

## Chapter VII

### A Comparison of Our Results with Official Results

#### 7.1: Introduction

This chapter gives the description of the overall socio-economic status of the rural economy of Dakshin Dinajpur on the basis of primary data we have collected from 14 villages of two subdivisions of Balurghat (Sadar) and Gangarampur covering 815 households. We have also collected secondary data from government departments ,reports published by the government of West Bengal and government of India, reports published by NGOs, UNDP, World Bank, ILO etc.

#### 7.2: Comparing Socio-Economic Data

Analysis of literacy data shows that in rural West Bengal (for example, our rural villages of Balurghat and Gangarampur ) the illiteracy rate is still high and this is more so because of more illiteracy among the women. Amartya Sen (2003) mention, “.. half the adult population and two-thirds of Indian women remain unable to read or write. Statistically reliable surveys indicated that even in the late 1980s nearly half of the rural girls between the ages of 12 and 14 did not attend any school for a single day of their lives”. This is, as Sen hints, due to British imperial neglect of mass education reinforced by India’s tradition of elitism and upper-class dominated contemporary politics. Rabindranath Tagore also identified, as Sen says, illiteracy and neglect put India socially backward and economically underdeveloped. The literacy data collected during 2007 and presented in table 7.1 shows that illiteracy is still very high, about 47 percent, in rural areas of Dakshin Dinajpur District.

**Table 7.1 Literacy Data: Balurghat and Gangarampur (Rural)**

Sub division (Rural)	No. of Persons	Literates	Illiterates
Balurghat	1696	915 (53.95)	781 (46.05)
Gangarampur	1540	813 (52.79)	727 (47.21)
Total	3236	1728 (59.31)	1508 (46.6)

Source: Field Survey, 2007

We now turn to the discussion on government aid received by the rural households. This is shown in table 7.2

**Table 7.2 Government Aid Received: Rural Dakshin Dinajpur**

Area	Total households	No. of households received aid
Balurghat	336	23 (5)
Gangarampur	329	35 (10.6)
Total	665	58 (8.7)

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Data presented in table 7.2 tell us that the government aid received by the rural households is very negligible. In rural Balurghat only about 5 percent households received government aid and in rural Gangarampur only 10.6 percent households received government aid, nearly double the number of aid recipients received by rural Balurghat households. Overall amount of Government aid received by rural households of the Dakshin Dinajpur District was only 8.7 percent. This amount of aid, we think, cannot improve the economy status of rural poor.

As regard the implementation of 100 days work we also find the grim picture. Data shown

below in table 7.3 represent that only 13.5 man – days were created in rural Balurghat and that 20.5 in rural Gangarampur. Overall man-days created in rural Dakshin Dinajpur were only 17 days (per person)

**Table-7.3: 100- Days work : Rural Dakshin Dinajpur**

Area	Total no. of households	No. of days worked (per person)
Rural Balurghat	396	13.5
Rural Gangarampur	329	20.5
Total	725	17

Source: Compiled from data collected from Field Survey, 2007

Migration data in the rural Dakshin Dinajpur district has been displayed in table7.4 below.

**Table 7.4 Migration Data: Rural Dakshin Dinajpur**

Area	No. of households	No. of migrants
Balurghat	396	33
Gangarampur	329	42
Total	725	75 (10.3)

Source: Field Survey, 2007

We now compare the BPL status between rural Balurghat and rural Gangarampur with the help of data collected from the sample villages.

**Table 7.5 BPL Status: Rural Balurghat and Rural Gangarampur**

Area	BPL population
Rural Balurghat	318 (80.34)
Rural Gangarampur	283 (67.54)

Source: Field Survey, 2007

The proportions of poor have been shown in table 7.6

**Table 7.6 Proportions of poor: Rural Dakshin Dinajpur**

Area	proportions of poor
Rural Balurghat	0.803
Rural Gangarampur	0.675

Source: Field Survey, 2007

### 7.3: Comparison with Official Results

A comparison of our survey results with the official results has been shown in table 7.7

**Table 7.7 Migration Data: Rural Dakshin Dinajpur**

GPs	Our results (%)	Official results (%)
Chakvrigue	85.33	33.38
Patiram	67.0	28.96
Uday	65.8	58.90
Sukdevpur	63.0	62.66
Total	67.54	42.23

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Comparing official BPL data with our survey data, we find a marked variation. Official data (2009) show that BPL population in rural Dakshin Dinajpur are 42.23 whereas it is 67.54 percent as per our survey data on BPL.

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