinecrasta@yahoo.com

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Introduction :

In the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution articles 344(1) and 351 contains a list of 22 scheduled languages. The Government of India is under an obligation to take measures for the development of these languages, such that they grow rapidly in richness and become effective means of communicating modern knowledge.