

FIELD REPORT----2018-19

Department of Geography, Berhampore College

Introduction

Field work, as per the norms of The University of Kalyani, has been incorporated as a

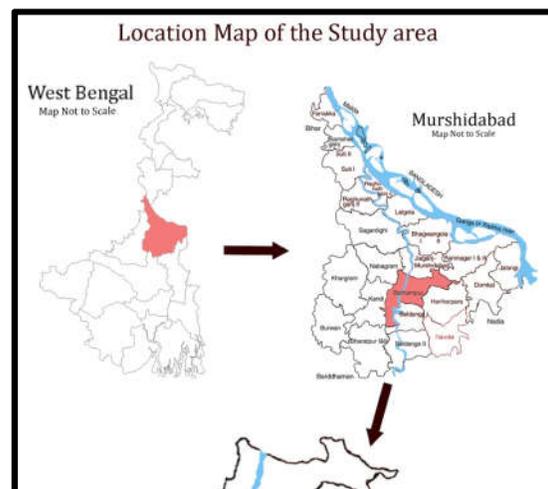


compulsory element in the syllabus of Geography (Part III, Hons. and Part II, Gen.). Thus, the Department of Geography in the respected colleges conduct the required field work with the students in a selected geographical location in the home district, in general. In case of Berhampore College, its principal Dr. Samaresh Mondal guides the departmental teachers in the selection of its geographical location to carry out the field work. It's a matter of pride that he considers himself as the guardian of the financially unstable students of the college. He is kind enough to defray the cost of the students' journey, food and lodging. At times he has given his precious time to these field survey conducting students too. The field survey

of 2018-19 was organised in the Ganganagar mouza of Berhampore, Murshidabad on 20th February, 2019.

Study area and its justification for

selection : Berhampore College students are from the rural areas, in general. Fortunately, the departmental teachers, besides the respected Principal, are also members of the soil of Murshidabad. Thus, they are well acquainted with the physical, socio-economic, and socio-political problems of the district. But unfortunately, common people are hardly conscious with their own position. The students



of Berhampore College can be ideally considered as the representative of these commoners. The Ganganagar mouza, located in the eastern banks of R. Ganga is also a socio-economically backward area with lots of problems. Thus, we teachers, as per the advice of our Principal have picked out this area as the field unit.

Objectives

Objectives has been considered as the Soule of any study. The main objectives of this study are as follows-

- ❖ To enlighten the socio-economic condition of the local people in light.
- ❖ To identify the land-use pattern and its change.
- ❖ To find out the local problems which hampering the daily – life of the villagers.

Relief and Drainage

The average height of the village is 18 meter, though there is slight increase in the height on the western side of the study area. It belongs to alluvial plain of Bagri region of the district. The western part has height between 19-20 meters. On the other hand the northern part has elevation around 17-18 meters.

River Bhagirathi flows in the western part of the village. Bhagirathi, a branch of the Ganges, flows southwards from Farakka barrage where it originates from the Ganges. It flows southwards through the district and divides it into almost two equal halves.

Climate

Murshidabad experiences a tropical wet-and-dry climate with the annual mean temperature of approximately 27 °C; monthly mean temperature ranges from 17 °C to 35 °C (approximate figures). Summer is hot and humid with temperature in the low 30's and during dry spells the maximum temperature often exceed 40 °C during May and June. Winter tends to last for only about two and a half months, with seasonal lows dipping to 9 °C – 11 °C between December and January. On an average, May is the hottest month with daily average temperature ranging from a low of 27 °C to a maximum of 40 °C, while January, the coldest month, has temperature varying from a low of 12 °C to a maximum of 23 °C. Often during early summer, dusty squall is followed by spells of thunderstorm or hailstorms and heavy rains cum ice sleets lash the district; it brings relief from the humid heat. These thunderstorms are convective in nature, and are locally known as 'Kal baisakhi'. Rains brought by the Bay of

Bengal branch of South-West monsoon lash the city between June and September and supplies the district with most of its annual rainfall of approx. 1,600 mm (62 in). The highest rainfall occurs during the monsoon in August approx. 300 mm (12 in). Floods are common during Monsoon, causing loss of life, destruction of property, and loss of crops.

Soil and Vegetation

The soil of the study area is of alluvial soil group. As the area belongs to Bagri region of Murshidabad district the dominant soil is characterized by Soft clay composition. The soil is very fertile. Like the other parts of the district the main vegetation type is deciduous. Trees like Neem, Mango, and Jackfruit are commonly found. But it has found that in the study area more or less all the natural vegetation are being cleared for agricultural purpose. A little trace of vegetation can be found in this area. Even the river side area is also encroached by the settlers for agriculture.

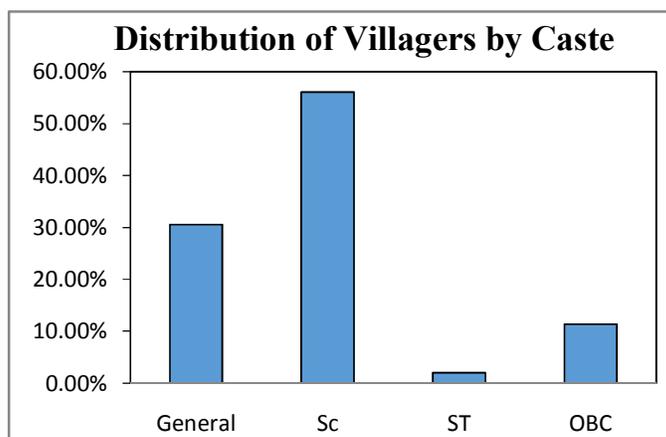


Fig - 4

This imposes a great threat to the ecology of the area too.

Demographic Characteristics

147 Households have been surveyed in Ganganagar; the surveyed population is 688, 52.91 per cent being male and 47.09 per cent female. 26.31 per cent of total population of village makes up the children with age between 0-6. Average Sex Ratio of Ganganagar village is 890 which is lower than West Bengal state average of 947. Age sex composition of the study area



reflects the large number of dependent population on the working population. The base of the age sex pyramid is quite wide highlighting the underdeveloped nature of the area; 22.15 per cent lies in 0-15 years of age, 21.71 per

cent, 26.09 per cent, 23.90 per cent and 6.14 per cent population belong to 16-30 years, 31-45 years, 46-60 years and 60+ years respectively.

The village is dominated by Hindu religion, Schedule caste in particular. Few households are Muslims in terms of religion. 43.90 per cent population belongs to other Categories. Majority of the surveyed population speaks in Bengali. Only 2 per cent of the population speaks in mixed languages.

Educational Status

Level of education is poor in the study area. One can find only one school in the area. Student teacher ratio is very high. There is also evidence of drop out. The literacy level is very high in the village but the level of education is poor. Almost 70.22 per cent people in this area is literate. However, 42.40 per cent people is educated upto only class Eight. And with them only 12.22 per cent is upto Madhyamik, 6.7 per cent is upto HS, 7.3 per cent is upto Graduation, and only 1.6 per cent is upto Post Graduation.

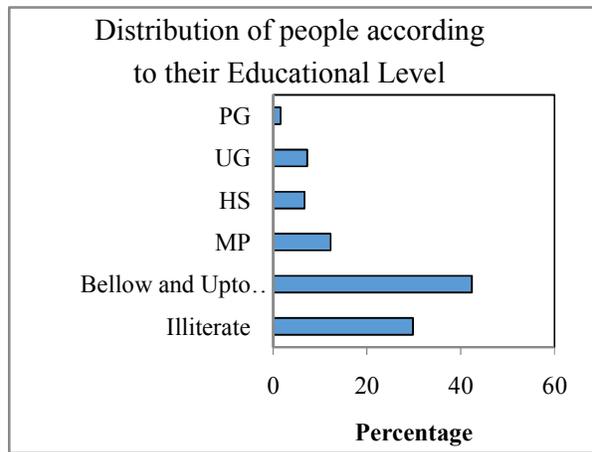


Fig - 6

Income

An overwhelming majority of the people in the area are middle class. The average income and household expenditure is almost equal. So there is few scope for savings. Besides this, most of them are shop keepers and farmers. The maximum population earns more than 100000 per annum (55.78 per cent). It has found that around 29.25 per cent populations' yearly income is between Rs. 50000-100000 and only 14.97 per cent population has yearly income less than Rs. 50000.

There is little scope for extra income for the villagers. A few people run grocery shops in the village and a River Bridge is constructing by the NHAI (National Highway Authority of

India) over the river Ganges in this area. Local people gets some source of income due to this like local Tea shop, Van Puller, Toto Driver, Night Guards, Watchmen etc.

Occupation

This village is situated just beside Berhampore Town. So the town has a direct effect on their



Fig - 7

occupation. Most of the people go to town every day, getting themselves engaged in different types of works there. Most of the people who regularly come Berhampore are engaged in different shops or Toto Pullers. This village has many cultivating land but the number of farmers in this area is very low (16.70 per cent). Some agricultural labour and industrial labour can be found there whose percentage is 12.16 per cent for each. A few Govt. job holders can be seen in this village, the percentage being 9.46 per cent.

Hardly any large industry can be seen in the whole Murshidabad district. Cottage industries, like Biri Industry, is being found out. Many people of this district earn their livelihood by being workers and daily labours in these cottage industries.

Agriculture

Like the other parts of the district, paddy is the main cultivated crop in Ganganagar; it is cultivated in three seasons: Aus (April-July), Aman (August-November) and Boro (January-April). No irrigation is required for Aus and Aman, but Boro requires irrigation depending on



Fig - 8

the variety and location of the cultivation. Paddy cultivation constitutes 66 per cent of the cultivated area. Rabi crops (from December-March) include wheat, mustard, oilseeds, vegetable etc; they require irrigation too. Mainly the water of River Bhagirathi supply

for the irrigation. Pumps are used to take the water from the river.

Many of the population earn their livelihood as agricultural labour in others land. Almost over 90 per cent of the people of the area have no land to cultivate; nevertheless, few do possess small plots of land. So whatever they grow it cannot be adequate for the family too. They have to depend on others' land as agricultural labour. Some people also earn as share-cropper. 10 per cent-15 per cent of the village are fishermen.

Drinking Water

In rural areas of West Bengal the source of drinking water is very important. Because it has been found through several studies that the source of several disease in rural Bengal is caused by the drinking of polluted water. In many areas of West Bengal arsenic contamination level is severe. Therefore, in this context source of drinking water has been found as quite important. In case of village Ganganagar it has been found that around 89.8 per cent of villagers used Tube well as their source of drinking water. Hardly any percent of people use tank and well as their source of drinking water. Besides tube well, tank and well an approximately 10.2 per cent people used other sources for consuming drinking water

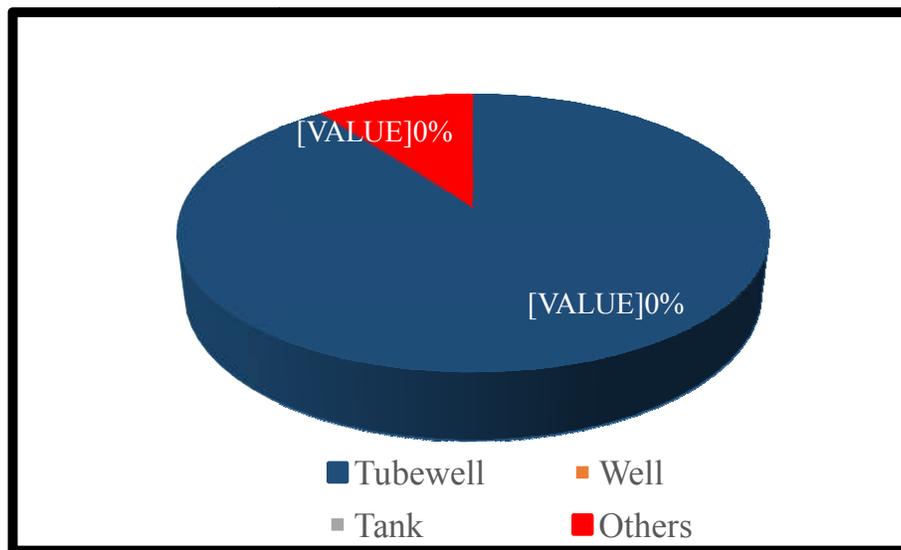
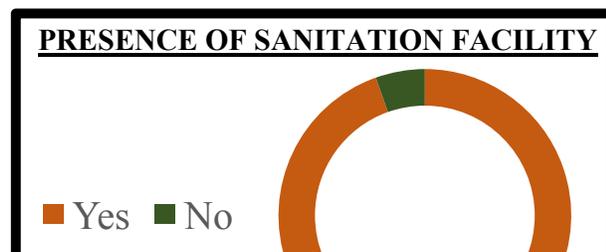


Fig - 9

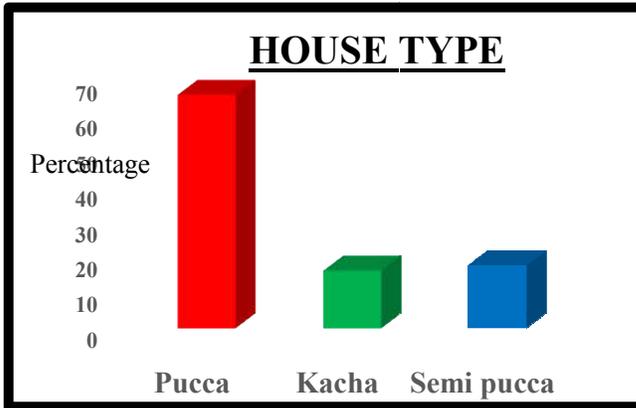
Sanitation

Like the source of drinking water the analysis of sanitation also plays quite important role for improving overall health status of rural people. Open defecation is



considered as a source of health hazard in rural areas of West Bengal. The improving of sanitation status in the country especially in rural areas is a part of ‘Swachha Bharat Abhijan’ under Government of India. In case of Ganganagar it is found that around 94.55 per cent of households has been cover under sanitation. But it is very sad that still 5.45 per cent of households is not covered by sanitation. These people are still practicing open defecation which may cause severe health hazard for them.

Housing ; The housing status is relevant in socio-economic profile analysis in the study



area. Here emphasis has been mainly given to the analysis of house type and roof material. It has been found out from the survey that in the study area around 65.98 per cent of house are pucca and around 17.69 per cent are semi-pucca in nature. On the other hand, 16.33 per cent house are kacha.

Fig - 11

The analysis of roof material indicates that around 70.07 per cent house are covered by Concrete roof. The houses that are using Tiles as their roof material are around 17 per cent. The rest of the houses using Tin (8.84 per cent) and others materials (4.1 per cent) as their roof material.

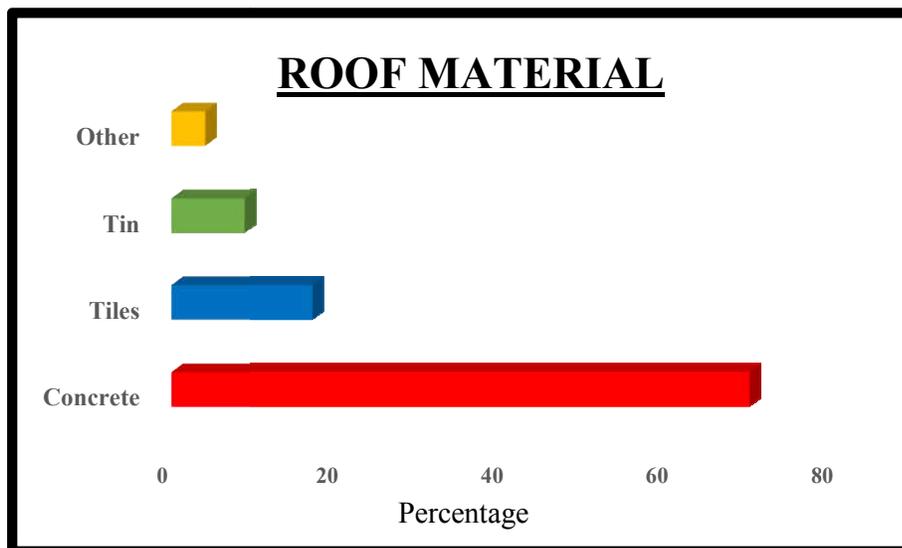


Fig - 12

Conclusion

The above study has mainly given emphasis on the analysis of socio-economic profile of the local villagers through which we can understand their problems related to local settings. The study directs that because of its location nearer to the city Berhampore which is the capital of the district enjoying some city facilities. The overall rank of the village in terms of socio-economic development compared to other villages in the district is moderate in nature. During the field survey it has been derived from the local people that the overall health infrastructure of the villages is very poor. No single medicine shop has been found in the village during the survey time. The people need to go to the Berhampore for medicine and other health purpose which is quite far away from the village; it has created severe problems during medical emergency. Another main issues of the villagers is related to security. It has been reported by the villagers that the local administration is not so strong and the police are not so active. The amount and frequency of the incident of theft is quite high. The people do not feel safe over their assets and life. It is found that a considerable number of houses are kacha in nature and their roof are mainly made by Tin, Tile and other indigenous materials. This issues has created a socio-economic instability to their daily life which hinder their rate of development. Therefore, to accelerating the rate of development towards sustainable way it is very important to give emphasis over the infrastructural development and administration, especially over police administration, to make the people feel safe over their assets and life.

Noorjahan Khatoon(HOD)