

CHAPTER 6

COMPARING BETWEEN NAXALBARI AND FARAKKA STUDIES

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CHAPTER-6

COMPARING BETWEEN NAXALBARI AND FARAKKA STUDIES

6.1 INTRODUCTION

We have studied two villages each in Naxalbari Block in the district of Darjeeling and Farakka Block in Murshidabad District, both in West Bengal. The two blocks have a distance at around 300 km to each other, Naxalbari on the North and Farakka towards the south.

Two villages under Naxalbari Block are Totaramjote, a Muslim concentrated village and South Rathkhola, a Hindu concentrated village. Similarly two villages have been studied in Farakka Block which are Manik Nagar Village having entire Muslim inhabitants and Hazarpur Village is represented by Hindu community. Both the villages are adjoining to each other. The inhabitants of inter blocks and intra block villages have some similarities as well as some dissimilarities.

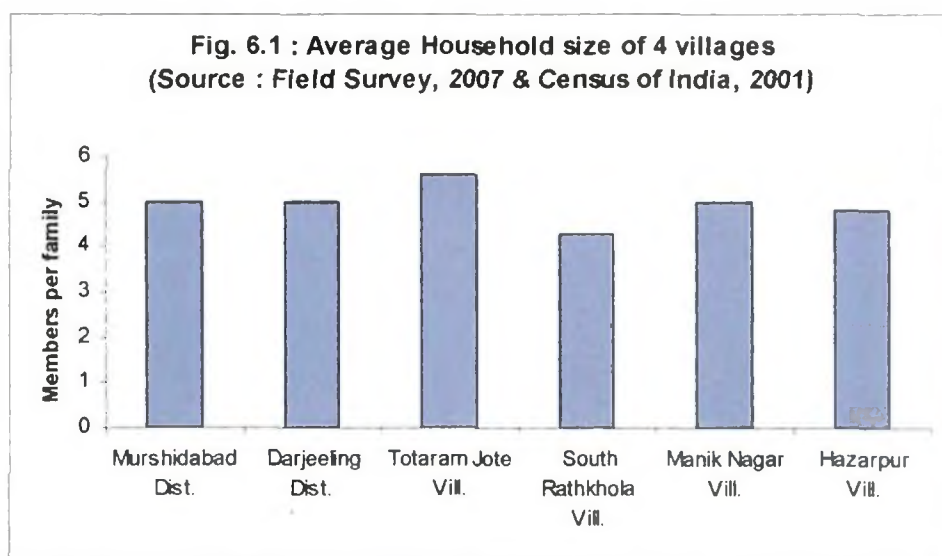
Table 6.1: Demographic patterns of West Bengal, Darjeeling District and Murshidabad District in 2001

| Date | West Bengal | Darjeeling District | Murshidabad District |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Total No. of families | 1,58,72,083 | 3,18,737 | 11,40,095 |
| 2. Total population : | 8,01,76,197 | 16,09,172 | 58,66,569 |
| Male (%) | 51.72 | 51.6 | 51.2 |
| Female (%) | 48.28 | 48.4 | 48.8 |
| Rural (%) | 72 | 67.7 | 87.5 |
| Urban (%) | 28 | 32.3 | 12.5 |
| 3. Sex ratio (females to 1000 males) | 934 | 937 | 952 |
| 4. Decadal growth : | | | |
| a) All SRCs (%) | 17.8 | 23.8 | 23.8 |
| b) Muslims (%) | 25.9 | 44.4 | 28.4 |
| 5. Average household size | 5.11 | 5.1 | 5.2 |
| 6. Population : | | | |
| a) Muslim (%) | 25.2 | 5.31 | 63.7 |
| b) Hindu and other (%): | 74.8 | 94.69 | 36.3 |
| SC | 23 | 16 | 12 |
| ST | 5.5 | 12.7 | 1.3 |

Source: Census of India, 2001.

6.2. DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF FOUR VILLAGES IN TWO BLOCKS UNDER SURVEY

Table 6.2 shows that the villages under Naxalbari Block are small in size than the villages in Farakka Block. Totaramjote and South Rathkhola Villages in Naxalbari Block have 110 and 119 families respectively where as Manik Nagar and Hazarpur Villages in Farakka Block constitute with 162 and 180 families respectively. Average household size is more in Muslim concentrated village. It appears from Table 6.2 that the average household sizes of the Muslim inhabited villages, Totaramjote in Naxalbari Block and Manik Nagar in Farakka Block stand at 5.6 and 5 which are larger than Hindu concentrated South Rathkhola Village in Naxalbari Block and Hazarpur Village in Farakka Block of 4.3 and 4.8 respectively.



It is found that household size even varies between two Muslim villages in two different blocks. The average household size of Totaramjote at 5.6 is more than Manik Nagar of 5; where as reverse picture is found in two Hindu villages of two blocks. The household size is lower with 4.3 in South Rathkhola under Naxalbari than Hazarpur of 4.8 in Farakka Block.

Totaramjote Village has 613 inhabitants; representing males at 50.9 percent and the females are 49.1 percent with a sex ratio (females to 1000 males) of 965. The total number of inhabitants in South Rathkhola is 514 of

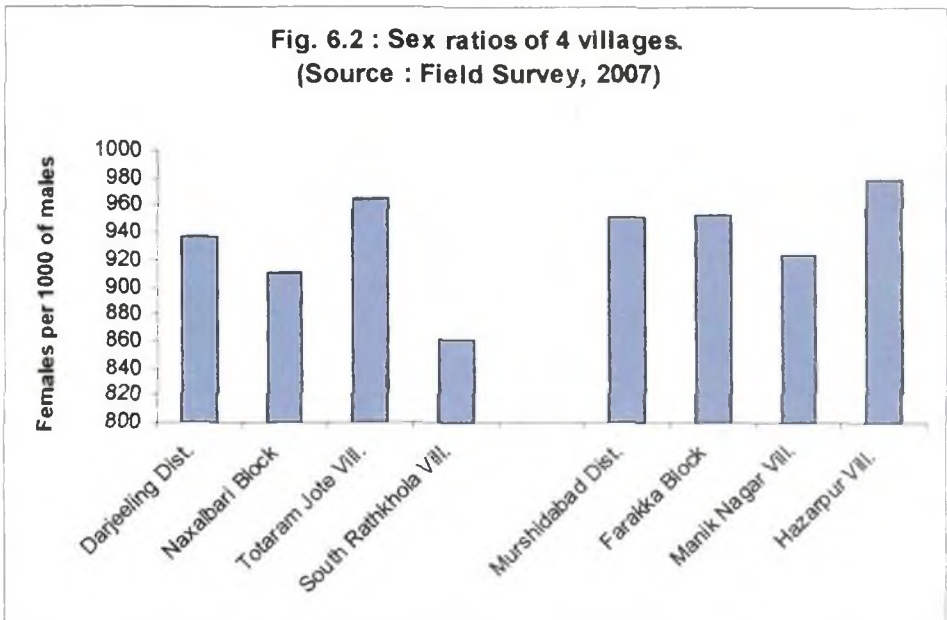
which males are 53.7 percent and females' share is 46.3 percent with a sex ratio of 862.

Total population of Manik Nagar in Farakka Block is 806 (males are 52 percent and female is 48 percent) with sex ratio of 924 and the populace of Hazarpur Village in Farakka Block is 863 (males are 50.5 percent and female is 49.5 percent) with a sex ratio of 979.

It appears from the above data, that one of the causes for the economic backwardness of the Muslims in this region like other parts of India is large household size.

Sex ratio of the inhabitants of Totaramjote Village is fairly good at 965 compared to the district level (937) and the state level (934). With regards to sex ratio, the inhabitants of Totaramjote Village are far better than the adjoining South Rathkhola Village (862) and even better than Manik Nagar (924), a Muslim concentrated village, in another block but lower than Hazarpur Village (979), a Hindu concentrated village, of Farakka Block.

It is observed that the sex-ratio of South Rathkhola in Naxalbari is the worst having ratio of 862. The Ratio is lower than both the state level (934) and the district level (937). We found very encouraging picture in this regard at Hazarpur Village in Farakka Block which stands at 979, which is even more than district's ratio of 952, and another adjoining Muslim village (924) in the same block.



Thus, it is seen that the performance of sex ratio among the inhabitants of Muslim concentrated village is far better than the people of Hindu concentrated village in Naxalbari Block, but the opposite picture found among the villagers of Farakka Block. In Farakka Block, the better performance is seen in Hindu concentrated village of Hazarpur than the Muslim concentrated of Manik Nagar Village.

Decadal growths of the population of Naxalbari and Farakka Blocks have been considered for comparison. It is evident from Table 6.2 that the decadal growth of Naxalbari Block is tremendously high at 54.6 percent during the decade 1991-2001 as against the district's level of 23.8 percent and the state level of 17.8 percent, making a wide gap from the district's level of (54.6 percent - 23.8 percent) 30.8 percentage points and a high gap from the state level at (54.6 percent - 17.8 percent) 36.8 percentage points.

We find the decadal growth of Farakka Block (24.3 percent) during the period 1991-2001 is significantly higher than the state growth rate by (24.3 percent - 17.8 percent) 6.5 percentage points but marginally higher than the district level by (24.3 percent - 23.8 percent) 0.5 percentage points during the corresponding period. Decadal growth of Muslim population in Farakka Block is 31 percent, which is higher than the overall decadal growth of the block by (31 percent - 24.3 percent) 6.7 percentage points during 1991- 2001. Decadal growth of both the districts during 1991 - 2001 has 23.8 percent but the growth of Naxalbari Block is 54.6 percent, which is more than double the growth of Farakka Block (24.3 percent). One of the vital contributing factors for stiff rise of population in Naxalbari Block is high-rise of ST population of 30 percent and a significant growth of SC population by 41.34 percent during 1991-2001 (Table 4.2)

Muslims constitute 25.2 percent of West Bengal's population, 5.31 percent of Darjeeling District, 63.7 percent of Murshidabad District, 5.51 percent of Naxalbari Block and 62.8 percent of Farakka

Block. We have studied two villages in each block; one village being Muslims inhabited and the other is mostly Hindu inhabited.

It is evident from Table 6.2 that all 110 families of Totaramjote Village are Muslims, and 118 families out of 119 in South Rathkhola Village belong to Hindu community and only a microscopic one Muslim family lives in this village. 162 families live in Manik Nagar Village are entirely of Muslims and 180 families of Hazarpur Village are completely Hindus in Farakka Block.

Out of 110 families in Totaramjote Village, 12 families are in the list of OBC in West Bengal but not a single family could enlist them as OBC till 2007 because of their lack of knowledge regarding the process required to be followed, lack of proper proof in order to substantiate their claim and burden of bearing transport cost to go to the office of the SDO.

Table No. 6.2: Demographic pattern of two villages each of two blocks (2007)

| District | Darjeeling District | | Murshidabad District | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Block | Naxalbari Block | | Farakka Block | |
| Categories/Village | Totaramjote (Muslims) | South Rathkhola (Hindus) | Manik Nagar (Muslims) | Hazarpur (Hindus) |
| 1.Total families | 110 | 119 | 162 | 180 |
| 2. Total population | 613 | 514 | 806 | 863 |
| Male | 312 (50.9) | 276 (53.7) | 419 (52) | 436 (50.5) |
| Female | 301 (49.1) | 238 (46.3) | 387 (48) | 427 (49.5) |
| Rural (%) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 3. Sex-ratio (females to 1000 males) | 965 | 862 | 924 | 979 |
| 4. Decadal growth: | | | | |
| All SRCs (%) | 54.6 (Block) | 54.6 (Block) | 24.3 (Block) | 24.3 (Block) |
| Muslims (%) | NA | NA | 31 (Block) | 31 (Block) |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| 5. Average household size | 5.6 | 4.3 | 5 | 4.8 |
| 6. Population : | | | | |
| a) Muslim (%) | 100 | 0.8 | 100 | Nil |
| b) Hindus and others (%) : | Nil | 99.2 | Nil | 100 |
| SC (%) | Nil | 21.8 | Nil | 12.8 |
| ST (%) | Nil | 10.9 | Nil | Nil |
| OBC (%) | Nil | 1.7 | 3 | 49 |

Source: Field survey, 2007

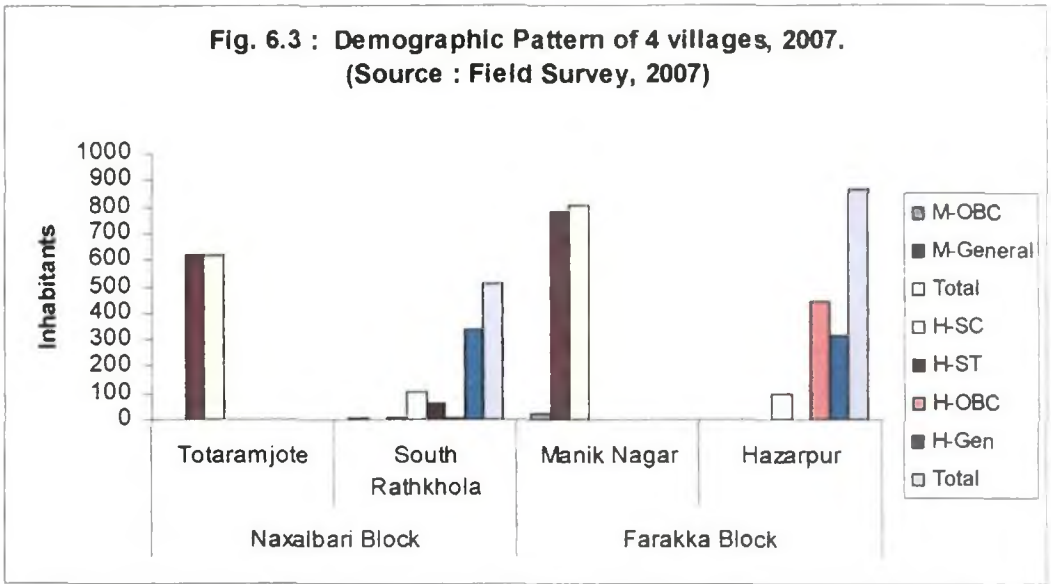
Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total.

South Rathkhola Village in Naxalbari Block consists of 119 families of which 1 family belongs to Muslim community and the remaining 118 families are non-Muslims. Of 118 families-26 families (21.8.percent) are SCs, 13 families (10.9 percent) are STs and 2 families (1.7 percent) are OBCs. (Tables 4.3)

Manik Nagar Village in Farakka Block comprises of 162 Muslim families. 63 families of Ansari (weaver) group are eligible for enlisting as OBC according to the list of OBC of the Government of West Bengal but only 5 families (8 percent) among the weavers' group have been enlisted and receiving the benefits of affirmative action (reserved quota) (Table 5.2). The people of Manik Nagar are financially weak and they cannot even afford transport cost to go frequently to the sub-divisional head quarters at a distance of around 45 km, and they are also facing the problems of placing documentary evidence to substantiate themselves as OBC categories.

Hazarpur Village in Farakka Block has 180 Hindu families of which 23 families (12.8 percent) are SCs and 88 families (49 percent) are OBCs (Tables 5.2).

Fig. 6.3 : Demographic Pattern of 4 villages, 2007.
(Source : Field Survey, 2007)



Muslims can only avail the benefits of OBC quota but it is observed that none of the families in Totaramjote Village possesses the certificate to this effect, while 12 families are eligible for OBC according to the OBC list of the State. Only 5 families (8 percent) out of 63 eligible families for OBC have been issued OBC certificates in Maniknagar Village of Farakka Block. Therefore, Muslims are lagging behind the non-Muslims of the adjoining villages under survey in possessing even the certificates for OBC.

6.3 EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FOUR VILLAGES

6.3.1 STATE OF EDUCATION IN MURSHIDABAD AND DARJEELING DISTRICTS

It is evident from table 6.3 that Muslims in educational spheres in the state and in two districts are tremendously lagging behind the non-Muslims. Pathetic educational scenario can be observed for rural Muslims as a whole and rural female Muslims in particular. Muslims consist of 64 percent of Murshidabad District whereas their literacy in rural areas stands at 48.4 percent against the state average of rural Hindus at 67 percent, a high gap of (67 percent-48.4 percent) 18.6 percentage points, literacy of female Muslims in the district at 42.9 percent is significantly lower than the state average of Hindu females at 56 percent, and Hindu female of the district at 51.1 percent. In the field of education, the rural Hindu people of Darjeeling District perform almost at par with the male and female Hindus of the state,

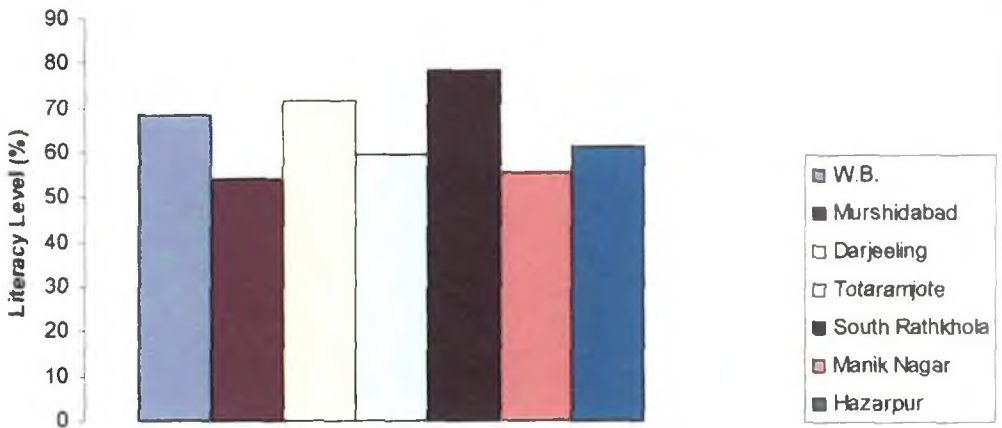
but Muslims in the district are performing poorer. Literacy among the rural Muslims in the district is 44 percent against the Hindus at 66 percent, a gap of (66 percent- 44 percent) 22 percentage points and the female Muslims in rural areas achieve only 31 percent compared to the female Hindus of 56 percent, lowered by (56 percent- 31 percent) 25 percentage points.

6.3.2 EDUCATION OF FOUR VILLAGES UNDER SURVEY AND IT'S COMPARISON WITH THE STATE, DISTRICTS, AND THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE VILLAGES

Literacy level of the four villages is shown in table 6.4 and in figure 6.4. Overall literacy of Muslim inhabitants of Manik Nagar Village under Farakka Block in Murshidabad District stands at 55.7 percent of which 68.5 percent for males and 41 percent for females which are lower than the district's literacy for Hindus as 63.8 percent, 68 percent, and 51.1 percent respectively and far behind the Hindus in the states as it stands at 72.4 percent, 77 percent and 56 percent respectively. Thus, Muslims of Manik Nagar Village are lagging behind the Hindus of the district by (63.8 percent- 55.7 percent) 8.1 percentage points and female Muslims by (51.1 percent - 41 percent) 10.1 percentage points. How far the Muslims in the village are educationally backward can be judged by comparing with the literacy status of the state. Muslims of the village falling back in education compared to West Bengal by (72.4 percent - 55.7 percent) 16.7 percentage points, a lag for male Muslims by (77 percent - 68.5 percent) 8.5 percentage points and a gap for female Muslims comes to (56 percent - 41 percent) 15 percentage points. Murshidabad District is a Muslim concentrated village comprising of Muslims at 64 percent. The literacy rate of the district is significantly lower than the state, in addition the literacy amongst Muslims in the district is further lower than Hindus of the state and the district and literacy among the Muslims of Manik Nagar is further low.

Fig. 6.4 : Literacy and Educational Level of WB, Murshidabad & Darjeeling districts in 2001 and 4 villages in 2007.

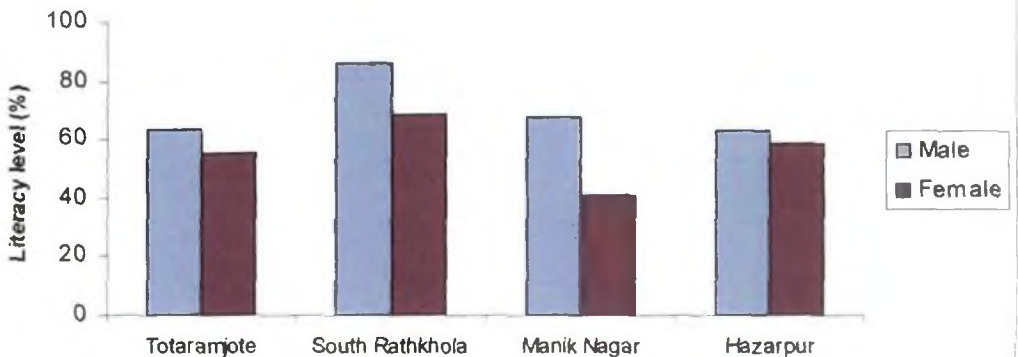
(Source : Field Survey, 2007 & Census of India, 2001)



Educational status of the Muslims in Manik Nagar is worst which can be judged by comparing with the status of other village people. Education among the inhabitants (Muslims) of Manik Nagar is 55.7 percent while literacy amongst the inhabitants (Hindus) of Hazarpur Village in the same block is far better at 61.2 percent. Literacy among females in Manik Nagar Village is 41 percent while the literacy among females in Hazarpur Village is 58.7 percent. Thus, the female Muslims of Manik Nagar are significantly lagging behind the adjoining village – Hazarpur by (58.7 percent - 41 percent) 17.7 percentage points. This is worth noting that Muslims, both males and females, of Manik Nagar Village are educationally backward than even the inhabitants of another Muslim village – Totaramjote of Naxalbari Block.

Fig. 6.5 : Literacy and educational level by gender of 4 villages, 2007

(Source : Field Survey, 2007)



Poor performance, in this field, of the Muslims of Manik Nagar Village is also evident from the literacy among the Hindus of South Rathkhola Village in Naxalbari Block under Darjeeling District. Literacy rates of Manik Nagar stands at 55.7 percent of which Males at 68.5 percent and females at 41 percent against the literacy among the Hindus of South Rathkhola representing at 78.5 percent, 86.7 percent and 69 percent respectively. The Muslims of Manik Nagar are lagging behind the Hindus of South Rathkhola by (78.5 percent - 55.7 percent) 22.8 percentage points. Male Muslims are trailing behind by (86.7 percent - 68.5 percent) 18.2 percentage points and female Muslims by (69 percent - 41 percent) 28 percentage points.

It appears in Table 6.3 that income and education have positive correlation to all four villages under survey. Income group up to Rs. 2000, the literacy rate of Muslims in Manik Nagar is 43.8 percent comprising males at 57.7 percent and females of 30.7 percent comparing the shares at 57.3 percent, 57 percent and 57.5 percent respectively of the Hindus to the adjoining village (Hazarpur) in Farakka Block.

It is seen from the above data that the Muslim women of Manik Nagar Village are precariously low in educational field and lagging behind the Hindu women of the adjoining village by (57.5 percent 30.7 percent) 26.8 percentage points. Educationally the Muslim people of Manik Nagar Village are falling back not only the adjoining village people but also backward than the Muslim people of another village – Totaramjote of Naxalbbari block and tremendously lagging behind the villagers (Hindus) of South Rathkhola. In income group up to Rs.2000, the literacy rate of Totaramjote being 53.2 percent of which males share is 60 percent and females are 45.7 percent. The literacy among the inhabitants of South Rathkhola is 71.8 percent of which male stands at 77.8 percent and females are 65.7 percent compared to Manik Nagar of 43.8 percent, 57.7 percent and 30.7 percent respectively. The female Muslims of Manik Nagar Village are educationally backward more than the another Muslim village of Naxalbari Block by (45.7 percent-30.7 percent) 15 percentage points and far behind than South Rathkhola Village by (71.8 percent- 43.8 percent) 28 percentage points, males by (77.8

percent- 57.7 percent) 20.1 percentage points and females by (65.7 percent - 30.7) 35 percentage points. It is very interesting and encouraging that the literacy amongst males and females for all four villages have increased significantly with the increase of income, but the females education of both Muslim villages (Manik Nagar and Totaramjote) are lower than other two Hindu villages (Hazarpur and South Rathkhola). It is found that the Hindu village – South Rathkhola in Naxabari block is far ahead of other villages for both male and female education.

Drop-out rate of school-going children from class VIII to class IX for four villages such as Manik Nagar and Hazarpur in Farakka Block , Totarmjote and South Rathkhola, in Naxalbari Block are (47.9 percent - 6.8 percent) 41.1 percentage points . (47.6 percent-25.6 percent) 22 percentage points (49.5 percent -8.3 percent) 41.2 percentage points and (49.5 percent - 24.4 percent) 25.1 percentage points respectively and graduation attainment rates are 1 percent, 2.9 percent, 2 percent and 4.6 percent respectively in four villages. It is evident from the above analysis that Manik Nagar and Totaramjote, the Muslim concentrated villages, have high rates of drop out from class up to class VIII to class IX – XII at 41.1 and 41.2 percentage points respectively against 22 and 25.1 percentage points of Hindu concentrated villages of Hazarpur and South Rathkhola. Both the Muslim concentrated villages have low graduation attainment rates of 1 percent and 2 percent respectively compared with 2.9 percent and 4.6 percent of Hindu concentration villages of Hazarpur and South Rathkhola. None of the inhabitants in two Muslim concentration villages could achieve any vocational degree.

Table 6.3: Educational status of West Bengal, Murshidabad and Darjeeling Districts in 2001

| Category | West Bengal | Murshidabad District | Darjeeling District |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Population : | 8,01,76196 | 58,66,569 | 16,09,172 |
| Rural (%) | 72 | 67.5 | 67.7 |
| Urban (%) | 28 | 12.5 | 32.3 |
| 2. Muslim population (%) | 25.2 | 63.7 | 5.31 |
| 3. a) Literacy Rate (All SRCs) : | 68.6 | 54.4 | 71.8 |
| Rural | 63 | 52.3 | 66 |
| Male | 73 | 58.5 | 76 |
| Female | 53 | 45.7 | 55 |
| b) Literacy Rate of Hindus : | 72.4 | 63.8 | 73 |
| Rural | 67 | 59.8 | 66 |
| Male | 77 | 68 | 77 |
| Female | 56 | 51.1 | 56 |
| c) Literacy Rate of Muslims: | 57.5 | 48.6 | 50 |
| Rural | 56 | 48.4 | 44 |
| Male | 63 | 53.67 | 57 |
| Female | 48 | 42.9 | 31 |

Source: Census of India-2001

Table 6.4: Educational status of the inhabitants of villages in two blocks under survey, 2007

| Block | Farakka Block | | | | Naxalbari Block | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Manik Nagar | | Hazarpur (Hinus) | | Totaramjote (Muslims) | | South Rathkhola (Hindus) | | | | | |
| Category/Gender | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | | | |
| 1.Total Population | 419 | 387 | 806 | 436 | 427 | 863 | 312 | 301 | 613 | 276 | 238 | 514 |
| 2.Educational status within income range (Rs.) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) up to Rs.2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population (6+age group) | 71 | 75 | 146 | 179 | 193 | 372 | 155 | 140 | 295 | 36 | 35 | 71 |
| Up to class VIII | 37(52) | 22(29.3) | 59(40.4) | 81(45.2) | 93(49.2) | 176(47.3) | 83(53.5) | 60(42.9) | 143(48.5) | 25(69.4) | 20(57.1) | 45(63.4) |
| Class IX - XII | 4(5.6) | 1(1.3) | 5(3.4) | 20(11.2) | 16(8.3) | 36(9.7) | 8(5.2) | 4(2.9) | 12(4.1) | 3(8.3) | 2(5.7) | 5(7) |
| Graduates | - | - | - | 1(0.6) | 0(0) | 1(0.3) | *2(1.2) (*PG-1) | 0(0) | 2(0.7) | 0(0) | 1(2.9) | 1(1.4) |
| Percentage within group | 57.7 | 30.7 | 43.8 | 57 | 57.5 | 57.3 | 60 | 45.7 | 53.2 | 77.8 | 65.7 | 71.8 |
| b) Rs.2001-3000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Population (6+age group) | 112 | 106 | 218 | 89 | 99 | 188 | 67 | 66 | 133 | 76 | 70 | 146 |
| Up to class VIII | 60(53.6) | 48(45.2) | 108(49.5) | 41(46) | 42(42.4) | 83(44.1) | 37(55.2) | 34(51.5) | 71(53.4) | 40(52.6) | 40(57.1) | 80(54.8) |
| Class IX - XII | 13(11.6) | 6(5.7) | 19(8.7) | 13(14.6) | 9(9.1) | 22(11.7) | 7(10.4) | 7(10.6) | 14(10.5) | 24(31.6) | 12(17.1) | 36(24.7) |
| Graduates | 1(0.9) | 0(0) | 1(0.5) | 1(1.1) | 0(0) | 1(0.5) | - | - | - | 1(1.3) | 2(5) | 3(2) |
| Percentage within group | 66 | 51 | 58.7 | 61.8 | 51.5 | 56.4 | 65.7 | 62.1 | 63.9 | 85.5 | 77.1 | 81.1 |
| c) Rs.3001-4000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population (6+age group) | 80 | 52 | 132 | 53 | 34 | 87 | 25 | 37 | 62 | 73 | 57 | 130 |
| Up to class VIII | 55(68.8) | 25(48) | 80(60.6) | 25(47.2) | 20(58.8) | 45(51.7) | 16(64) | 18(48.6) | 34(54.8) | 35(48) | 25(43.9) | 60(46.2) |
| Class IX - XII | 4(5) | 2(3.8) | 6(4.5) | 12(22.6) | 3(8.8) | 15(17.2) | 1(4) | 6(16.2) | 7(11.3) | 26(35.6) | 12(21) | 38(29.2) |
| Graduates | 1(1.3) | 0(0) | 1(0.8) | 4(7.5) | 0(0) | 4(4.6) | 2(8) | *2(5.4) (*PG-1) | 4(6.5) | 6(8.2) | 1(1.8) | 7(5.4) |
| Percentage within group | 75 | 51.9 | 65.9 | 77.4 | 67.6 | 73.6 | 76 | 70.3 | 72.6 | 91.8 | 66.7 | 80.8 |
| d) Rs.4000 above | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population (6+age group) | 64 | 54 | 118 | 37 | 30 | 67 | 28 | 27 | 55 | 71 | 57 | 128 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Up to class VIII | 41(64) | 27(50) | 68(57.6) | 17(43.2) | 19(63.3) | 36(53.7) | 15(53.6) | 7.(25.9) | 22(40) | 29(40.8) | 21(36.8) | 50(39.1) |
| Class IX – XII | 6(9.4) | 6(11.1) | 12(10.2) | 9(24.3) | 5(16.7) | 14(20.9) | 5(17.9) | 7(25.9) | 12(21.8) | 26(36.6) | 11(19.3) | 37(28.9) |
| Graduates | 2(3) | 2(3.7) | 4(3.4) | *4(10.8) | 0(0) | 4(6) | 1(3.6) | *4(14.8) (*PG-1) | 5(9.1) | 7(9.9) | 4(7) | 11(8.6) |
| Percentage within group | 76.6 | 64.8 | 71.2 | 81 | 80 | 80.6 | 75 | 66.7 | 70.9 | 87.3 | 63.2 | 76.6 |
| 4.Overall Educational Status | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population (6+age group) | 327 | 287 | 614 | 358 | 356 | 714 | 275 | 270 | 545 | 256 | 219 | 475 |
| up to class VIII | 193(59) | 101(35.2) | 294(47.9) | 164(45.8) | 176(49.4) | 340(47.8) | 15(54.9) | 119(44.1) | 270(49.5) | 129(50.4) | 106(48.4) | 235(49.5) |
| Class IX – XII | 27(8.3) | 15(5.2) | 42(6.8) | 54(15) | 33(9.3) | 87(25.6) | 21(7.6) | 24(8.9) | 45(8.3) | 79(38.9) | 37(16.9) | 116(24.4) |
| Graduates | 4(1.2) | 2(0.7) | 6(1) | 10(2.8) | 0(0) | 10(2.9) | *5(1.8) (*PG-1) | *6(2.2) (*PG-2) | 11(2) | 14(5.5) | 8(3.7) | 22(4.6) |
| Percentage of education | 68.5 | 41 | 55.7 | 63.7 | 58.7 | 61.2 | 63.4 | 55.2 | 58.4 | 86.7 | 69 | 78.5 |

Source: Field Survey, 2007

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

6.4 ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, CONSUMPTION AND STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE INHABITANTS OF FOUR VILLAGES UNDER SURVEY

Tables 4.4 and 5.5 depict the pattern of present and traditional occupations of the inhabitants of the four villages under survey. It appears in table 5.5 that the Muslim inhabitants of Manik Nagar and the Hindus of Hazarpur are engaged in bidi making. Large part of the inhabitants is compelled to shift their traditional occupations towards bidi making for having limited scope and low amount of earnings in the original occupations. In present times, petty trade also plays a vital role in the occupational field for the people of the two villages. Workers engaged in miscellaneous jobs, like masons, rickshaw and cart pullers, driver of trucks and lorries are found in Manik Nagar Village but the inhabitants of Hazarpur do not much involve in such external works. They are mostly involved in home based works such as bidi making and some are engaged in traditional occupations such as pot making. Presently none of the family in Manik Nagar Village is involved in cultivation while 99 families were traditionally involved in cultivation. 3 persons in Manik Nagar Village are employed as home guards, and 6 persons (as home guards – 4, & in NTPC – 2) of Hazarpur Village are in service.

It appears in Table 4.4 that petty trade (mostly commission agent & carrier of unauthorized goods) dominates the present occupations among the inhabitants of Totaramjote and South Rathkhola Villages in Naxalbari Block. Presently, 13 families out of 92 agro-based families involved in agriculture and 13 families are engaged as agricultural workers in Totaramjote. 3 persons (govt. service 2+home guard 1) i.e. 2.7 percent are in service out of 110 families in Totaramjote whereas 14 persons (school teachers) i.e. 11.8 percent are engaged in service in South Rathkhola. Therefore, the employment rate in organized sector of both the Muslim villages is lower than even the Hindus of adjoining villages.

We observe that household size of both the Muslim concentrated villages, Manik Nagar and Totaramjote in two different blocks; have large sizes of 5 and 5.6 respectively compared to other two Hindu concentrated

villages of Hazarpur in Farakka Block and South Rathkhola in Naxalbari Block at 4.8 and 4.3 respectively. It is important to note that small household size prevails in South Rathkhola which has highest share of literacy rate compared to other villages. Thus, it can be said that literacy has positive impact on keeping small household size.

Table 6.5 depicts the household size and income/expenditure distribution of four villages under survey

Table 6.5: Average household size and income/expenditure of the inhabitants of four villages under survey

| Category | Farakka Block | | Naxalbari Block | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Manik Nagar vill. | Hazarpur vill | Totaramjote vill. | South Rathkhola vill |
| 1. Average household size | 5 | 4.8 | 5.6 | 4.3 |
| 2. Income per family (Rs./pm) | 2,815 | 2,758 | 2,436 | 3,265 |
| 3. Mean per Capita Income/Expenditure (Rs./pm) | 563 | 575 | 435 | 759 |

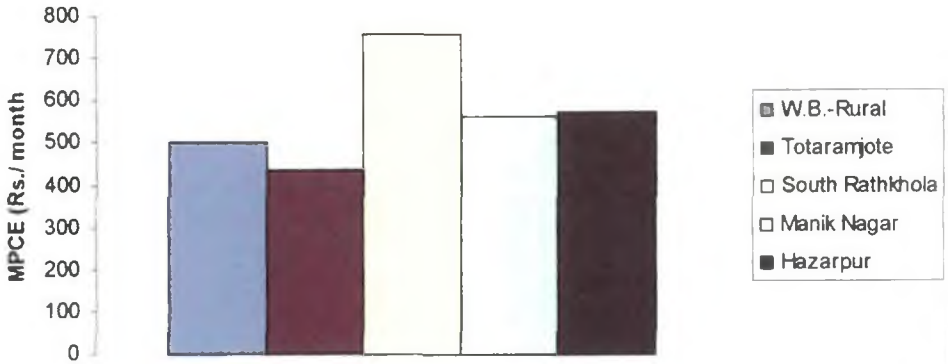
Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note: 1.The Mean per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) of rural people in West Bengal Rs.576 (Source: NSSO, 2004-05)

2. The MPCE of rural Muslims in West Bengal Rs.501 (Source: NSSO – 2004-05)

It appears that the mean per capita expenditure (MPCE) per month of the Muslim inhabitants of Manik Nagar and Totaramjote Village under two different blocks and districts are lower at Rs.563 and Rs.435 respectively compared to Rs.575 and Rs.759 of Hindu villagers of other two villages – Hazarpur and South Rathkhola Villages respectively in different blocks and districts.

Fig. 6.6 : Mean per capita expenditure (MPCE) of 4 villages.
 (Source : NSSO, 2004-05 and Field Survey, 2007)



The rate of earning/expenditure (MPCE) of the Muslim villagers of Manik Nagar and Totaramjote are below the MPCE for all SRCs in the state. The MPCE of Totaramjote is lowest at Rs.435 amongst the four villages and the highest being Rs.759 for South Rathkhola. Income per family (per month) of Manik Nagar is Rs.2,815 which is more than Hazarpur Village (Rs.2,758) but MPCE of Manik Nagar is comparatively low due to the fact of large household size. The MPCE of Totaramjote, another Muslim village, is very low due to the cumulative effects of low per family income (p.m.) and large household size. The MPCE of Muslims in Totaramjote (Rs.435) in Naxalbari Block is even lower than another Muslim village -Manik Nagar (Rs.563) in Farakka Block.

Our studies reveal a wretched economic condition of the people of Muslim villages under survey. 92.7 percent of the total families in Totaramjote cannot even earn Rs.15 per person/day and 88 percent of the total families of Manik Nagar living with earnings less than Rs.20/day.

Table 6.6 shows caste classification, no. of families possessing BPL cards and no. of families who have awareness about the Government aids of the inhabitants of four villages under survey.

Table 6.6: Caste classification, no. of families holding BPL cards and awareness about Govt. aids among the Inhabitants

| Category | Farakka villages | | | | Naxalbari villages | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Manik Nagar | | Hazarpur | | Totaramjote | | South Rathkhola | |
| | No. of families | Percent to total | No. of families | Percent to total | No. of families | Percent to total | No. of families | Percent to total |
| 1.Total families | 162 | | 180 | | 110 | | 119 | |
| 2. Religion | Islam | 100 | Hindu | 100 | Islam | 100 | Hindu | 99 |
| 3. Socio-Religious Categories | | | | | | | | |
| General | 157 | 97 | 69 | 38 | 110 | 100 | 78 | 66 |
| OBSs | 5 | 3 | 88 | 49 | - | - | 2 | 1.7 |
| SCs | - | - | 23 | 13 | - | - | 26 | 22 |
| STs | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | 11 |
| 4. BPL Card holding families | 13 | 8 (43.3) | 9 | 5 (43.3) | 72 | 65(46.4) | 40 | 34(46.4) |
| 5.Awareness about Govt. aid | 25 | 15 | 180 | 100 | 76 | 69 | 94 | 79 |

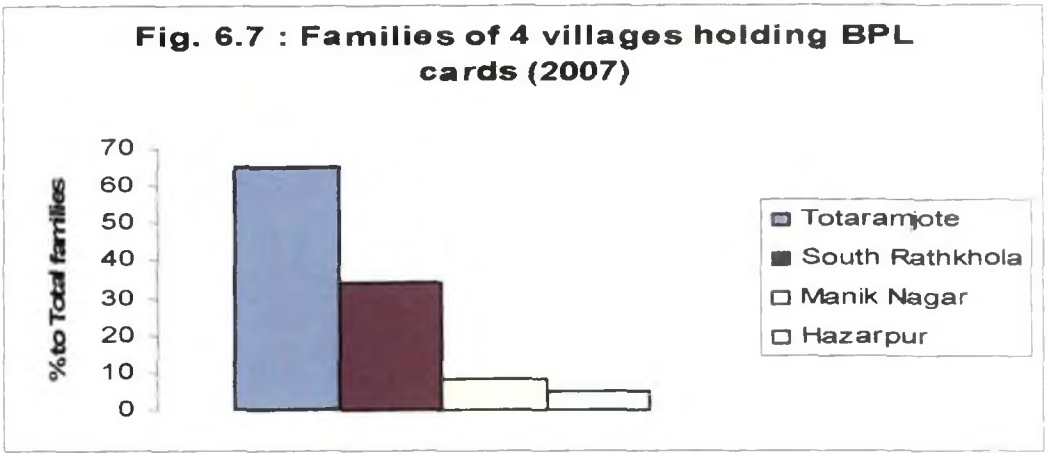
Source: Field Survey, 2007

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of the districts

Both the villages, Manik Nagar and Hazarpur in Farakka Block, are in pathetic condition with regards to possessing BPL cards. Only 13 families (i.e.8 percent) out of total 162 families and 9 families (i.e.5 percent) of 180 families of the villages respectively are holding cards against the holding of Murshidabad District at 43.3 percent.

The other two villages, Totaramjote and South Rathkhola in Naxalbari Block, have high share of possession of BPL cards. The card holding families of the two villages are enumerated as 72 (i.e.65 percent) of 110 families and 40 families (i.e.34 percent) of 119 families compared to the district's share of 46.4 percent.

Fig. 6.7 : Families of 4 villages holding BPL cards (2007)



There are several schemes of the governments for the upliftment of economic condition of the poor people. The poor people must aware of such schemes for the improvement of their economic profile. The Muslim inhabitants of Manik Nagar are worst in this front. Only 25 families (15 percent) of 162 families are aware of several governmental aids, remaining 85 percent families have no knowledge about such welfare schemes. Hindu inhabitants of adjoining Hazarpur Village are performing very well at 100 percent. The share of awareness of the Muslim people of Totaramjote Village is 69 percent compared to Hindu people of adjoining South Rathkhola Village of 79 percent.

Fig. 6.8 : Awareness of families in 4 villages regarding Government Aids (2007)

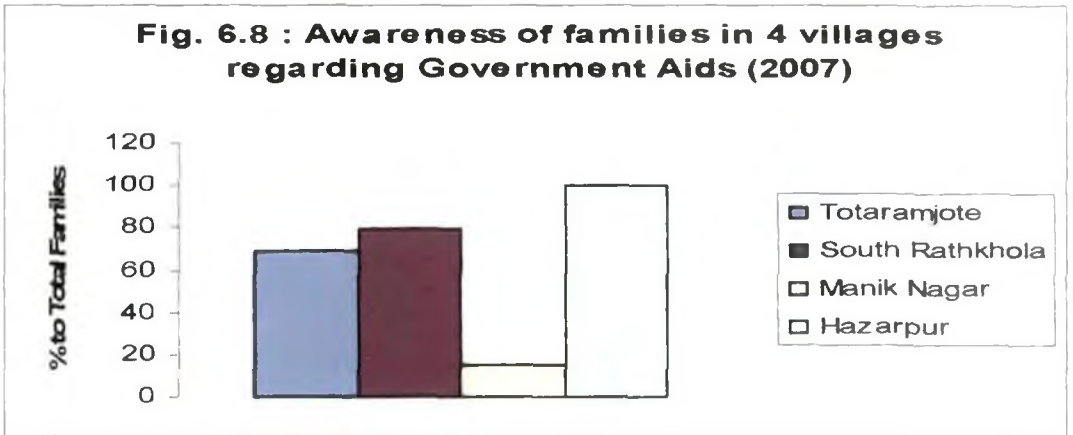


Table 6.7 shows the pattern and quantum of land holding and amount of loan taken and sources of loan.

Table 6.7: Distribution of land and status of loan taken by the inhabitants of four villages

| Category | Farakka Block | | Naxalbari Block | |
|---|---------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Manik Nagar | Hazarpur | Totaramjote | South Rathkhola |
| 1. No. of families | 162 | 180 | 110 | 119 |
| 2. Land holdings (in acre) | | | | |
| a) Patta | - | - | - | 1.85 |
| b) Vested | - | - | 0.75 | 3.7 |
| c) Lease hold | 0.33 | 3.67 | 46.3 | 17.3 |
| 3. Loan taken | | | | |
| a) Private sources : | | | | |
| i) No. of families | 27 | 4 | 23 | 4 |
| ii) Amount of loan (Rs.) | 1,24,000 | 28,000 | 1,36,200 | 19,000 |
| iii) Average loan amount per family (Rs.) | 4,600 | 7,000 | 5,922 | 4,750 |
| b) Government sources: | | | | |
| i) No. of families | 12 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| ii) Amount of loan (Rs.) | *1,24,000 | **1,89,000 | 20,57,000 | 1,54,000 |
| iii) Average loan amount per family (Rs.) | 10,330 | 27,000 | 2,93,857 | 30,800 |

Source: Field Survey

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

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

It is evident from table 6.7 that the quantum of land owned by the inhabitants of both the villages in Farakka Block is not significant. The 3 families of Manik Nagar Village hold 0.33 acre of land and 4 families of Hazarpur Village have owned 3.67 acres. Land in the form of patta or vest land has not been distributed to the poor people in this region. Practically

land reforms programmed of the state Government has no effect in these areas to this front.

The 3 families of Totaramjote have been allotted vested land of 0.75 acre for constructing residential accommodation and producing vegetables. The 25 families have owned 46.3 acres of agricultural land producing paddy, wheat, maize, potato, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower and legume etc.

The 14 families of South Rathkhola Village were allotted patta land with a total volume of 1.85 acres (average being 0.132 acre) and 3.7 acres of vested land have been distributed to 45 families (average being 0.08 acre). The 11 families having 17.3 acres of inherited land. Patta and vested land have been allotted by the state government to the poor people of this village for constructing houses and producing vegetables and crops. Thus, the fruits of land reforms programmed of the state government are being percolated to the people of South Rathkhola.

Our studies reveal the pattern, volume and purposes of loan taken from the private sources and the government sources. 'Bandhan Bank', a Kolkata based NGO, is the main provider of loans under private sources to all four villages. The inhabitants take loans from 'Bandhan Bank' for seed and working capital of different trades and of carrying varied occupations. The 27 families from 'Bandhan Bank' of Manik Nagar have borrowed from 'Bandhan Bank' amounting to Rs.1,24,000 (average being Rs.4,600 per family) which have been utilized for start-up and working capital of petty trades like grocery shop, street vending, road side vending (temporary), pan-bldi stall, tea stall etc.

The 4 families of Hazarpur Village have taken loan of Rs.28,000 (average of Rs.7,000) utilized as working capital or seed capital for opening and running grocery shop and for running occupations of pottery works.

Loan is being borrowed by the inhabitants of Totaramjote and South Rathkhola Village from 'Bandhan Bank' is not much different on account of volume of loan and pattern of utilization of the same. Government sources of loan consist of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Gramin Bank and Krishi Bank. Loans from government sources have been taken by the

people of Manik Nagar and Hazrpur Village for carrying occupations, petty trades and constructing houses.

The significant amount of loans has been taken by 7 families of Totaramjote Village, with an average of Rs.2,93,857, for their cattle business. They utilized the borrowed fund for buying cattles and constructing cattle houses and houses for their own residence. Rs.1,54,000 (Average of Rs.30,800) was borrowed by 5 families of South Rathkhola for petty trades like grocery shop, buying auto rickshaw for transport business etc.

6.5 SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES

Table 6.8 shows the quantum of social and infrastructural facilities available to the people of four villages.

Table 6.8: Social and Infrastructural facilities available to the inhabitants of four villages under survey in Farakka and Naxalbari Blocks

| Category | Villages under Farakka | Villages under Naxalbari |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| a) No. of village (within 7 km.) | 13 | 12 |
| b) Inhabitants (approx.) | 12,500 | 7,500 |
| c) No. of primary school (within 4 km.) | 9 | 8 |
| d) No. of shishu shiksha kendra (within 4 km.) | 3 | 4 |
| e) No. of high school (secondary) (within 7 km.) | 2 (include one for girls) | 3 (include one each for Hindi and Nepali) |
| f) No. of higher secondary school (within 7 km.) | 2 (co-education) | 2 include one for girls) |
| g) No. of degree college (within 15 km.) | 1 (co-education) | 2 (co-education) |
| h) No. of university (within 15 km.) | Nil | 1 |
| i) No. of primary health centre (within 7 km.) | 1 | Nil |
| j) No. of primary health sub-centre (within 4 km.) | Nil | 1 |
| k) No. of rural hospital (within 10 km.) | Nil | 1 (within 3km) |
| l) No. of sub divisional hospital (within 25 km.) | Nil | 1 |
| m) No. of medical college and hospital (within 25 km.) | Nil | 1 |

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Our studies reveal that the villages under Farakka Block of Murshidabad District have high density of population than the villages under Naxalbari Block in Darjeeling District. There are 12,500 inhabitants in 13 villages under Farakka Block with an average of 960 inhabitants per village against an average of 625 per village in 12 villages of Naxalbari Block within 7 km of our studied villages (included). The 12 primary schools (including 3 sishu siksha kendra) are available within 4 km of studied villages in Farakka Block for providing primary education of around 375 seekers per school/year (para. 5.6) compared to 225 seekers in villages under Naxalbari Block. The educational facilities are insufficient in all villages of two different blocks, but insufficiency is more acute in the villages under Farakka Block.

In respect of upper level of education, the inhabitants of Farakka Block in Murshidabad District are also lagging behind the inhabitants of Naxalbari Block in Darjeeling district. Table 6.8 shows that 2 high schools, 2 higher secondary (10+2) schools within 7 km and 1 degree college within 15 km in Farakka Block are available even of having high density of population compared to Naxalbari Block, comparatively a low density of population, have 3 high schools, 2 higher secondary schools within 7 km, 2 degree colleges and a university within 15 km.

The inhabitants of Farakka Block have inadequate facilities for health care over the inhabitants of Naxalbari Block. Only primary health centre (PHC) is available to look after the health of around 12,500 people within 7 km whereas the inhabitants of Naxabari block has one primary sub-centre and one rural hospital within 3 km, sub-divisional hospital within 25 km and a medical college and hospital within 25 km for medical treatment of 7500-odd population. All the four villages have been provided with semi-trained medical personnel for providing ante-natal care (ANC) to the pregnant women and for vaccination of children.

All the four villages under study are connected by pucca (concrete) and brick-built approach roads. The villages in Farakka Block are connected by National Highway (34) and Eastern Railway having buses and trains respectively as the principal means of movement. The villages in Naxalbari

Block are connected by road ways and meter gauge railway having bus facilities. All the four villages have electric connection.

The sources of water are ring-welis, shallow tube wells and river for the people of Naxalbari Block. The villagers of Farakka Block have deep tube wells and the Ganges as the means of water.

The inferences that one can draw from the above comparisons are laid down in the subsequent chapter.