



Socio Economic Development: A Case Study Of Bhagwangola-i And Bhagwangola-ii Blocks Of Murshidabad District, W.B

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Abstract:

Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks are situated on the bank of river Ganga. These two blocks are vulnerable to natural disaster. Loss of fertile lands and crops due to river bank erosion is the major constrain for the development. Research reveals that proper planning and management is required to cope with the natural disaster and socioeconomic hazards.

INTRODUCTION

Socio economic development of an area is the best reflection of the quality of life of its people. The distribution of social and economic services is crucial not only for promoting economic growth but also for assuring the social justice and improving the quality of life. It has been found in the study that there is a substantial gap between demand and supply of health care infrastructure, both physical and manpower. People of Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks are mainly engage in agriculture. So they are not so economically sound. Education plays a fundamental role in income generation and there are many other ways in which education helps to promote and sustain human development in this area. There is an urgent requirement of some developmental planning. The present paper attempts to find out the present status of social and economic development of Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks of Murshidabad district.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives are-

- (1) To study its present situation and dimension.
- (2) To analyze the disparities of different kinds – between rural and urban areas, among social and community groups, between men and women.
- (3) To analyze the cause and background of the problem.
- (4) To identify the possible strategies for human development.
- (5) To ensure proper planning and management measures.

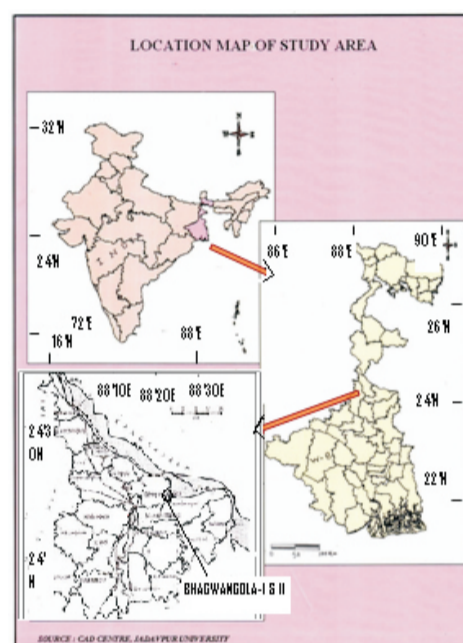
BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

Bhagwangola was an important river port of Bengal in the 18th century, situated on the bank of the

Please cite this Article as : Arindam Chattopadhyay , Socio Economic Development: A Case Study Of Bhagwangola-i
And Bhagwangola-ii Blocks Of Murshidabad District, W.B : Review Of Research (Sept; 2012)



Ganges and about 18 miles away from the capital city of Murshidabad. Bhagwangola was a hub of trade and commerce of Bengal. Because of its navigability all round the year and because of its accessibility to all water ways leading to Murshidabad and Patna. For reasons of profit and security this vast mart was controlled as a khas mahal of the government, was owned and managed by government directly. The significance of the port further increased when north and north-west Indian cotton trade was linked up with it in the second half of the nineteenth century. Traders from all parts of Bengal and north and northwestern India kept their agents at Bhagwangola in order to gather information about the state of the market. European merchants also kept their agents there. Bhagwangola controlled the trends of the market prices down to the end of the eighteenth century when Calcutta Port took its place.



LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks are situated on the bank of the Ganges and about 18 miles away from the capital city of Murshidabad. Lalgola, Raninagar, Nabagram, these blocks are situated North, East and West accordingly in the periphery of Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks.

DATASOURCE

This work is based on primary data obtained from Questionnaire survey, interview, field visit and secondary data is obtained from Government and Non-Government office, Gram Panchayat office. Relevant photographs have been taken in support of the facts stated in the literature. Various maps and diagrams have been collected in order to fulfill the objective of the research.

METHODOLOGY AND DATABASE

Methodology for the present work is statistical as well as cartographic. For analyzing this data, various statistical techniques have been adopted to fulfill this objective.

Table: 1 showing the distribution of rural population of Bhagwangola in Murshidabad 1991

| Block | Male Population | Female Population | Total Population |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bhagwangola-I | 67959 | 63952 | 131911 |
| Bhagwangola-II | 56968 | 53281 | 110249 |

2001

| Block | Male Population | Female Population | Total Population |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bhagwangola-I | 83992 | 79474 | 163466 |
| Bhagwangola-II | 66849 | 63050 | 129899 |

Total population of Bhagwangola-I block in the year 1991 was 131911 and Bhagwangola-II was 110249. But population increases at faster rate from 1991 to 2001. As per 2001 census report, total population of Bhagwangola-I was 13466 and Bhagwangola-II was 129899.

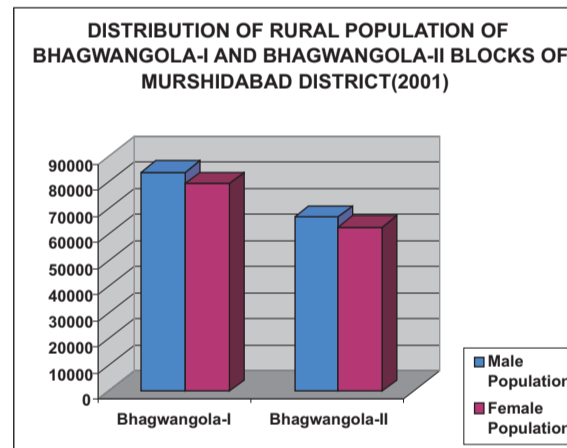
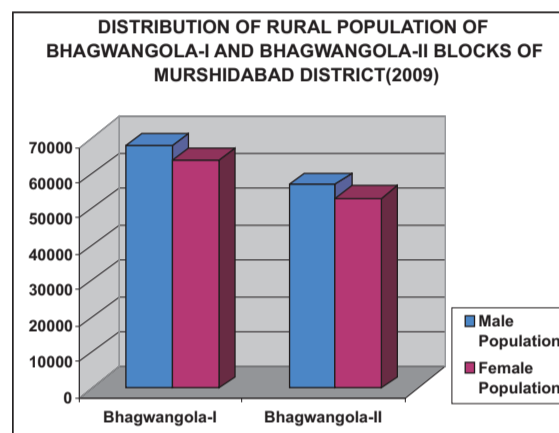


Table: 2 Different categories of workers and non-workers in Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks of Murshidabad district.

| Name of the Blocks | Cultivators | | Agricultural Labours | | Household Workers | | Other Workers | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | No. | PC to TW | No. | PC to TW | No. | PC to TW | No. | PC to TW |
| Bhagwangola-I | 10433 | 22.42 | 19731 | 42.40 | 2027 | 4.36 | 14346 | 30.83 |
| Bhagwangola-II | 10965 | 29.46 | 19296 | 51.85 | 915 | 2.46 | 6038 | 16.23 |

Source: KVK, Bhagwangola

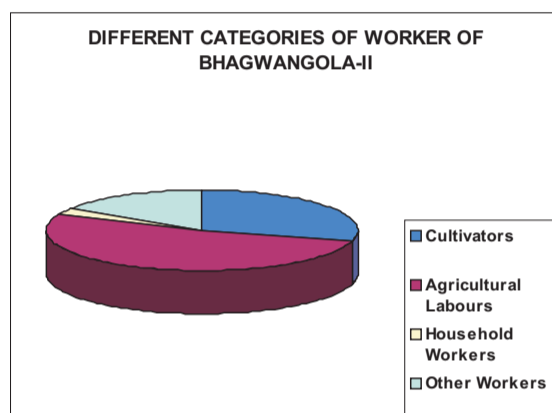
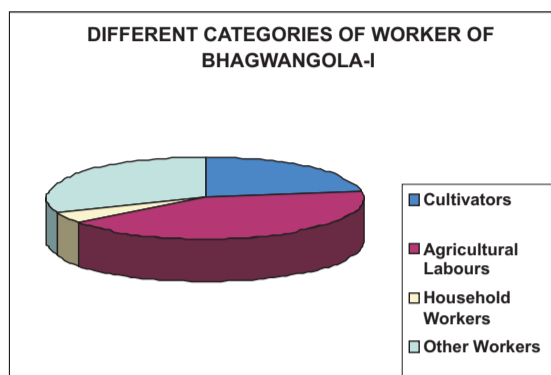


Table: 3 Educational Structure of Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II Blocks of Murshidabad district.

| Block | Primary School | | High School | | H.S. School | |
|----------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | Institution | Student | Institution | Student | Institution | Student |
| Bhagwangola-I | 81 | 19333 | 8 | 8890 | 3 | 5306 |
| Bhagwangola-II | 76 | 16632 | 7 | 8980 | 2 | 3922 |

Source: Block Development Office

| NAME OF THE BLOCK | RURAL /URBAN | POPULTION | SC | 50% OR MORE SC POPULATI ON | ST | 25% OR MORE ST POPULATION | MOST DEPRIVED VILLAGES |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|------------------------|
| BHAGWANG OLA-I | RURAL | 163466 | 9722 | 5.95 | 138 | 0.08 | NO |
| BHAGWANG OLA-II | RURAL | 129899 | 1756 | 1.35 | 76 | 0.06 | NO |

Source: Census, 2001

SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

Bhagwangola-I and Bhagwangola-II blocks are situated on the bank of river Ganga. These blocks are most vulnerable to flood. Due to fertile soil, agricultural productivity is high comparatively rest of the blocks. But loss of agricultural land and crops due to flood and bank erosion is the major problem for the development. Flood preventative measures can be adopted. Establishment of night schools may increase the interest of the people to learn. Supply of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides may improve the agricultural productivity. Help from Panchayat, Block Development Office and other NGO is highly needed in this region.

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