

GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS WITH SPECIAL TO PURBA BARDHAMAN DISTRICT WEST BENGAL

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Abstract:

Researchers established the concept of productive and fruitful human resource that is the major pathway to achieve the maximum economic development of any country because objects and things are converting into resources through productive capital. Population growth has sustainable equilibrium relationship with economic growth over a longer period of time. High Population growth creates huge alarming stress over existing brittle socio-economic condition and promoting political instability. In this article, geographical analysis of socio economic status with special to Purba Bardhaman district West Bengal has been discussed.

Keywords: Geographical, Socio Economic, Purba Bardhaman

INTRODUCTION:

Human participation is required for any research to be considered relevant or acceptable, and since humans are social creatures, it is only natural that they focus on the social structure of a location in order to assess its overall status. [1] A society is nothing more than a collection of people's interrelated acts. In this system, people are linked together and share their thoughts, opinions, and other qualities with one another, making them more like one another. Relationship structures such as families, schools, churches, occupations, social clubs, and community organizations are formed

as a result of these relationships. [2] Normative patterns, or expected ways of doing activities inside the group, are symbolic of society as a whole since these groupings have distinct personalities. Everyone agrees that man is a social animal. Aristotle believed this to be true. Without the support of society and the social heritage, individuals cannot develop or preserve their identities. Society's totality is embodied in the person. Because of this, social status must be highlighted in order to understand the status of everyone in the region. [3] To put it another way, the social standing of a place is largely determined by its economy. The more prosperous the economy, the more prosperous the society. An increase in job opportunities, agricultural financial cooperation, and small business development improves the economic and social standing of a community. [4]

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Research Design:

The aim of the study is to find the comparative and spatio-temporal analysis of socio- economic status of the three selected C.D. blocks. The study has been completed with the help of primary data as well as secondary data. Primary data has been collected through extensive field survey with defined structured questionnaires having 5% sample of the each panchayat.

Primary and Secondary Data:

Primary and Secondary Data has been used for this study. Geological Survey of India, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Survey of India, Census of India, 1961 to 2021, United States Geological Survey (USGS), District Statistical Handbook, Bengal District Gazetteers etc. has been used.

Methodology:

For the convenience of discussion, entire spectrum of methodology has been classified into:

- a) Pre-field study
- b) Field study
- c) Post field study

Research Tools:

Structured Questionnaires

There is no gainsaying to the fact that primary field survey has great importance in any research work, basically in socio-economic studies. To analyze the socio-economic levels of the selected blocks some socio-economic indicators has been taken. There are some secondary data available for some indicators whereas it was essential to do extensive field work with questionnaire for some socio-economic parameters. This socio-economic field survey has been conducted with a structured questionnaires.

ANALYSIS, FINDINGS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

According to National Centre for Educational Statistics socio-economic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation. Socio-economic status defined the position of an individual or a family in a social and economic hierarchy. Socio-economic status cannot be defined by a single method or measure. In this study a group of measures combining social and economical variables have been used for measuring the socio economic status in this study area. In any kind of geo-spatial analysis, physical and cultural set up of the study area always play a

dominant role, because earth is considered as the home of human being. Therefore, in socio-economic status analysis of any region, it is very much essential to have knowledge of what nature has provided for the region. Geologically Ketugram-I C.D. block can be categorized into three sub-classes namely Neogene pleistocene sediments covering

86.64 percent, Bhatar block has three categories- Neogene pleistocene sediments covering 84.73 percent and Bhatar C.D. block covering Neogene pleistocene sediments about 73.31 percent area in the study area. Major rivers of Purba Bardhaman District are Bhagirathi in the east, Ajoy and its tributaries in the north, Damodar and its branches in the south-west, Kunur and Mundeswari. As the district is a part of a flood plain region, the soil of the district is alluvial in nature. Most of the part of Ketugram-I block is covered by lateritic soil, where in Bardhaman-I C.D. block two different kind of soil has been found with maximum proportion of this block covered by alfisols older alluvium soil. The study area experiences hot and humid monsoonal climate having high temperature and scanty rainfall during summer and relatively lower range of temperature and usually rainless during winter. In this region, tropical dry deciduous vegetation is found. As population pressure on land is increasing day by day in the study area. In this three selected C.D. blocks of Purba Bardhaman aman paddy and boro paddy are the main cultivated crops where as Mustard, Musur, Gram, Wheat, Potato and Sugarcane grow in a little amount. In Bhatar C.D. block number of educational institutions are quite higher than other two blocks. In the study area there is a absence of hospital facility but one rural hospital located in Bhatar C.D. block, in Bardhaman-I C.D. block and Ketugram-I C.D. block, having a block primary health centres in each.

In the study area male and female population are quite evenly distributed throughout the panchayets. Among the three C.D. block population growth rate of Bardhaman-I block is higher than other two blocks. Rayan-I panchayet of Bardhaman-I block has the highest population density of 1933 which is very significant in nature. Ketugram- I C.D. block having the highest child-women ratio of 443 which is even greater than the national level. Balgona panchayet of Bhatar C.D. block has the highest death ratio (6.12). In Ketugram-I C.D. block, the Agardanga panchayet has the highest life expectancy (68.7). In Bhatar C.D. block, in

Sahebganj-I panchayet has the highest population concentration (68.90), Bhatar (68.7), Bonpas (68.8). In Bardhaman-I block, where Baghar-I panchayets having the highest sex ratio of 1002 and Kshetia recorded the lowest sex ratio of 946. In Rajoor, Agardanga and Kandra panchayets of Ketugram-I C.D. block having the unemployment rate of 66.92, 66.67 and 66.39 respectively. Work participation rate or labour force participation rate refers to the number of people who are currently employed in a particular sector. The average work participation rate in Ketugram-I C.D. block is about 34.15 percent to the total population. In Bhatar C.D. block Balgona, Barabelun-II and Nityanandapur panchayets over 80 percentage of total working population represent by male population. In Baghar-I and Kurmun panchayets about 31.61 percent and 37.73 percent of total working people represent by women population. About 50.26 percent, 48.57 percent of total workers are engaged as a main agricultural workers in Mahachanda and Bamunara panchayets of Bhatar C.D. block. Out of total worker 2.52 percent of working people in Belkash panchayet are under marginal household workers. In Bardhaman-I C.D. block of Purba Bardhaman district, Rayan-II and Kshetia panchayets having the highest literacy ratio of 80.34 percent and 77.92 percent respectively and lowest literacy has been observed in Eurar (65.83 percent), Sahebganj-II (67.99 percent) respectively of Bhatar C.D. block. In Bardhaman-I C.D. block 18 thousand people served by a single bank, for Ketugram-I it is 20 thousand and for Bhatar it is 17 thousand. Therefore, it is seen that Bhatar C.D. block is serving 17 thousand people whereas Ketugram-I need more banks to serve its population.. In the study area all the mouzas have drinking water facilities but quality of the drinking water may vary from place to place. All the panchayets of all the concerned blocks are electrified since 2018.

Education is the key element which can eradicate the socio-economic problems by increasing SES. To represent the regional disparity on socio-economy of the blocks, male female literacy disparity is been considered as one of the vital indicator. In Ketugram-I C.D. block, Kandra panchayet has the highest literacy rate of 71.34 percentage on other side Pandugram panchayet has the least literacy rate of 63.03 percentage in 2011. In Kandra, Berugram, M. Gopalpur panchayet total 76.58 percent., 74.91 percent., and 74.79 percent of total male population are

literate respectively and in case of female literacy the percent is quite low where Pandugram, Ankhona panchayets has the lowest literacy rate of 57.87 percent and 60.94 percent. In Bardhaman-I C.D. block, Rayan-II (87.45 percent), Kshetia (84.42 percent), Belkash (81.91 percent) and Bandul-I (80.91 percent) has the highest number of literate male in comparison to female in all other panchayets. In Bhatar C.D. block, Eruar panchayet has the lowest literacy rate of 65.83 percent in 2011. In Bhatar C.D. block regional disparity on male-female literacy rate is quite high in compare to the other two C.D. blocks of the study area. The highest male female literacy disparity has been found in Sahebganj-I (0.16) and Sahebganj-II (0.15) panchayet of Ketugram- I C.D. block. Berugram (-38.21) and Ankhona (-35.03) are showing the negative labour shifting. Kanda panchayet about 13.59 percent labour shifted for the year 2001-2011. Bhatar block, Mahata (40.93) and Sahebganj-II (38.24) are showing the positive change of labour shifting scenario from agricultural sector to other sectors. Bonpas (-39.23) panchayet showing the negative changes in labour shifting from agricultural labour to other sector. In Bardhaman-I block between 2001-2011, marginal labour shifting form agricultural labour showing positive shifting of labour in Belkash (188.38), Rayan-II (128.51) and Kurmun-I (124.04) panchayets. Social and economic healthiness of any family, or peoples of any regions can easily be measured by development index. High development index has been found in Ankhona (106.55) and M. Gopalpur (105.75), Berugram (103.76), Kandra (103.04), Palita (101.60), panchayets of Ketugram-I C.D. block, Amarun-I (102.68), Barabelun-I (100.99), Bhatar (107.69), Bonpas (106.79), Mahata (103.37), Nityanandapur (102.18), Sahebganj-I (100.18) panchayets of Bhatar C.D. block.

Caste system is the social hierarchical position of people based on their heredity. In Pandugram panchayet 85 households belongs to SC category. In both Bhatar and Saraitikar panchayet OBC-A households are absent. Education is the backbone of our society without education the term development looses its meaning. In the study area there is a large number of population is illiterate. In Bhatar panchayet the number of people attains higher education is much higher in respect to other two panchayets. Work participation is one of the prime criteria for defining the socio economic status of a society, or region. In Pandugram panchayet,

most of the sample population engaged in agricultural activities. As the people in study area is majorly depends on agricultural activities, the different mode of irrigation techniques are the major topic to discuss about. In these area different types of rice and rabi crops is cultivated throughout the year, different kind of irrigational techniques like shallow tube well, deep tube well, canal, river and pond water has been used. In the study area for cultivating different crops different kind of fertilizers like bio fertilizers, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have been used. Food consumption is one of the important measurements for analyzing socio economic condition of families of any region. During the field survey it is found that people in the study area taking milk, fishes, eggs, meat, chickens, crabs on daily, weekly, monthly and occasionally basis. A significant number of people using modernized materials for cooking like LPG, electricity promotes environmental consciousness among the family members and it also shows healthy socio economic condition of the family. In the study area different types of materials have been used by the villagers for constricting their houses. It is quite strange that out of total sample a few family does not have toilet facilities, in Bhatar C.D. block over 90 percent sample families' lodge the complain in front of us during field survey regarding the absence of dustbin is within manageable distance.

CONCLUSION:

Development can be defined by improvement of livelihood pattern of peoples of a region. Improvement of socio economic status increases the income amount and people's awareness about modernisation help to minimize poverty and spread equality among the community. [5] Identifying different aspects of people's day to day life planners, researchers made socio economic study all over the globe. They are also trying to find out which of the following parameters should be best suitable for showing actual socio economic condition in a region. In this present study, author incorporated demographic, economic and social status representing parameters for showing socio economic status in the study area. Ketugram-I, Bhatar and Bardhaman- I C.D. block have been chosen to shows the socio economic status in present study. Regional disparity has been observed among three blocks. In Bhatar C.D. block number of primary schools (169) are quite high in number, in comparison to other two blocks

Ketugram-I (100) and Bardhaman-I (117) respectively. Higher secondary schools is also high in number Bhatar block in comparison two other. Only one college is located in Ketugram-I C. D. block. Flourishing education, equalised educational status and to bring equality in the study area government should establish more number of primary schools in Ketugram-I and Bardhaman-I C.D. block, a few number of higher secondary schools in Bardhaman-I and Ketugram-I, one college in each Bardhaman-I and Bhatar C. D. block. Spatial and non formal educational institutions are high in Bhatar C.D. block (457) (table 2.8). Only one rural hospital is located in Bhatar C.D. block but primary health centres are triple in number where in Bardhaman-I and Ketugram-I C.D. block had only 2 primary health centres each respectively (table 2.9). Improvement of health status and more number of health care centres should established by the government and different NGO organisations.

Number of commercial banking facilities for the people in the Ketugram-I C.D. block is only 4 where Bardhaman-I and Bhatar block has 12 and 11 commercial banks each (table 2.10). In commercialisations and modernisation of Ketugram-I C.D. block more numbers of banking facilities has to be establish to equalise development.

Socio-economic status is a measure of combined economic and social status of a region. There are different kinds of indictors to measure socio economic status like, demographic indicators, economic indicators and other indicators. Based on these indicators, comparative analysis of socio-economic status of three blocks was done. Population growth rate in this three C.D. blocks are showing quite staggering scenario. After independence in 1961, population growth rate was high in these three blocks then there is a decreasing trend has been found in 1971 and 1981, after 2011 the growth curve goes down in the study area. As more number of peoples getting education, making them conscious about how strong socio economic status can be build in this study area. Though the death rates in the different panchayets remain below the national level but the rate is ranging in between 5-6 percent. In this study area, government health employee visiting every month for spreading health consciousness among the villagers, giving different kind of vaccines of different diseases to the peoples for minimising sudden death in this region. More and more, this kind of campaigns need to be implemented by the

government and other NGO organisation in this study area. High life expectancy at birth has a direct relationship to the socio economic status and better health status in the respected region. In the study area Agardanga panchayet (68.7) of Ketugram-I and Sahebganj-I (68.9) panchayet of Bhatar C.D. block has the life expectancy greater than national level, but the other panchayets of the study area have the life expectancy below the national level. Government should take this issue seriously and needs to implement different schemes in this study area in a proper way. By analysing sex ratio of any area it is found that there is an inequality in the male-female relationship as is evident in job opportunities and other different sectors. In the study area, more than 80 percent of panchayets in the study area have the sex ratio greater than national level. Socioeconomic status and work participation rate has a direct relationship. Though panchayet wise work participation rate in these three blocks is moderate, but in Ketugram-I C.D. block average 33 percent of people engaged in productive activities. Government should create different job opportunities in this regions so more people will be able to engage them in productive activities. To increasing women work participation rate, government and different organisation should come forward to encourage women in working sectors. Disparity has been found as number of pure drinking water facilities in Bardhaman-I and Ketugram-I C.D. block is very low in comparison to Bhatar C.D. block. Local governing bodies should take care of this situation and demolish the inequality by constructing more number of drinking water facility centres.

In India, women population constitute almost half of the total population but a large gender gap still exists in literacy rate between male and female population. The study area is not the exception, in this area literacy disparity has been observed in the panchayet level. The highest male female literacy disparity has been found at panchayets like Ankhona (0.10) and Kandar (0.10) panchayet of Ketugram-I C.D. block, in Baghar-I (0.14) and Baghar-II (0.14) panchayet of Bardhaman-I C.D. block, Sahebganj-I (0.16) and Sahebganj-II (0.15) panchayet of Bhatar C.D. block. For minimising this literacy disparity and to form healthy society local organisations, NGOs and government should come together, campaigning programmes should be organised for removing this existing disparity. In the study area agricultural activities is

the primary activity but now a days people are shifting themselves from agriculture and engaging themselves to secondary and tertiary sector. More job creating sectors giving the opportunities to the villagers for betterment of their future. People are shifting from agricultural labours to the day labours, working in different small local industries like food processing sectors. Development index is the measurement of socio economic status and overall achievements of a nation. Most of the panchayets in the study area having development index between 100-110 but some of the panchayets have low development index like Pandugram (86.48) panchayet of Ketugram-I, Bandul-I (91.87) panchayet in Bardhaman-I and Mahachanda (91.72) panchayet of Bhatar C.D. block. So overall development of this region and in order to improve development index government and non-governmental bodies should take steps for creating new job opportunities and encourage more people for their engagement in working sectors.

Caste system is the social hierarchical position of people based on their heredity. In Pandugram panchayet majority of the sample households belongs to the SC category. In Saraitikar panchayet of Bardhaman-I C.D. block significant number of sample population belongs to backward class. For betterment of the socio economic status of this classes government should come forward and create some employment opportunities. Education is the backbone of our society without education the term development loses its meaning. Most of the people in the study area were illiterate. A very few number of people in this area attains higher education. So government should take initiatives to start distance education, evening educations to educate illiterate people. Work participation is one of the prime criteria for defining the socio economic status of a society, or region.

In the study area most of the sample population engaged in agricultural activities. As the people in study area is majorly depends on agricultural activities the different mode of irrigation techniques are the major topic to discuss about. In these area different types of paddy and rabi crops are cultivated throughout the year by using different kind of irrigational techniques like shallow tube well, deep tube well, canal, river and pond water. For agricultural modernisation and improvement of agricultural productivity government should give more

subside loans, modern machineries to the farmers and educated farmers should learn about modern trends in agriculture and also promote organic agricultural activities to conserve environment. A significant number of people using commercial sources for cooking like LPG, electricity to support healthy environment where majority of the people using tree branches, leaves, cow dung for cooking their daily meals for which produce green house gases so government should take initiatives and provide commercial cooking equipments to the villagers in a non profitable way so the villagers can afford that facilities. In the study area people are still using thatched, tally for constructing their houses as they are socio economically backward. So government should provide different loans, construct houses with the help of “Indira Awas Yojna”, “Nijo Griho, Nijo Bhumi” etc. for the backward peoples in the study area. Government should respond seriously and cure the problem exist in every household as they does not have the toilet facilities. To fulfil the aim of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” authorities should plant dustbin in the study area in the manageable distance to the villagers and take care of this facilities properly.

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