

# CHAPTER 5

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## **CHAPTER-5**

### **OUR FARRAKKA STUDY**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Farakka is one of 26 blocks in Murshidabad District in the state of West Bengal. It has sub-divisional headquarters at Jangipur and district headquarters at Berhampore. West Bengal is the densely populated state in India, and Murshidabad District in West Bengal, is again more densely populated district with a population of about 6 million and an average density of 1101 per square km. (Murshidabad District Statistical Handbook, 2002). According to 2001 Census, 88 percent of the population lives rurally while 12 percent live in urban or semi-urban settings. The reported literacy rate is 59 percent for men and 46 percent for women. Murshidabad is one of the few districts in India that can claim a Muslim majority. While Muslims in India constitute 13.4 percent and West Bengal has 25.2 percent Muslims whereas Murshidabad has 64 percent Muslim population of the district and the district has 2.7 percent of India's Muslim population. Murshidabad is the poorest district in India having 1.47 percent of India's poor people in the district. (Ananda Bazar Patrika, dated 19<sup>th</sup> July, '09, p 6)

Farakka is situated on the bank of the Ganga River at 98 km North West of Berhampore, the district town of Murshidabad, and 87 km North West of Murshidabad Town and it is 254 km from Kolkata towards the North. Its geographical coordinates are 24<sup>o</sup>49'0" North, 87<sup>o</sup>54'0" East. Farakka is bounded by Malda on the North, Dhuliyān Town on the South, Jharkhand on the West and Ganges River on the East.

Farakka Block is formed with both rural and urban agglomeration. Farakka is connected by the National Highway No.34 and the Eastern Railway with New Farakka Junction. Both the transport systems are available at the core of Farakka covering almost all the villages of Farakka Block.

Farakka is familiar for Farakka Barrage and National Thermal Power Plant. Feeder canal on the West Bank of Ganges River is also a major land mark.

Practically there was no study on the socio-economic status of the population of Farakka Block except the impact study on the Farakka Barrage. Farakka Block is formed with 73 villages having 1 health centre, 64 primary health centre (PHC), 18 primary health sub-centre, 9 gram panchayats and 1 police station. The population of this block is around 2, 22.965 i.e. 3.8 percent of district's population. (Census Report – 2001)

This study is a modest attempt to present a socio-economic profile of the Muslims and Hindus of two adjoining villages. Manik Nagar is the entire Muslim concentrated village and Hazarpur is entirely a Hindu concentrated village under Nayansukh Gram Panchayat in Farakka Block of Murshidabad District. These two villages are located side by side in between two towns around 7 km on the North from Dhuliyon Town and 8 km on the South from Farakka Town.

The basic objective of this study is to delineate and analyze the various contributing factors to socio-economic situation of the people of two villages to make an assessment and to give suggestion in order to improve the situation. Bidi industries, agricultural activities, day wage jobs, Thermal power plant and fishing on the Ganges are considered the economic bases of this region. The inhabitants of these two villages under study are mostly Bengali spoken.

## **5.2 DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY**

The primary data have been gathered through questionnaires at the house hold levels based on complete enumeration of the villages under survey. Questionnaires have been prepared to collect the information through interviews with the inhabitants for making an assessment of the socio-economic condition of Muslims in this area. The inhabitants of these villages are categorized into four on the basis of the range of income, such as income up to Rs.2000 forms a very low income group, income of

Rs.2001-3000 termed as low income group, income of Rs.3001-4000 are medium income group and income of Rs.4000 above is classified as high income group. These classifications have been made for generating data in order to draw meaningful conclusions. Secondary data have been collected from the Census Reports, National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Survey Reports of Human Resource Planning Dept., Reports from concerned Block Development Offices and Panchayat Offices and other Government Reports.

In order to know the socio-economic condition of the inhabitants, an exercise of correlation has been carried out. Mean Per Capital Income/Expenditure (MPCE) is one of the parameters determining the socio-economic status of the people in this region. In addition, many more variables have been considered for determining the socio-economic status. The results of the correlation have been derived and divided into two as positively correlated and negatively correlated.

### **5.3 DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF FARAKKA BLOCK**

It is evident from table 5.1 that the population of Farakka Block in 2001 are 2,22,049 which is 3.75 percent of district's population. Muslims in Farakka Block constitute 62.76 percent of the block's population, Hindus having 36.72 percent and other minorities have a meager share of 0.53 percent. Decadal growth of all population of Farakka Block is higher than the decadal growth of the district. Decadal growth of the former was 31.75 percent between 1981 and 1991 while the latter's growth was 28.20 percent, made a gap of 3.5 percentage points. During 1991-2001, decadal growth of Farakka Block stands at 24.3 percent as against the district's growth of 23.76 percent, making a gap of 0.54 percentage point i.e. decadal growth of the block has more decreasing trend than the district's growth and is heading towards convergence. The decadal growth of Muslim community in the block is 33 percent and 31 percent for the period

for 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 respectively. Thus, there is decreasing of 2 percentage points on the growth of Muslim community in the block.

The share of Muslim population of Farakka Block has increased from 59.34 percent in 1991 to 62.76 percent in 2001, an increase of 3.42 percentage points in a decade.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of population of Murshidabad District and Farakka Block (Census 1981, 1991, 2001)**

	Census 1981		Census 1991		Census 2001	
	Population	% to total population	Population	% to total population	Population	% to total population
<b>Murshidabad:</b>	36,97,464	100	47,40,149 (28.20)	100	58,66,569 (23.7)	100
Rural	-	-	42,45,802	90	51,33,835	88
Urban	-	-	4,94,347	10	7,32,734	12
Male	-	-	24,39,342	51	30,05,000	51
Female	-	-	23,00,807	49	28,61,569	49
<b>Farakka:</b>	1,34,445	100	1,77,047 (31.7)	100	2,20,049 (24.3)	100
Hindu	55,299	41.13	71,299 (29)	40.13	80,782 (13.3)	36.71
Muslim	78,948	58.72	105069 (33)	59.34	1,38,093 (31)	62.76
Christians	155	0.12	419	0.24	1174*	0.53
Sikh	43	0.03	90	0.05		

Source: Census reports of India

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate decadal growth (%).

\* Population of all minorities other than Muslims.

### 5.3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF MANIK NAGAR VILLAGE

All the inhabitants of Manik Nagar Village are Muslims. It is evident from tables 5.2 and 5.3 that the village is composed of 162 families having population of 806 of which 419 are males and 387 are females. The village comprises of 0.37 percent of block population and 0.58 percent of block

Muslim population. Sex ratio (female/1000 males) of this village is lower at 924 than the district sex ratio of 952.

**Table 5.2: Caste-wise family distribution of two villages in Farakka Block in 2007**

Village	No. of family				
	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Total
Manik Nagar (Entirely Muslims)	157 (97)	Nil	Nil	5 (3)	162
Hazarpur (Entirely Hindus)	69 (38.2)	23 (12.8)	Nil	88 (49)	180

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total

**Table 5.3: Population and sex-ratio of two villages in Farakka Block in 2007**

Village	Population			Sex ratio
	Male	Female	Total	
Manik Nagar	419(52)	387(48)	806	924
Hazarpur	436(50.5)	427(49.5)	863	979

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total

People of this village have been classified by birth and by occupation into two – one group is 'Ansari/Momin' (weaver) and their traditional occupation is weaving and another group is 'Khotta Khan' (cultivator). Momin group of people is included in the state list for OBC. We found that only 5 families (8 percent) of the total 63 Momin families could register them as OBC. Low performance of the inhabitants in this field is due to the fact of following complex processes of registering as OBC. Moreover most of the poor people of this village cannot produce land deed as proof of their claim of their sect along with financial weakness that they cannot even afford transport cost of frequent visits at the sub-divisional head quarters at a distance of around 45 km.

### 5.3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF HAZARPUR VILLAGE

Hazarpur village in Farakka Block is another village which has 100 percent Hindu concentration. It has 180 families of which 88 families (49

percent) are OBCs, 23 families (12.8 percent) belong to SCs and 69 families (38.2 percent) are in general categories. The village comprises of 823 inhabitants, which is 0.37 percent of block population and around 1 percent of block Hindu population, of which males being 436 and females are 427. Sex ratio of this village is very encouraging and it stands at 979 as against the district's ratio of 952.

## **5.4 EDUCATIONAL STATUS**

### **5.4.1 EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE PEOPLE OF MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT AND WEST BENGAL IN 2001**

Literacy among the population of West Bengal for all socio-religious categories (SRCs) is 68.6 percent of which male literacy is 77 percent and females at 60 percent. Literacy among Muslims in the state is 57.5 percent of which females is around 50 percent. Literacy among rural Muslims in the state is 55.6 percent and education among females is 48 percent. Murshidabad District has the highest share of Muslims in the state of West Bengal and has an overall literacy rate of 54.35 percent of which males are 60.7 percent and females are 47.6 percent. Thus, Murshidabad District is lagging behind the state in education. Literacy among Muslims in Murshidabad District is 48.6 percent with a female literacy of 42.8 percent only (Census, 2001).

### **5.4.2 EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE INHABITANTS OF MANIK NAGAR VILLAGE**

It is evident from table 5.4 that the literacy among Muslims in Manik Nagar Village is 55.7 percent in 2007 after 6 years of last Census 2001 and the male proportion stands at 68.5 percent whereas females are 41 percent only. Even after 6 years of last census, the female share still stands at 41 percent which is lower than even district's literacy rate of Muslim women of 42.8 percent in 2001.

It appears in table 5.4 that a positive correlation is found between the income groups and the state of education. Income group up to Rs.2000 has literacy rate of 43.8 percent of which literacy for men at 57.7 percent

and among women, the rate is 30.7 percent, forming a gap of 27 percentage points. Income group Rs.2001-3000 shows the literacy has been increased to 58.7 percent, an increase of (58.7 percent-43.8 percent) 14.9 percentage points and literacy for male stands at 66 percent an increase of (66 percent-57.7 percent) 8.4 percentage points. It reveals a large increase for female from 30.7 percent to 51 percent i.e. by 20.3 percentage points Thus, a gap between male and female stands at (66 percent-51 percent) 14 Percentage points. The gap is significantly reduced from income group up to Rs.2000 to income group of Rs.2001-3000 by (27-14) 13 percentage points. The similar trend has appeared in higher income group too. For income group of Rs.3001-4000, it is found that the literacy is 65.9 percent, has an increase of (65.9 percent-58.7 percent) 7.2 percentage points from income group of Rs.2001-3000.

Literacy rates for male and female for income group of Rs.3001-4000 have been achieved at 75 percent and 51.9 percent respectively, having a significant increase in the male literacy by (75 percent—66 percent) 9 percentage points and a marginal increase of 0.9 percentage point for female. Our study shows that females in high income group have high literacy rate. Females in the income group of Rs.4000 above have literacy of 64.8 percent and the literacy among women in the preceding income group of Rs.3001-4000 is 51.9 percent. Hence, females in the income group of Rs.4000 above are performing better than the females in the previous income group of Rs.3001-4000 by 12.9 percentage points.

It is seen that literacy rates up to class VIII have 59 percent for males and 35.2 percent for females with an average of 47.9 percent comparing with rates at 6.8 percent for class IX-XII, with males at 8.3 percent and females at 5.2 percent. Graduate Attainment Rate is very low with 1 percent of which males at 1.2 percent and females at 0.7 percent.

Thus, it is clear from the above analysis that literacy has positive correlation with income size, meaning that the poor economic condition of Muslims plays vital role for low education in the village. Educational status of females in Manik Nagar Village is gloomy. Drop out rate of school going

students is also very high. It appears in the table that 59 percent of school going male students read up to class VIII as against 8.3 percent attend classes between IX and XII, and a scanty of 1.2 percent reach to graduation level. The similar picture prevails for female education. As much as 35.2 percent school going girls continue their studies up to class VIII compared to 5.2 percent attend classes between IX and XII, and a meager 0.7 percent attains graduation level. None was found from either sex who undergoes post-graduate courses or technical studies or vocational training courses.

**Table 5.4: Educational status of the inhabitants of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur village**

Income group and state of education	Manik Nagar			Hazarpur		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>(a) Total population</b>	419	387	806	436	427	863
<b>(b) Educational status</b>						
<b>(i) Income group up to Rs.2000(No)</b>						
Population(6+age group)	71	75	146	179	193	372
Up to class VIII	37(52)	22(29.3)	59(40.4)	81 (45.2)	95(49.2)	176(47.3)
Class IX-XII	4 (5.6)	1 (1.3)	5 (3.4)	20(11.2)	16 (8.3)	36 (9.7)
Graduates	-	-	-	1 (0.6)	0 (0)	1 (0.3)
%age of education within group	57.7	30.7	43.8	57	57.5	57.3
<b>(ii)Rs.2001-3000 (No)</b>						
Population (6 + age group)	112	106	218	89	99	188
Up to class VIII	60(53.6)	48(45.2)	108(49.5)	41 (46)	42(42.4)	83 (44.1)
Class IX-XII	13(11.6)	6 (5.7)	19 (8.7)	13(14.6)	9 (9.1)	2.2 (11.7)
Graduates	1 (0.9)	0 (0)	1 (0.5)	1 (1.1)	0 (0)	1 (0.5)
%age of education within group	66	51	58.7	61.8	51.5	56.4

<b>(iii)Rs.3001-4000 (No)</b>						
Population(6+age group)	80	52	132	53	34	87
Up to class VIII	55(68.8)	25 (48)	80 (60.6)	25(47.2)	20(58.8)	45 (51.7)
Class IX-XII	4 (5)	2 (3.8)	6 (4.5)	12(22.6)	3 (8.8)	15 (17.2)
Graduates	1 (1.3)	0 (0)	1 (0.8)	4 (7.5)	0 (0)	4 (4.6)
%age of education within group	75	51.9	65.9	77.4	67.6	73.6
<b>(iv)Rs.4000 above (No)</b>						
Population (6+ age group)	64	54	118	37	30	67
Up to class VIII	41(64)	27 (50)	68 (57.6)	17(43.2)	19(63.3)	36 (53.7)
Class IX-XII	6(9.4)	6(11.1)	12 (10.2)	9 (24.3)	5 (16.7)	14 (20.9)
Graduates	2 (3)	2 (3.7)	4 (3.4)	4(10.8)	0(0)	4 (6)
%age of education within group	76.6	64.8	71.2	81	80	80.6
<b>(c)Overall education (No)</b>						
Population (6+age group)	327	287	614	358	356	714
Up to class VIII	193(59)	101(35.2)	294(47.9)	164(45.8)	176(49.4)	340(47.6)
Class IX-XII	27(8.3)	15 (5.2)	42 (6.8)	54 (15)	33 (9.3)	87 (25.6)
Graduates	4 (1.2)	2 (0.7)	6 (1)	10 (2.8)	0 (0)	10 (2.9)
%age of education within group	68.5	41	55.7	63.7	58.7	61.2

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of literacy of population (6+ age group)

### **5.4.3 EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE INHABITANTS OF HAZARPUR VILLAGE**

The state of education among the Hindus (entire inhabitants) of Hazarpur Village (61.2 percent) is significantly higher than adjoining Muslim concentrated village-Manik Nagar (55.7 percent). Literacy of female inhabitants of Manik Nagar Village is significantly lower than the female Hindus of Hazarpur by (58.7 percent-41 percent) 17.7 percentage points but with regards to male literacy, the inhabitants of Manik Nagar is standing at a better position. The similar positive correlation exists between earning capacity and educational status of the inhabitants of Hazarpur as we find at Manik Nagar. What is significant is that the female education of Hindus in Hazarpur is very encouraging for all income groups with a particular note of graduate attainment rate (GAR). The GAR of Hazarpur Village stands at 27.9 percent for male compared to a meager of 1.2 percent for Manik Nagar, a gap of 26.7 percentage points. 15 percent of boys and girls among male Hindus of Hazarpur Village have registered them in schools to class IX-XII compared to 8.3 percent of male Muslims in Manik Nagar. Literacy among females to the same class group in two villages has 9.3 percent and 5.2 percent respectively. No one is found in Manik Nagar Village having any technical or professional education or vocational training courses.

It appears that the Muslims of Manik Nagar, in the field of education, are not only lagging behind the Hindus at national and state levels but also lagging behind the Hindus to the adjacent village as well with a particular note to female education.

### **5.5 COMPARING THE VILLAGE ECONOMIES**

The two village people are not identical by their traditional occupations. In early days most of the village people of Manik Nagar were engaged in weaving and cultivation while the inhabitants of Hazarpur were traditionally engaged as potters, milk producers and carpenters. The inhabitants of both the villages have changed their traditional occupations. The Momin (weavers) group compelled to shift their original occupation

because the demand of their product has been drastically reduced owing to shifting demand of the product manufactured by applying improved technology and the cultivators have changed their inherited occupation which became non-profitable because of small pieces of land owing to large family size and distribution among the coparceners.

Table 5.5 shows that all 99 families of Manik Nagar Village have changed their original occupation of cultivation and only 5 families from 63 families having traditional occupation of weaving are engaged in their original occupation. The picture is not different in Hazarpur Village also. Ninety two families were traditionally engaged in pot making but presently only 24 families of them are continuing with their old occupation. Similarly, only 10 families of 24 families are still engaged as milk men and 14 families out of 36 families engaged in carpentry works.

**Table 5.5: Distribution of inhabitants of two villages in Farakka Block according to their occupations**

Village	Total families	Present occupation	No. of families
Manik Nagar	162	Weaver	5 (63)
		Cultivator	— (99)
		Bidi worker	74 (Nil)
		Petty trader	44 (Nil)
		Service (home guard)	3 (Nil)
		Other workers	36 (Nil)
		Hazarpur	180
Potter (Paul)	24 (92)		
Carpenter	14 (36)		
Shoe maker (chamar)	6 (26)		
Iron smith	2 (2)		
Petty trader	9 (Nil)		
Service	6 (Nil)		
Bidi maker	109 (Nil)		

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate families with traditional occupation

Presently, inhabitants of Manik Nagar have been engaged in bidi making, petty trade and miscellaneous jobs like workers of building construction, horse-cart pullers, drivers of trucks and lorries etc. Villagers of Hazarpur are mostly engaged in bidi making besides few having traditional pottery, milk supply and carpentry. Three persons of Manik Nagar Village of

162 families are in government service as against 6 persons of 180 families in Hazarpur Village.

Average household size of Manik Nagar is larger than Hazarpur causing low mean per capita income (MPCE/p.m) though the family income per month is more in Manik Nagar than that of Hazarpur. It appears in table 5.6 that average household size of Manik Nagar is 5 as against 4.8 of Hazarpur and income per family per month is Rs.2815 of the former which is marginally higher than the latter of Rs.2758 but the mean per capita income of the inhabitants of Manik Nagar is low at Rs.563 against the inhabitants of Hazarpur of Rs.575. Our study further reveals that 142 families (i.e. 88 percent) out of 162 families of Manik Nagar cannot even earn Rs.20 per day and the inhabitants of Hazarpur are no different in this regard.

**Table 5.6: Average household size and income distribution of the inhabitants of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur village**

Sl. No.	Name	Manik Nagar	Hazarpur
1	No. of families	162	180
2	No. of members	806	863
3	Average house hold size	5	4.8
4	Income per family (Rs./p.m.)	2815	2758
5	Mean per capita expenditure (MPCE) (Rs./p.m)	563	575

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note:  $MPCE = \frac{\sum (\text{Average income of each group} \times \text{No. of families in each group})}{\sum \text{Average family size}}$

Table 5.7 shows that not a single family belongs to Scheduled Tribes was found in Hazarpur Village and there is no question of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe family in Manik Nagar Village being a Muslim village as there is no provision in the constitution of India for the Muslim to become categorized as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. It appears in the above table that 97 percent of the total 162 families in Manik Nagar are in general category and 3 percent of the total families having OBC

identification compared to 38 percent of the families in Hazarpur Village are in general category, 49 percent of the families are under other backward categories (OBCs) and 13 percent of the families belong to Scheduled Caste categories. It is worth noting that 63 Momin families in Manik Nagar are coming under the list of backward classes according to OBC list of the Government of West Bengal but only 8 percent of them could register as OBCs and remaining 92 percent are still left. The inhabitants of Hazarpur are in better position in this regard. Eighty eight families (i.e. 64 percent) have been registered as OBC out of 138 OBC designated families (goal-10+potter-92+carpenter-36); Entire 23 SC families are receiving the benefits of reservation quota in Hazarpur. (Table 5.2)

**Table 5.7: Caste classification, position 'Below the Poverty Line' (BPL) and awareness about the government aids of the inhabitants of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur village**

Sl. No.	Category	Manik Nagar		Hazarpur	
		No. of family	% to total family	No. of family	% to total family
1	Total families	162	100	180	100
2	Religion	Islam	100	Hindu	100
3	Socio-religious categories:				
	a) General	157	97	69	38
	b) OBCs	5	3	88	49
	c) SCs	-	-	23	13
	d) STs	-	-	-	-
4	BPL card holding families	13	8	9	5
5	Awareness about Govt. aids (families)	25	15	180	100

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Both the villages of Farakka Block are backward in respect of holding below poverty line (BPL) cards. Entire families of Manik Nagar and almost all families of Hazarpur Village are living below the poverty line.

Microscopic 8 percent of the total 162 families in Manik Nagar and 5 percent of 180 families of Hazarpur Village have been distributed BPL cards till 2007.

Social security schemes help to improve the socio-economic profile of people of society. Thus, it is of utmost need that the people must have awareness about such schemes of the Central Government and the State Governments. The people of Manik Nagar are in dismal state regarding awareness about Government aids. It is evident from table 5.7 that 25 families (i.e. a meager 15 percent) of 162 families in Manik Nagar are aware of such schemes. . As a result, major part of the villagers are being deprived of availing such opportunities for improving their economic profile. On the contrary, the entire families of Hazarpur Village have fair knowledge about the government aid schemes. It is noteworthy that the entire village people of Hazarpur are aware of these schemes.

Entire population of Manik Nagar live below the poverty line but only 13 families (8 percent) of the total 162 families got 'Below the Poverty Line' (BPL) cards. Nine families out of 180 families of Hazarpur Village got BPL cards.

It is evident from Table 5.8 below that the land holding of Muslims in Manik Nagar is almost negligible in this front with owned land of 0.33 acre. In the realm of land reforms in the state, the poor people of this area have not been distributed patta/vested land. Hazarpur is not much different from Manik Nagar except the land holdings of 3.67 acres which is also not significant. It means that the land reform programme has practically no effect in these areas. Our study reveals the nature and amount of loan procured by the inhabitants of these two villages. Loans have been procured from two sources- private sources and Government sources. Private sources consist of mainly a Kolkata based non-government organization (NGO)-'Bandhan Bank' and the main government sources are Gramin Bank, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and Krishi Bank. The entire loan amount of Rs.1,24,000 is taken from Bandhan Bank by 27 families (average being Rs.4,600 per family) of Manik Nagar for the

purpose of petty trades and carrying occupations. The inhabitants of Hazarpur received Rs.28,000 from Bandhan Bank by 4 families being an average of Rs.7,000.

Loans from government sources also have been taken for the similar purposes. Loan of Rs.1,24,000 have been taken from government sources (Rs.88,500 from DRDA and Rs.51,500 from Gramin Bank) by 12 families (an average of Rs.10,330 per family) of Manik Nagar Village. The inhabitants of Hazarpur received loan primarily from Gramin Bank for the similar reasons like petty trades, for carrying occupations and for constructing houses. Seven families have taken loan of Rs.1,89,000 of which Rs.18,000 taken from DRDA, getting subsidy of Rs.6,000. Average amount of loan per family stands at Rs. 27,000 which is far more than Manik Nagar of Rs.10,330. Our study shows that the benefits under Antadaya scheme of the Central Government and the social benefits to the BPL card holders were not available at the inhabitants of Manik Nagar. The five families of Hazarpur have received 370 kg of rice under Antadaya scheme and the six families have received 570 kg of rice under BPL scheme.

**Table 5.8: Distribution of land and status of loan taken by the inhabitants of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur village**

	Manik Nagar	Hazarpur
<b>(a) No. of families</b>	162	180
<b>(b) Land holding (In acre)</b>		
(i) Patta	-	-
(ii) Vested	-	-
(iii) Lease—in land	-	-
(iv) Owned	0.33	3.67
Total land in operation	0.33	3.67
Average operational land(acre)	0.002	0.02
<b>(c) Loan taken</b>		
<b>(i) From private sources:</b>		
No. of families	27	4
Amount of loan (Rs.)	1,24,000	28,000
Average loan amount per family (Rs.)	4,600	7,000
<b>(ii) From Government sources:</b>		
No. of families	12	7
Amount of loan (Rs.)	*1,24,000	**1,89,000
Average loan per family (Rs.)	10,330	27,000

Source: Field survey, 2007

\* Subsidy Rs.29,500 is available on Loan takes from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) @ 1/3 of Loan amount

\*\* Subsidy Rs.6,000 on loan taken from DRDA.

## 5.6 SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES

It appears in table 5.9 that 9 primary schools and 3 Shishu Shiksha Kendras are available within 4 km for approximately 12,500 inhabitants of 13 villages including Manik Nagar and Hazarpur Villages. It is out of our empirical study we find that around 75 percent of the inhabitants (i.e. 75 percent of 12500 = 9375) are 6+ years of age eligible for formal education and again half of them are eligible for the first time enrolment into primary education. Thus, 9 primary schools and 3 shishu shiksha kendra are available for enrolment of half of prospective students of 9375 (i.e. approx. 4700) for the primary education. Hence, the prospective seekers per school for enrolment are around 390 meaning that 12 schools are quite insufficient for providing primary education to the children of these areas. In fact, no primary school is found in Manik Nagar and recently one primary school is established in Hazarpur Village. Table 5.9 shows, 2 high schools (one for girls) and 2 higher secondary schools are available for the inhabitants of 13 villages (including two villages under study).

**Table 5.9: Social and infrastructural facilities available to the inhabitants of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur village**

a) No. of village (within 7 km)	13
b) Inhabitants (approx.)	12,500
c) No. of primary school (within 4 km)	9
d) No. of shishu shiksha kendra (within 4 km)	3
e) No. of high school (secondary) (within 7 km)	2 (including one for girls )
f) No. of higher secondary school (10+2) (within 7 km)	2 (co-education)
g) No. of degree college (within 15 km)	1 (co-education)
h) No. of university (within 15 km)	Nil
i) No. of primary health centre (within 7 km)	1
j) No. of primary health sub-centre (within 4 km)	Nil
k) No. of rural hospital (within 10 km)	Nil

Source: Field survey, 2007

The inhabitants of two villages have been provided with pucca and brick built approach roads. Deep tube wells are available though insufficient for supplying waters to the inhabitants of the villages. Near by Ganges water is available to their use. Both the villages have electric connection. Very gloomy situation prevails in health care of the villagers. Only one primary health centre is available within 7 km to look after the health of around 12,500 villagers. Two doctors and 5 nurses attend the patients of a huge number. Thus, the villagers have no option but to surrender their lives to unqualified doctors (quack). The pregnant ladies for ante natal care and children for vaccination are used to go to the nearby temporary establishment where semi-trained Medicare Personnel normally visit once a week.

## **5.7 SUMMING UP**

Muslims constitute 62.76 percent of block's total population of 2,20,049 in 2001. We have studied two villages namely Manik Nagar (entire Muslims) and Hazarpur (entire Hindus) having population of 806 and 863 respectively. Sex ratios of Manik Nagar are 924 and of Hazarpur are 979 against the district sex ratio of 952. Literacy rate of the inhabitants of Manik Nagar stands at 55.7 percent in 2007 of which male proportion stands at 68.5 percent and females at 41 percent and the literacy rate of the inhabitants of Hazarpur is 61.2 percent of which males are 63.7 percent and females are 58.7 percent.

Mean per capita income (per month) of the inhabitants of Manik Nagar (Rs.563) is lower than per capita income of Hazarpur (Rs.575) and both are lower than the state's average for all SRCs of Rs.576. Household size of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur are 5 and 4.8 respectively. Only 5 Momin families from a total of 63 Momin families in Manik Nagar and 88 families out of 138 families in Hazarpur have received OBC certificates. All the 23 families belong to SC categories in Hazarpur have been registered as such.

Entire population of Manik Nagar and Hazarpur are living at poverty level but 13 families (i.e.8 percent) of the total 162 families in Manik Nagar and 9 families (i.e. 5 percent) out of the total 180 families in Hazarpur have been issued BPL cards. Different welfare schemes of the governments can improve social and economic plight of the inhabitants but only 15 percent of the total number of families in Manik Nagar have awareness about the government aids and other welfare schemes as against 100 percent awareness of Hazarpur Village.

Social and infrastructural facilities are not sufficiently provided to the inhabitants of these two villages. There are only 12 (9 + 3) primary schools within 4 km to cater education around 4500 children of 13 villages, 2 high schools of which one school is for girl students and 2 higher secondary schools within 7 km for the enrolment of a huge number of students at around 3400 (4500 less drop out estimated at 25 percent) seeking an average enrolment of 850 per school per year. There is one degree college at Farakka town at a distance of around 8 km from the two villages.

There is only a primary health center attended by two doctors and five nursing staff. The inhabitants of two villages do not face much crisis for water. Drinking water is available from deep tube wells and water for other purposes can be utilized from nearby Ganges.