

## Bagh Bandi; a Sedentary Game from India.

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**ABSTRACT:** - Sedentary games are one of the cultural traits of any country. ..Bagh bandi is a two player oriented, strategy based board game from Lower Bengal, India which is specifically a tiger hunt sedentary game. During the whole time of the play two tigers attempt to elude and capture as many as goats possible, while the goats attempt to surround and trap the tigers. An uncommon feature in this game is that the goats are piled up on the four points of the board at the beginning of the game.

### (I) INTRODUCTION

The game is a strategy based tiger hunt game from lower Bengal, and involves very simple type of materials for playing. The ingredients are a small square board and some brick brats. Sometimes there is no board. The drawing for the game is made on the ground with locally available materials. like brick, coal etc. The game is played on the side of the ponds or, rivers, courtyard of the temples, at the clubs and other places where there are less number of people during noon. The game time is mostly the mid day. When people are free from their regular daily choir.

Bagh bandi is known by many names in different parts of West Bengal like Bagh chal, Bagh chakra, Chakra chal. etc, Brick brats represent the tigers as well the goats. As the name varies, the number of the tigers and the goats vary too in various parts of the state. Some time the tigers are two and some time the tigers are four in number. Number of goats vary also. Some -times they are twenty sometimes they are twenty two and sometimes they are sixteen in number.

### (II) BAGHBANDI

As the name indicates it is a kind of tiger hunt play and the players decide who will represent tiger and who will be the goat. The players also decide who will begin the first move. Generally after the first move the winning party begins the first move in the second chance. At Basirhat area

of south Bengal there is a kind of tiger play, where number of goats are thirty two.

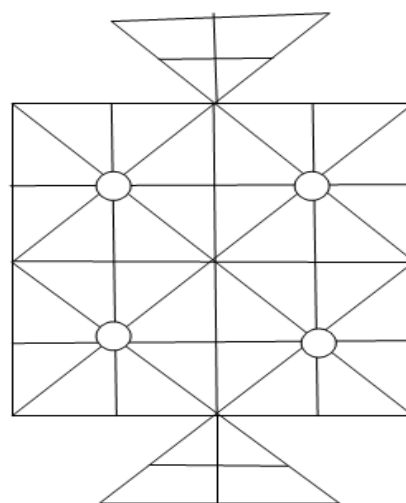


Figure 1: Drawing for Bagh-Bandi

The goats are placed in groups of eight at the cutting points enclosed by circles at the beginning of the game. Two tigers can be placed anywhere on the board. The usual rule of capture, is by jumping over a piece to an empty point. In this form of game two or successive captures of goats are permitted. but not by jumping forward and backward. ever over the goats lying at 4 points enclosed by circles. This version seems to be a hybrid form between the standard form of Mughal-Pathan sedentary game. With 32 pieces of players and standard form of Bagh-bandhi with two tigers and 20 goats.

There are some sedentary games which are comparable to Bagh-Bandi game. In all these cases they are named differently and found in different parts of India. Some places they are named Sher-Bakkar or Bagh-Chal in some other places. In the Bagh-Chal the game is played with 26 pieces of goats while in Sher-Bakkar it is played with 15 pieces of goats. In the later variety one player is provided with 19 pieces. They are

distributed equally in three circles with last 4 pieces lying in the 4<sup>th</sup> circle .

**THE GAME OF SHER –BAKKAR:-** The game of Sher –Bakkar is a game which requires two players to play the game .Between the two persons one is in the possession of the tigers represented by two pieces, and the other nineteen pieces are possessed by the other .Amongst nineteen pieces fifteen pieces are distributed in the three circles and in the fourth circle there are only 4 pieces.

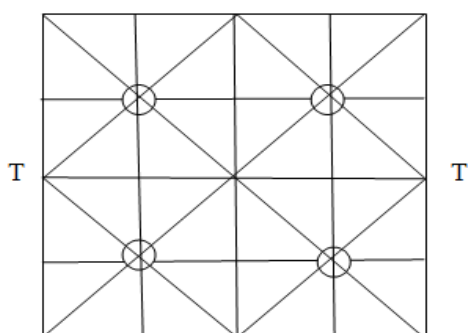


Figure 2: Drawing for Sher-Bakkar

The two tigers are located at the cross points marked as the T.' Like all the tigers play the tigers and the goats can move from one cross points to the other lying next to it . In one case only the tiger may jump over a cross point with a goat on it and can capture the goat if the cross point next to the goat and the same line lying vacant.

**THE GAME OF BAGHCHAL, BAGH CHAKARA,CHAKARA CHAL:-** In this kind of tiger play two persons are required to play the game. Total number of goats are twenty in number, represented by small bricks.

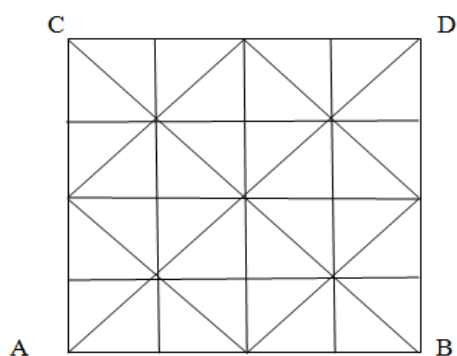


Figure 3: Drawing for Baghchal, Bagh Chakara, and Chakara chal

Four tigers are placed at the four points ABCD, then goats are brought one by one .There are various games present on this earth, which are very similar to this Bagh bandi game. Some are within India and some are outside India. Mentionable some are Main Tapat Empat, of Malayasia ,Adau Pulli Attam of Tamilnadu of India ,Rimau of Malayasia Adugo from Brazil {played by some tribes in Brazil } , Komikan of Argentina and Chile .The list may be more long if thrust is given on researches about sedentary games of the universe .

**THE GAME OF MAIN TAPAT EMPAT:-** This is a two player oriented abstract strategy board game from Malayasia It is a tiger hunt game. Here the tigers can move as many as spaces in a straight line as the clear path allows. Here the movement of the tiger is comparable like the queen of the chess.

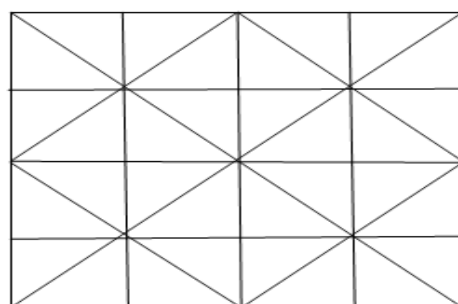


Figure 4: Drawing for the Game of Min Tapat Empat

**THE GAME OF ADAU PULLI ATTAM:-** This is a game of lamb and tigers from Tamilnadu .It is also known as Pulli joda in Andhra Pradesh and Huli Gata in Karnataka.The tigers hunt the goats and goats try to block the movement of the tigers.

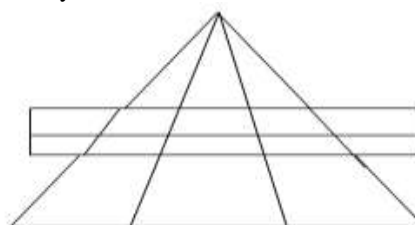


Figure 5: Drawing for The Game of Adau Pulliattam

**THE GAME OF RIMAU:-** The RIMAU is also a tiger hunt game .In this game the tiger is being hunted by 24 men .In another variety the number of tiger is two and the number of men are 22 or 24 . Sometimes the tiger trap the men and vice versa...

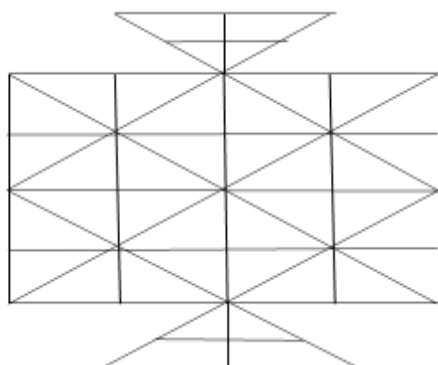


Figure 6: Drawing For The Game Of Rimau

**THE GAME OF ADUGO:** - The game of Adugo is played by the Bororo Tribe of Brazil, Argentina. It is also a strategy based game and played by two tigers and two persons.

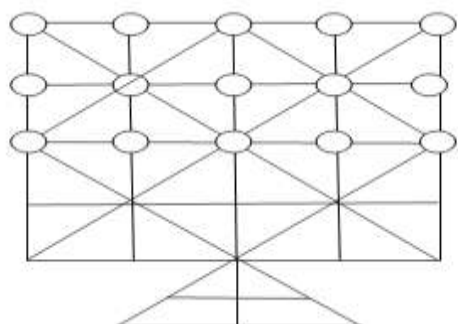


Figure 7: Drawing For The Game Of Adugo

### (III) CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSIONS

Bagh Bandi is a sedentary game but the representative players are unequal in strength. Tigers and the goats are never off equal strength. As the name of the group of players are highlighted some where it is tiger and goat, somewhere it is tiger and lamb or the sheep. It is clearly visible, that tiger and the lamb, or the sheep or the goats are never be equal in strength,, though the weaker section is numerically larger in their number. During the game two group sit opposite to each other and try to immobile each other. Actually the unequal partners always believe in their heart that they can win each other. At the beginning the two players arbitrarily select who will be the tiger and who will be the goat. As the game continues the players change their roles. Sub alternately this game is very much the example of the mental strength and planning of strategy by the weaker sections between the two group of players. this sedentary game is also the prove to be an imaginary

process to face the strong by the weak to ,stay calm and to prepare plan to win the opponent .

If it is looked into the matter minutely one important fact come into forefront i.e. in the games one of the player is the tiger .Actually all the places, once upon a time, were manifested with tigers .With time due to several reasons number of the tigers were lessened .Main reasons were tiger hunting by the Royal families, colonization by the British for a long time, and last but not the least poaching of the tigers by the invaders of the forest. The tigers lessened with time .Since once upon a time in all these places tiger was one of the most common, mighty and ferocious animal naturally all other if not all in comparison are the weak to tiger. Perhaps this true fact was made immortal in this sedentary game.

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