CHAPTER -V

PROFILE OF THE SELECTED BLOCKS AND SAMPLE FARMERS

I.   INTRODUCTION

West Bengal is an eastern regional state of India and bordered by three countries namely Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. This state also is bordered by four Indian states namely Orissa, Jharkhand, Assam and Sikkim. According to current census, West Bengal is fourth-most populous state in India. It is also seventh-most populous sub-national entity in the world with over 91 million inhabitants. West Bengal is on the eastern bottleneck of India, stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. This state is primarily composed of plain land except the north where the southern flank of the Himalayas extends in to the state. Part of the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta constitutes the eastern part of West Bengal. Several religious people like Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, etc. are living in this state. Among all religions Hindu alone covered 72 per cent population in this state. In West Bengal total 19 districts and 3 divisions exist. The culture of West Bengal is Indian Culture which has its roots in the Bengali literature, music, fine arts, drama and cinema. Kolkata is the capital of this state. Total area of West Bengal is 88,752 square kilometer. Total population of this state is 913.48 lakh and Bengali is the principal language. Growth and development is taking place throughout the state to compete with others states in India. Total literacy rate is 77.08 per cent out of which male literacy is 82.67 per cent and 71.16 per cent for female literacy. West Bengal highly dense state by population in India. Current density of population in West Bengal is 1029, where 6746 is urban density and 676 is rural density. The sex ratio of this state is 947 for census 2011 and it was 934 in census 2001. Economy of West Bengal is agro-based. The net cropped area is 5296 thousand hectares and gross cropped area is 9634 thousand hectares. The present cropping intensity of this state is 184 per cent. Total 4434 thousand hectare land is under irrigation. In this section we shall discuss demographic picture of West Bengal as well as two selected districts namely, Bardhaman and Dakshin Dinajpu. Similarly, we shall try to discuss percentage agricultural labourer, farmers, cultivator etc. living in the state. The occupation and education level of people in two selected districts will be discussed in this

part of our research. Finally we shall explain about household assets and animal assets available in our surveyed area.

II. LOCATION OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal is the Eastern part of Indialying between 21° 25' 24" and 27°13' 15" north latitudes and 85°48' 20" and 89°53' 04"east longitudes. As we have already noted that the state shares its borders with three different nations – Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal – and four other Indian States, viz. Orissa, Jharkhand, Assam and Sikkim. Northern part of this state is bounded by the state of Sikkim and by the country of Bhutan. Eastern portion is bordered by the country Bangladesh and by the state of Assam. Country Nepal has a boundary with this state in Western part along with the state of Bihar and southern portion is bounded by the state Orissa and Bay of Bengal. The climate of the state is tropical and humid except in the northern hilly region which is close to the Himalayas. The average rainfall in the state is about 1750 mm with considerable variation among the districts ranging between 1234 mm in Birbhum to 4136 mm in Jalpaiguri. The temperature in the mainland normally varies between n 24°C to 40°C during summer and 7°C to 26°C during the winter. Spread over an area of 88752 sq. km, the state accounts for 2.7% of the total geographical area of the country while its population is 91347736 accounts for nearly 7.55 per cent of the entire population of the country. West Bengal is the most densely populated state as per 2011 census (1029 persons per sq. km). The total Scheduled Caste population in the state is 184.53 lakh and the total Scheduled Tribe population is 44.07 lakh and constitute 23.01 per cent (all India: 16.20 per cent) and 5.50 per cent (all India: 8.20 per cent) of the entire population of the state respectively. Of the total rural workers, 19.53% and 19.30% are cultivators and agricultural labourers, respectively, while 4.72 percent are engaged in household industries. According to the Planning Commission, 31.85 percent of the total population lived below poverty line in 1999-2000. (GoWB, 2013).

III. DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE OF WEST BENGAL

The demographics of India are inclusive of the second most populous in the world with over 1.21 billion people (census 2011). It is estimated that more than sixth of the world's population having 17.5 per cent population exist in India. India is projected to be the

world's most populous country by 2025. According to current census, India has more than 50 per cent of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65 per cent below the age of 35. West Bengal which is commonly known as Bengal is the state located in the eastern part of India. As per the report published by the census of India on 31st March, 2011 the state of West Bengal has got a total population of 91, 347, 736. This contributes to 7.55 per cent of country total population. Since West Bengal is the place of Bengali community, the major part of West Bengal population is Bengalee. Other communities living in Bengal are Muslim, Bihari, Santals, Buddhist, Nepalies, Tibetans etc. In the following table we are giving some demographic features of West Bengal.

Table 5.1: Some Important Demographic Features of West Bengal as Revealed in Last Five Censuses (in lakh)

| Sl.No. | Items | Population over the census | | | | |
		1971	1881	1991	2001	2011
1	Total population	443.12	545.81	680.78	801.76	913.48
2	Number of male population	234.36	285.61	355.11	414.66	469.27
3	Percentage of male population to total population	52.89	52.33	52.16	51.72	51.37
4	Number of female population	208.76	260.2	325.67	387.1	444.2
5	Percentage of female population to total population	47.11	47.67	47.84	48.28	48.63
6	Urban population	109.67	144.47	187.08	224.27	291.34
7	Percentage of urban population to total population	24.75	26.47	27.48	27.97	31.89
8	Rural population	333.45	401.34	493.7	577.49	622.14
9	Percentage of rural population to total population	75.25	73.53	72.52	72.03	68.11
10	Population of Kolkata urban agglomerations	70.31	91.94	110.22	132.06	141.13
11	Percentage of Population of Kolkata urban agglomerations to total population	64.11	63.64	58.92	58.88	48.44
12	Number of main workers	123.69	154.24	205.81	230.24	N.A

13	Number of cultivators	39.55	45.91	58.45	45.56	N.A
14	Number of agricultural labourers	32.72	38.92	50.55	45.23	N.A
15	Percentage of cultivators to main workers	31.97	29.76	28.4	19.79	N.A
16	Percentage of agricultural labourers to main workers	26.45	25.23	24.56	19.64	N.A

Source: Economic Review, WB, 2011-12

In the above Table we are trying to explain demographic picture of the past four census reports with current census 2011. We can see that population of the state has been growing rapidly. Similarly, we can see that percentage of male population to total population is quite same over all the censuses (more or less 51 per cent). Percentage of female population to total population also is the same over the entire census having more or less 47 per cent. The above Table also shows that people are migrating from rural to urban area to achieve better living condition. They have under stood that presently farm sector is not sufficient to provide their needs. On the other hand, population pressure reduces the landholding. As a result, number of agricultural families has been going down. These fragmented and low landholding agricultural families doing farm activities themselves. That is why demand for agricultural labourers is coming down gradually. So landless families does depends on farm activates rather they are migrating from farm to non- farm sector. As evidence of this we can see that the percentage of agricultural labourer was 26.45 in 1971 census and it has decreased to 19.64 per cent in 2001 census. Although annual and decadal growth of population has been controlled by different initiatives and governmental intervention, total gross population is increasing. To give the rate of growth of total population we have used the following formula. Using this formula we can see the annual and decadal growth rate of total population as follows:
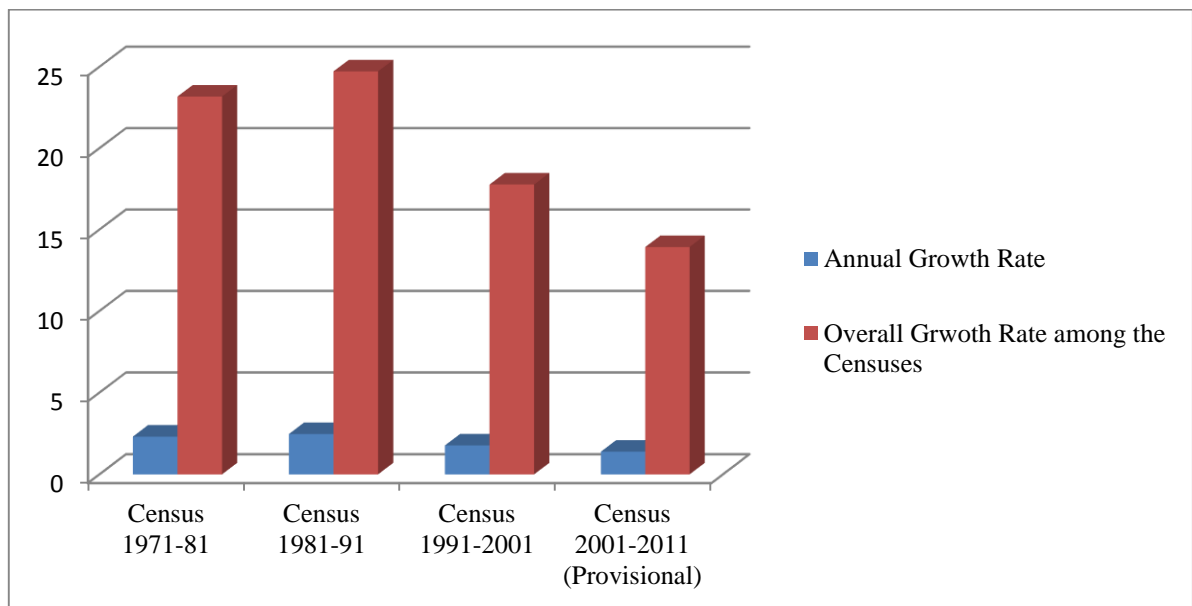
Percent Rate= (Present Value-Past Value) / Past Value* 100.

a. Annual Growth Rate of population of Census 1971 to 1981 is 2.31 and decadal growth of population between two censuses is 23.17 per cent.

b. Annual Growth Rate of population of Census 1981 to 1991 is 2.47 and decadal growth of population between two censuses is 24.72 per cent.

c. Annual Growth Rate of population of Census 1991 to 2001 is 1.77 and decadal growth of population between two censuses is 17.77 per cent.

d. Annual Growth Rate of population of Census 2001 to 2011 is 1.39 (Provisional) and decadal growth of population between two censuses is 13.93(Provisional) per cent.

The following figure shows clear picture of annual and decadal population growth. It is clear that growth rate of both annual and decadal of population has been declining over the periods and censuses. The current census report indicates that population control measure has implemented in the state.

Figure 5.1: Annual and Overall Growth Rate of different Census in India

In the above figure we can see trend of annual and decadal growth rate of population in India. It has been showed in the bar diagram that both annual and decadal population growth rate from 1981 to 1991 has creased. However, both growth rates have been decreasing finally due some measures taken by government.

IV. EDUCATION

Education is one of the most important factors for human beings. Education not only required for non-farm sector but also it is necessary for agricultural sector with large extent.

Educated people doing farm activities are much knowledgeable regarding modern farm activities. Present farming system not only depends on traditional system. Use of wooden made traditional farm equipment is not able to give higher productivity. Even uneducated farmers are not aware about different farming facilities provided by government such as subsidies on machineries, subsidies on credits, subsidies on fertilizers etc. So it is necessary to yield essential education for doing effective farming on their small land holding.

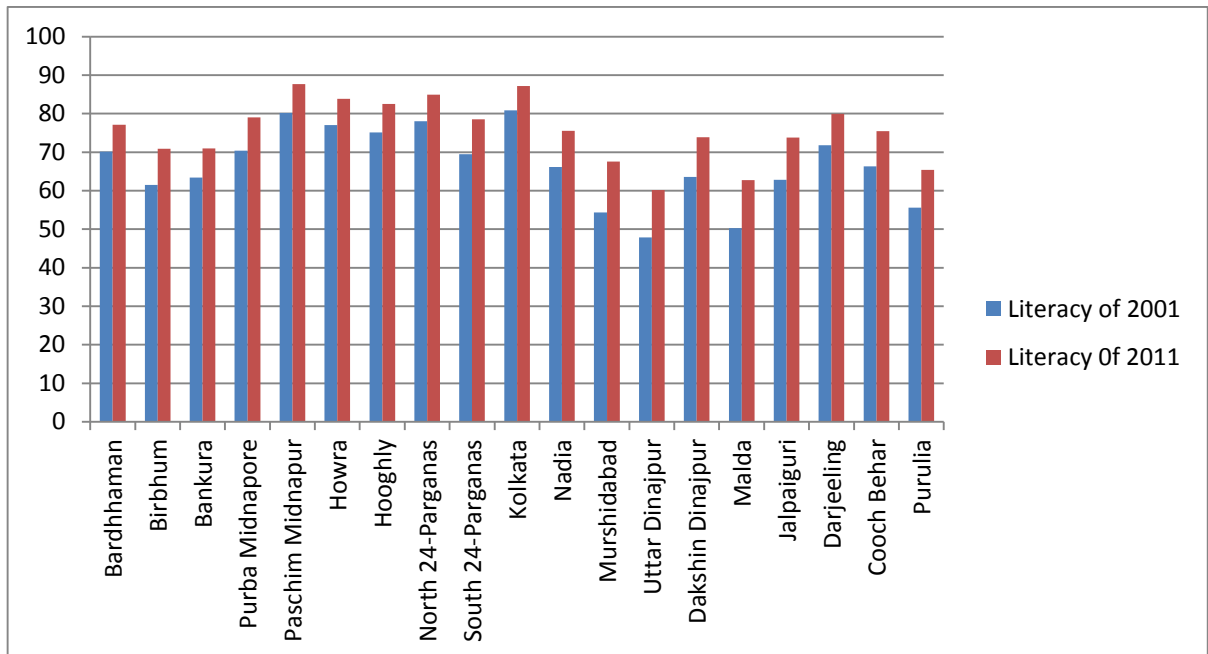**Table 5.2: Number of literate and literacy rate in West Bengal (in number)**

S.L	Districts	Census-2001		Census-2011	
		Number of literates	Literacy rate	Number of literates	Literacy rate
1	Bardhhaman	4205146	70.18	5350197	77.15
2	Birbhum	1553852	61.48	2175923	70.9
3	Bankura	1734222	63.44	2264013	70.95
4	Purba Midnapore		70.41	3969750	79.04
5	Paschim Midnapur	6164316	80.16	4173522	87.66
6	Howra	2895625	77.01	3642617	83.85
7	Hooghly	3333988	75.11	4140487	82.55
8	North 24-Parganas	6151527	78.07	7798722	84.95
9	South 24-Parganas	4067343	69.45	5639112	78.57
10	Kolkata	3382103	80.86	3648210	87.14
11	Nadia	2644461	66.14	3524073	75.58
12	Murshidabad	2620538	54.36	4134584	67.53
13	Uttar Dinajpur	923477	47.89	1521933	60.13
14	Dakshin Dinajpur	799479	63.59	1102355	73.86
15	Malda	1332704	50.28	2136898	62.71
16	Jalpaiguri	1810083	62.85	2527018	73.79
17	Darjeeling	1008288	71.79	1328218	79.92
18	Cooch Behar	1386965	66.3	1879984	75.49
19	Purulia	1182284	55.57	1656940	65.38
20	West Bengal	47196401	68.64	62614556	77.08

Source: Economic Review, WB, 2011-12

In the above Table we have given percentage of literacy in different districts of West Bengal. The highest literacy has been achieved in Kolkata and Paschim Mednapur district with 87 per cent both according to census 2001 and 2011. It is expected that Kolkata will achieve highest literacy but Midnapur, North 24 Parganas and Darjeeling is quite good in respect of literacy having 87 per cent, 84 per cent and 77 per cent respectively. Performance

of literacy for both mentioned census 2001 and 2011 is good for Brdhaman. On the other hand Dakshin Dinajpur is quite good in literacy compared to Uttar Dinajpur. Lowest literacy is being found in Uttar Dinajpur district, 60 per cent after Malda and Purulia having 62 per cent and 65 per cent. All informations have been gathered from provisional census report 2011. Literacy rate has been made more visible in the following bar diagram.

Figure: 5.2: Number of literate and literacy rate in West Bengal (in number)

In the above diagram we have shown literacy in 2001 by the blue bar and literacy in 2011 by red bar. It is noticeable that literacy rate in 2011 has increased in the entire district. As discussed above literacy is highest in Kolkata and Paschim Mednapur, it has shown by highest bar in the above diagram. The diagram also shows literacy is lowest in Uttar Dinajpur followed by Malda.

V.   INFORMATION RELATED TO FARM ACTIVITIES OF TWO SELECTED DISTRICTS

Economy of both districts of Bardhaman and Dakshin Dinajpur are predominantly agro-based. More than 65 per cent people depend on agricultural occupation in Bardhaman district and more than 80 per cent people depend on agriculture in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Bardhaman is the highest producer of rice and this state has produced 1665.9 thousand tonnes rice in 2010-11. The other crops producing in this district are Potato, Pulses, Jute,

and Oilseeds etc. On the other hand, Dashin Dinajpur is cultivating rice, chilly, potato, jute, vegetables, onions etc. Farmers of this district is poorer than that of Bardhaman district in respect of land holding, education, use of machineries, use of fertilizer etc.

Table 5.3: Land (in hectare) Available for Agriculture in Two Districts

District	Area According to Village Paper	Net Sown Area
Brdhaman	698762	452462
Dakshin Dinajpur	221909	183615

Source: Economic Review, WB, 2011-12

In the above Table we have shown land statistics of two selected districts of our study. We have classified lands into two categories viz. area according to village paper and net available sown area. Agricultural land available in Bardhaman district is 698762 hectare according to village paper and net sown are is 452462 hectare. On the other hand, area according to village paper is 221909 hectare in Dakshin Dinajpur district where net sown area is 183615 hectare. It is less than half of area available in Bardhaman district.

We know labourers are two types' viz. mental labourer and physical labourer. Mental labourers are doing their works with mental capability. For example we can say teacher, doctor etc. are doing their works mentally and for that they are getting remuneration. On the other hand, physical laboueres doing their works by physical effort and for that they earn money. Agricultural labourers are the concrete example of such labourers. Others example of physical laboueres are construction labourers, riksho pullers, daily wage labourers etc. In this study we are discussing about physical labourer. On the basis of census definition we have classified the workers found in the state into three categories to show the amplitude of workers in two selected blocks. According to this there exist main workers who had worked for the major part of the year preceding the date of enumeration and engaged in any economic activity for at least 183 days or more than that in a year. Beside main workers, marginal workers are also engaged in major portion of economic activities who work any time at all in the year preceding the enumeration but did not work for a major part of the year. They are doing work less than 183 day during a year. Lastly we can found the category of non-worker who had not worked any time at all in the year preceding the date of

enumeration. In the following Table we are highlighting number of main worker and marginal worker doing farm work in two districts.

Table 5.4: Main Worker, Cultivator and Agricultural Labourer Existing in two Districts

Sl.No	Type of Workers	Bardhaman	Dakshin Dinajpur
1	% of main workers W.B	8.26	6.52
2	Main workers	1902334	471187
3	Cultivators	314404	165471
4	Agriculture labourers	463185	142597
5	% of cultivators to main workers	16.53	35.11
6	% of agri- laburers to main workers	24.35	30.26

Source: Census 2001

The above Table shows percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourer to main workers. Percentage of main workers available in Bardhaman is 8.26 per cent and in Dakshin Dinajpur is 6.52 per cent. On the other hand, cultivator to main workers in Bardhaman is 16.53 per cent and 35.11 per cent in Dakshin Dinajpur. Similarly percentage of agri-labourers to main workers is high in Dakshin Dinajpur district.

Table 5.5: Marginal Worker, Cultivator and Agricultural Labourer Existing in two Districts

Sl.No	Type of Works	Bardhaman	Dakshin Dinajpur
1	% of marginal workers W.B	8.5	2.19
2	Marginal worker	548907	141541
3	Cultivators	47283	24342
4	Agriculture labourers	270837	79408
5	% of cultivators to marginal workers	8.61	17.19
6	% of agri- laburers to marginalworkers	49.34	56.1

Source: Census 2001

In the above Table we can see that percentage of marginal workers in Bardhaman district is 8.5 per cent and in Dakshin Dinajpur distrct is 2.19 per cent only. It indicates percentage of marginal workers is quite less in Dakshin Dinajpur. Similarly, we can see percentage of cultivator to marginal workers and agri-labourer is quite high in Dakshin Dinajpur district compared to Bardhaman.

Now we have classified the percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourers to main workers and marginal workers in three selected blocks of each district. Firstly, we are giving percentage of agricultural labourers and cultivators to main workers in three selected blocks of Bardhaman district. It has been shown in the following Table more specifically. We can see percentage of cultivators to main workers is highest in Aushgram II block compared to other two blocks. On the other hand, percentage of agri-labourer to main worker is highest in Memari II block.

Table 5.6: Main Worker, Cultivator and Agricultural Labourer Existing in three Blocks in Bardhaman

Sl.No	Type of Works	Memari-II	Katwa-II	Ausgram-II
1	Main workers	40189	36203	38879
2	Cultivators	9664	11089	12600
3	Agriculture labourers	18479	11898	14639
4	% of cultivators to main workers	24.04	30.63	32.4
5	% of agri- laburers to main workers	45.98	32.87	37.65

Source: Census 2001

Now we have explained the percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourers to marginal workers of selected blocks of Bardhaman. In the given Table percentage of cultivator to marginal worker is larger in Katwa II block compared to other two blocks. Similarly, percentage of agricultural labourer to marginal worker is highest in Aushgram II block in Bardhaman district.

Table 5.7: Marginal worker, cultivator and agricultural labourer existing in three blocks in Bardhaman

Sl No	Type of Works	Memori-II	Katwa-II	Ausgram-II
1	Marginal worker	15433	8013	28379
2	Cultivators	1390	949	2253
3	Agriculture labourers	11510	2282	21542
4	% of cultivators to marginal workers	9	11.84	7.94
5	% of agri- laburers to marginalworkers	74.58	28.48	75.9

Source: Census 2001

Details of workers classification of Dakshin Dinajpur has been shown in the following Table. We have made a primary survey at Balurghat, Banshihari and Kushmandi blocks in this district. Firstly, we shall discuss about percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourers to main workers available in Dakshin Dinajpur district. We can see that 49 per cent cultivators to main workers exist in Kushmandi block where 44.73 per cent exist in Banshihari and 34.02 exist in Balurghat. Similarly, a percentage of agri-labourer to main workers that exist in Kushmandi block is 34.11, in Banshihari is 28.87 and in Balurghat the percentage is 29.69. So both percentage of cultivators and agricultural laboureres to main workers is highest in Kushmandi block.

Table 5.8: Main Worker, Cultivator and Agricultural Labourer Existing in three Blocks in Dakshin Dinajpur

Sl. No	Type of Works	Baurghat	Banshihari	Kushmandi
1	Main workers	77603	36283	52948
2	Cultivators	26402	16233	26226
3	Agriculture labourers	23043	10474	18064
4	% of cultivators to main workers	34.02	44.73	49.53
5	% of agri- laburers to main workers	29.69	28.87	34.11

Source: Census 2001

Now we will see the percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourers to marginal workers of three selected blocks of Dakshin Dinajpur district. Information regarding availability of marginal workers exist in different blocks has been shown in the following Table. In is noticeable that percentage of cultivators to marginal workers which is 27.64 per cent is highest in Kushmandi block where 15.92 per cent exist in Banshihari and only 12.34 per cent exist in Balurghat block. Similarly, percentage of agricultural labourer exists in Banshihari having 69.05 per cent occupied highest position among the surveyed blocks.

Table 5.9: MarginalWorker, Cultivator and Agricultural Labourer Existing in three Blocks in Dakshin Dinajpur

Sl. No	Type of Works	Baurghat	Banshihari	Kushmandi
1	Marginal worer	20302	12914	19782
2	Cultivators	2507	2056	5467
3	Agriculture labourers	12999	8918	9441
4	% of cultivators to marginal workers	12.34	15.92	27.64
5	% of agri- laburers to marginalworkers	64.02	69.05	47.72

Source: Census 2001

VI. PROFILE OF TWO DISTRICTS ON THE BASIS OF PRIMARY DATA

We have surveyed 40 households from each block and three blocks in each district. So total 240 households have been surveyed in two district of West Bengal. We have selected Memari II, Katwa II and Aushgram II blocks from Bardhamaan district. Similarly, we have surveyed Balurghat, Banshihari and Kushmandi blocks from Dakshin Dinajpur district. After survey with structured questionnaire we have got the following information regarding different communities, level of education, occupational pattern and household assets etc.

VI.1. Different Communities Doing Farm Work

According to census 2001 the Scheduled Caste population in Bardhaman district is 1860754 whereas in Dakshin Dinajpur it is 432660. On the other hand, Scheduled Tribe population in Bardhaman is 441832 and in Dakshin Dinajpur is 242317 out of total population 6895514 in Bardhaman and 1503178 in Dakshin Dinajpur. It is common phenomenon that people belonging to Scheduled Caste community are doing farm activities in large scale in West Bengal. A big part of cultivation work is dominated by this community. Especially in Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur and in Jalpaiguri district gives strong evidence of this matter. But the picture is quite different in Bardhaman district where we have surveyed. Since Dakshin Dinajpur is Scheduled Caste dominated district therefore we can expect that farm activities are mostly done by this community. On the other hand, percentage of

Scheduled Caste community in Bardhaman district is quite less and agriculture works is done by other than Scheduled Caste communities.
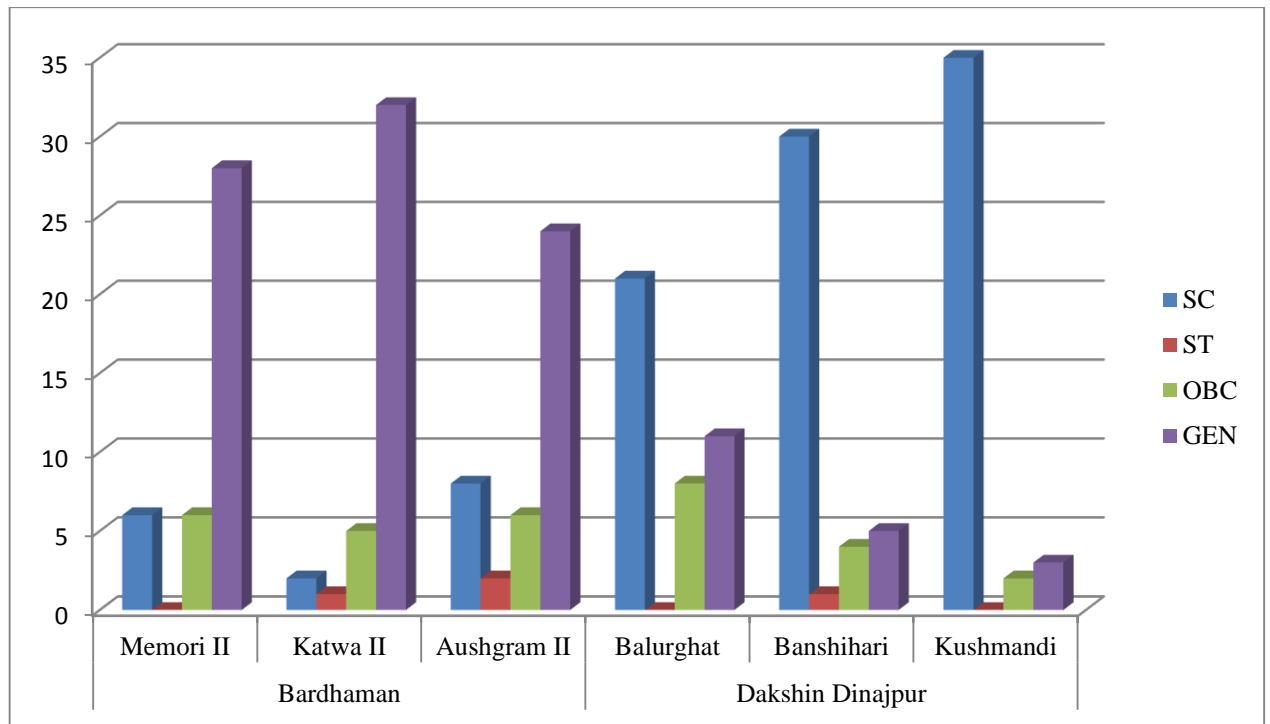
Table 5.10: Different Communities doing Farm Work in Bardhaman and Dakshin Dinajpur

Dist./Blocks		Caste				
		SC	ST	OBC	GEN	Total
Bardhaman	Memari II	6	0	6	28	40
	Katwa II	2	1	5	32	40
	Aushgram II	8	2	6	24	40
Total		16	3	17	84	120
Dakshin Dinajpur	Balurghat	21	0	8	11	40
	Banshihari	30	1	4	5	40
	Kushmandi	35	0	2	3	40
Total		86	1	14	19	120

Source: Field Survey

In the above Table we have shown the participation in farm works by different communities in two selected districts. We got total 84 households from GEN community, 17 from OBC, 3 from ST and only 16 household from SC community who are dependent on farm activities in Bardhaman district. So more than half of surveyed population belongs to GEN communities in Bardhaman. The picture is opposite in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Here 86 households are from SC community, 1 from ST, 14 from OBC and 19 from GEN communities who are doing agricultural activities for their survival. Engagement in farm activities by different communities has been shown in the following figure.

Figure: 5.3: Different Communities doing Farm Work in Bardhaman and Dakshin Dinajpur

Participation in farm work of different communities will become clear if we look at the above diagram. We can see agricultural works doing by GEN communities has highlighted by the purple colored bar. Similarly, blue bar shows the participation of SC community in farm works. On the other hand, green and red color bars show the farm works participation by OBC and ST communities. It shows that farm works done by GEN communities in Bardhaman district occupies the highest position. Similarly, farm works done by SC communities is very large in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Farm works done by other communities are not noticeable in both the districts.

VI.2. Education Level

We have said earlier that education is one of the most important factors of modern system of cultivation to get higher and quality production. It is not possible to do effective cultivation without proper knowledge. Different machineries have been introduced in farm sector which gives timely operation and quality production. On the other hand, government is giving huge subsidy on these machineries. To get the benefits of such farm machineries farmers have to know the proper purchasing system and implementation of these

machineries. For that sufficient education of farmer is required. So with improved farming system small farmers can do better cultivation by educational knowledge about modern farming system. If farmers are not much educated they cannot receive facilities of machineries provided by government in subsidized rate.
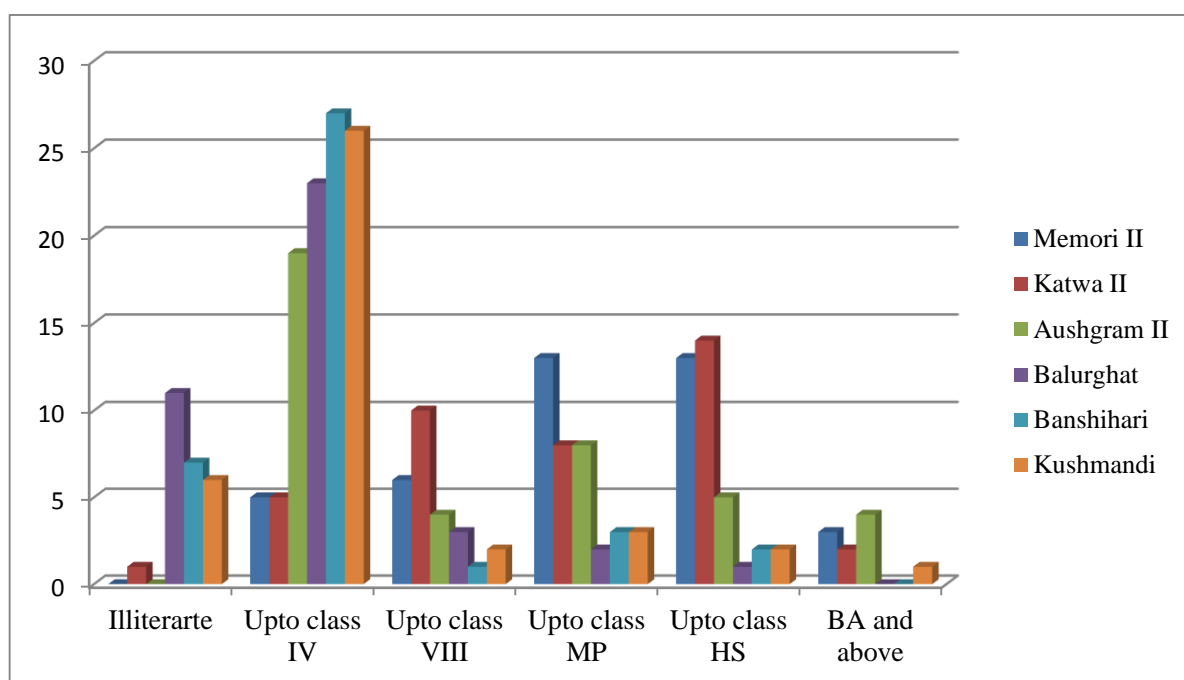
Table 5.11: Education Level of Farmers in both Districts

Dist./Blocks		Illiterarte	Upto class IV	Upto class VIII	Upto class MP	Upto class HS	BA and above	Total
Bardhaman	Memari II	0	5	6	13	13	3	40
	Katwa II	1	5	10	8	14	2	40
	Aushgram II	0	19	4	8	5	4	40
Total		1	29	20	29	32	9	120
Dakshin Dinajpur	Balurghat	11	23	3	2	1	0	40
	Banshihari	7	27	1	3	2	0	40
	Kushmandi	6	26	2	3	2	1	40
Total		24	76	6	8	5	1	120

Source: Field Survey

In the above Table we are giving educational status of different blocks surveyed in two districts. In the Bardhaman district we get total 9 households did study up to BA and above, 32 up to HS, 29 up to   MP, 20 up to VIII, 29 up to IV and we found only one farmer as illiterate. But the picture is different in case of Dakshin Dinajpur district. Here we found only one farmer did study up to BA and above whereas 5 household up to HS, 8 household up to MP, 6 household up to VIII class and major portion which total 76 farmers did study up to IV Class. Also we found that in total 24 famers are illiterate who are completely unaware about different facilities for agricultural production provided by the government.

Figure: 5.4: Education Level of Farmers in both Districts

Educational status is being depicted in the above diagram. We can see that education up to class IV is highest in selected blocks in Dakshin Dinajpur. On the other hand, education up to HS is the highest in selected blocks of Bardhamn district. Also we can see that BA and above education has found in blocks of Bardhaman where only in Kushmandi block of Dakshin Dinajpur district we found this level of education. So it is clear that Bardhaman district is quite advanced in education compared to Dakshin Dinajpur district.

VI.3. Occupational Status

Agricultural is the main occupation of rural people over the state. Although some of them are also engaged in other non- farm activities such as petty trade, grocery shop, services etc. The major portion of rural people cultivate on their land different types of crop. Since land holding has been decreasing gradually peoples are bound to take other non-farm jobs as their livelihood earning source. The other some reasons which are equally responsible for neglecting farm works are problem of marketing of agricultural produces, unremunerated price, lack of storage facility, lack of education, mono cropping, higher cost of farming due to increasing price of inputs etc. It is noticeable that markets for agro-crops are not remunerative from which farmers can earn good profits. On the other hand, lack of storing facilities destroy the chances of earning profitable price of non-durable crops like

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vegetables, fruits etc. Similarly, farmers are traditionally cultivating same crops like rice, wheat, pulses, and jute etc. in spite of low productivity. This is happening due to small landholding where there is no option to cultivate other commercial crops. Steep hike in the prices of fertilizer is another crucial factor of shifting of farmers from farm work to non-farm work. In spite of that many families living in rural areas depend on agriculture. In the following Table we have presented occupational status of surveyed people in both the districts.
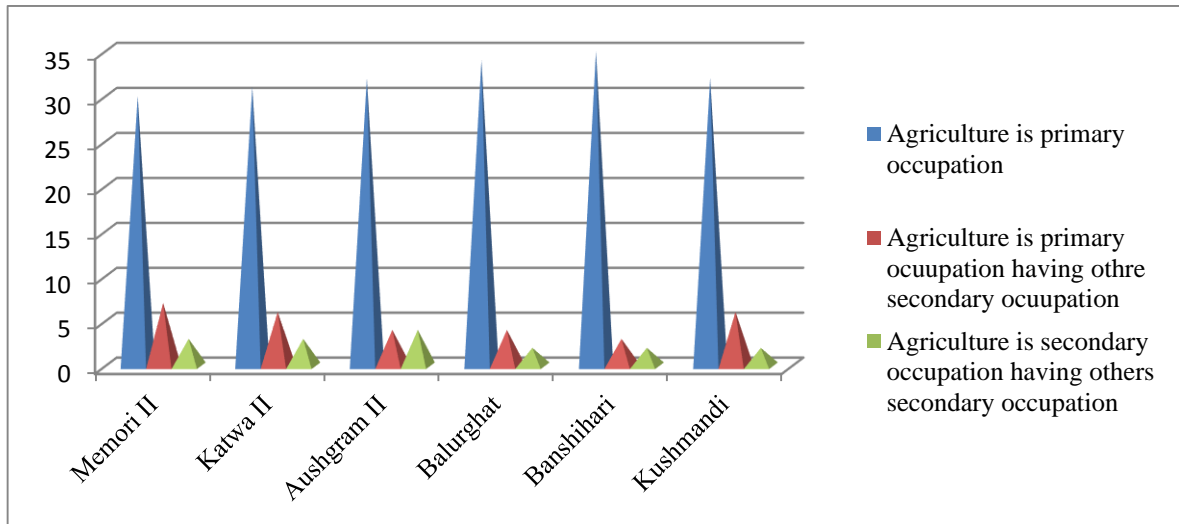
Table 5.12: Occupation Status of two Selected Districts

Dist./Blocks		Occupation			
		Agriculture is primary occupation	Agriculture is primary ocuupation having othre secondary ocuupation	Agriculture is secondary occupation having others secondary occupation	Total household
Bardhaman	Memari II	30	7	3	40
	Katwa II	31	6	3	40
	Aushgram II	32	4	4	40
Total		93	17	10	120
Dakshin Dinajpur	Balurghat	34	4	2	40
	Banshihari	35	3	2	40
	Kushmandi	32	6	2	40
Total		101	13	6	120

Source: Field Survey

We have classified occupation of sample people into three categories namely agriculture is primary occupation, agriculture is primary occupation having other secondary occupation and agriculture is secondary occupation having other primary occupation. We can see in the above Table that 93 households in Bardhaman and 101 households in Dakshin Dinajpur district belongs to under first category. 17 households in Bardhaman and 13 households in Dakshin Dinajpur is under second category. Similarly, 10 household is under third category in Bardhaman whereas this number for Dakshin Dinajpur is only 6.

Figure: 5.5: Occupation Status of two Selected Districts

This classification will be clear if we see the above diagram. Here we can see the blue bar which is denoting agriculture is primary occupation having no other subsidiary occupation is more or less same in all blocks surveyed in both districts. So it clear that major portion of rural people depends on agriculture till now.

VI.5. House Type and Different Assets

Since people living in village area is very poor, it is expected that their housing condition will be poor. Marginal and medium farmers are not able to make pacca house after making expenses of farm production. Farming life just is conductedon as "No profit No loss" basis. Major parts of rural are people living in katcha type house. Similarly, they are not able to construct sanitary latrines. Many families are using open surface for this purpose. The following Table shows the type of houses of two sample districts surveyed by us.

From the Table we can see that 29 households in Bardhaman and only 9 households in Dkshin Dinajpur district is living in pucca house. Similarly, in Bardhaman 73 households are living in semi-pucca house whereas in Dakshin Dinajpur 40 households are living in such house. The number of Kutcha house is very large in Dakshin Dinajpur district having
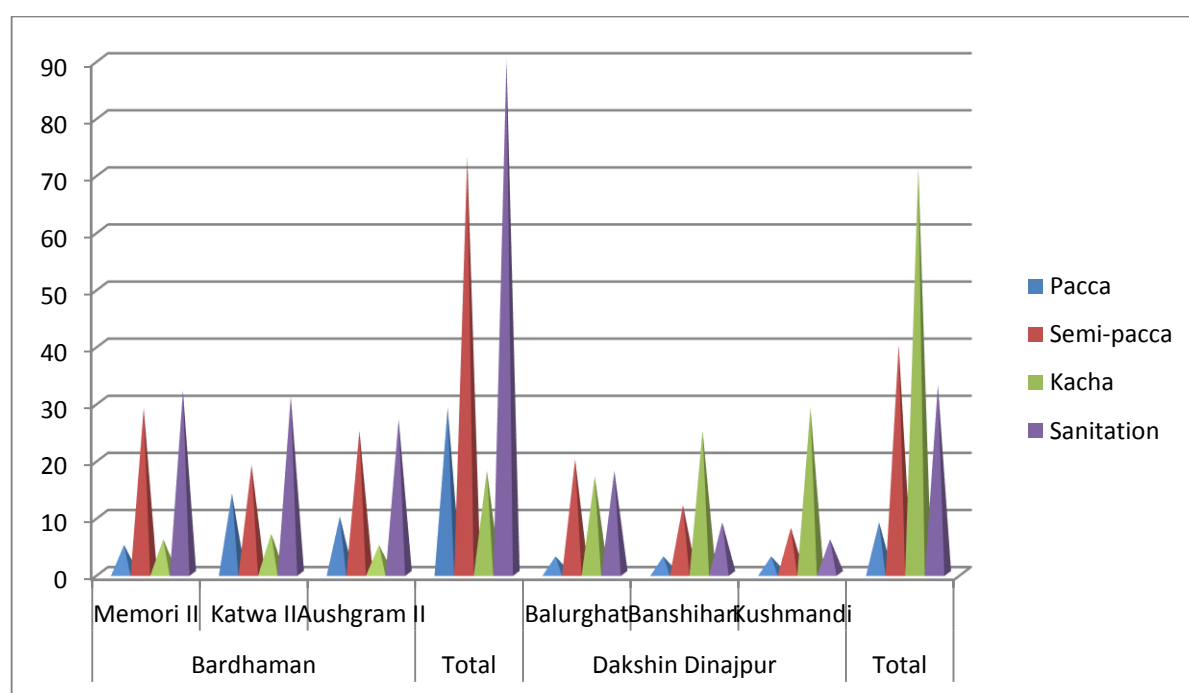
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Table 5.13: House Type and Nature of Sanitation in both the District (in number)

Dist./Blocks		House Type and Sanitation			
		Pacca	Semi-pacca	Kacha	Sanitation
Bardhaman	Memori II	5	29	6	32
	Katwa II	14	19	7	31
	Aushgram II	10	25	5	27
Total		29	73	18	90
Dakshin Dinajpur	Balurghat	3	20	17	18
	Banshihari	3	12	25	9
	Kushmandi	3	8	29	6
Total		9	40	71	33

Source: Field Survey

71 households whereas the number of this type of house in Bardhaman is only 18. So it is clear that farmers of Bardhaaman is quit rich than farmers of Daakshin Dinajpur district. It is also worth mentioning that most of the families living in Bardhaman district are using sanitary latrines whereas this number for other district is very low which is only 33. Poor people living in Dakshin Dinajpur district is not able to make sanitary latrines. They are using open space for this work which is harmful for the environment. In the following diagram we have presented the above matter.

Figure: 5.6: House Type and Nature of Sanitation in both the District (in number)

In the above diagram purple bar denotes availability of sanitation is highest in Bardhaman. Similarly, red bar shows houses belongs to semi-pucca which is highest in Bardhaman. On the other hand, green bar which shows the houses belong to Kutcha type is highest in Dakshin Dinajpur district. So it is clear that dominance of semi-pucca house is in Bardhaman and dominance of kutcha type house is in Dakshin Dinajpur district.

In the Table given below we have shown statistics related to asset information available in two districts in West Bengal. If we look at the household assets like TV, Mobile, Computer, Bank A/C, Insurance etc. we find huge difference between the two surveyed districts. Since farmers living in Bardhaman are quite educated they have opened Bank Account for their future needs. They also did insurance for the sake of security of future. We found that 88 households are holder of Bank Account whereas this number is 56 in Dakshin Dinajpur.

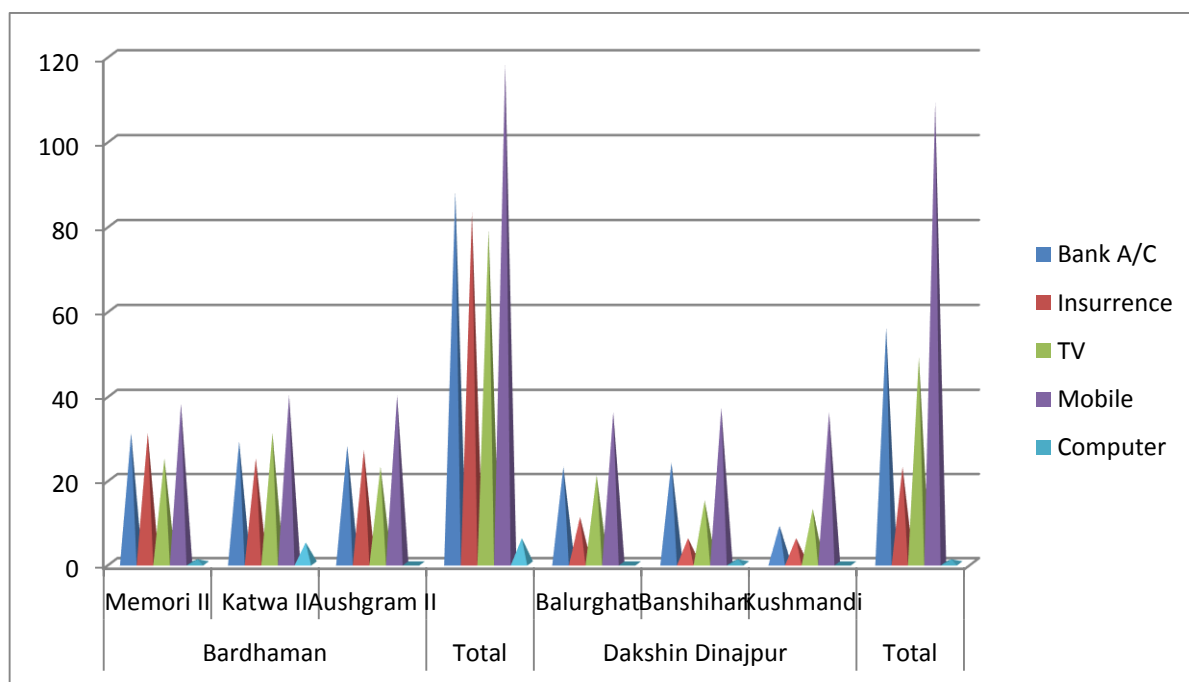**Table 5.14: Asset Information of two Selected Districts**

Dist./Blocks		Asset Information				
		Bank A/C	Insurance	TV	Mobile	Computer
Bardhaman	Memori II	31	31	25	38	1
	Katwa II	29	25	31	40	5
	Aushgram II	28	27	23	40	0
Total		88	83	79	118	6
Dakshin Dinajpur	Balurghat	23	11	21	36	0
	Banshihari	24	6	15	37	1
	Kushmandi	9	6	13	36	0
Total		56	23	49	109	1

Source: Field Survey

Also 83 households surveyed in Bardhaman district found who have insurance policy but for another district it is only 23. Total 79 TV has been found in Bardhaman and 49 in Dakshin Dinajpur. But the population with phone mobile is more or less same in both the districts since it seems to all as very necessary for current days. The access of computer is expensive to poor people living in rural areas. So it is difficult to find out use of computer in rural areas. Total 7 computers were found through the field of which 6 from Bardhaman and 1 from Dakshin Dinajpur. The asset information of two selected districts has shown in the following diagram. In this diagram we can see among all assets mobile is used as common asset by all the people living in both the district. It is also noticeable that bank account and

insurance policy is hold by farmers of Bardhaman with large numbers. Farmers of this district are aware about the government facilities which are provided thorugh bank account.

Figure: 5.7: Asset Information of two Selected Districts

We also collected data about possession of another type of asset which is known as animal asset in two districts. The available animal assets are bullock, cow, goat, duck, hen, buffolow and pig. Among all these animal assets bullock is considered as high valued asset in the farmer's house. Now a days price of one healthy bullock is Rs. 20000 to Rs. 35000. No doubt these assets give extra income but maintaining cost of animals also very high. So it is challenging to poor farmers for maintain this high valued asset in their poor house.

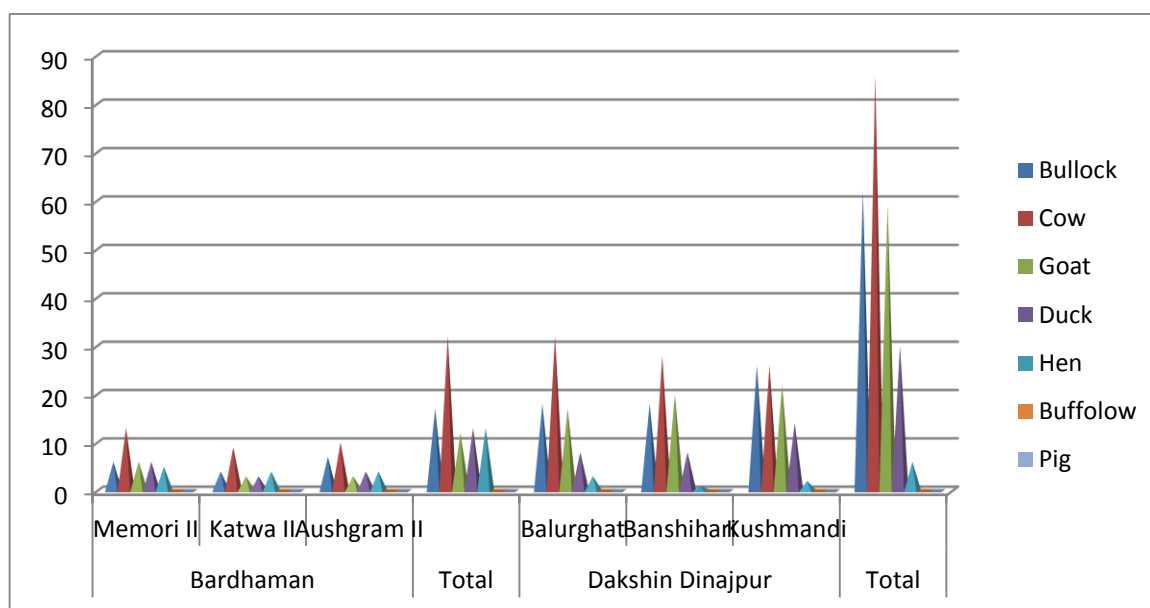**Table 5.15: Animal Asset Surveyed in two Districts**

Dist./Blocks		Type of Animal Assets						
		Bullock	Cow	Goat	Duck	Hen	Buffolow	Pig
Bardhaman	Memari II	6	13	6	6	5	0	0
	Katwa II	4	9	3	3	4	0	0
	Aushgram	7	10	3	4	4	0	0

	II							
Total		17	32	12	13	13	0	0
Dakshin Dinajpur	Balurghat	18	32	17	8	3	0	0
	Banshihari	18	28	20	8	1	0	0
	Kushmandi	26	26	22	14	2	0	0
Total		62	86	59	30	6	0	0

Source: Field Survey

It is worth mentioning that maintenance of bullocks is now a burden to the farmers as said by them. They told that bullocks are mainly used for tilling purpose but the cost of tilling their lands is quite low than maintenance of these bullocks. On the other hand the farmers who have 10 to 15 bighas of land one pair of bullock are not sufficient for tilling. As a result, they are using rotavator, tractor, and power tiller for tilling, pudding and harrowing purpose. But who are poor farmers especially of Dakshin Dinajpur district still is using bullock plough. In the above Table we can see total bollock plough exit in Bardhaman is only 17 whereas in Dakshin Dinajpur 62 out of 120 households possess this plough. Also other animal assets like cow, duck, hen, and goat found in both the districts but the ratio is high in Dakshin Dinajpur. In the following diagram we have presented extent of animal asset of two districts in West Bengal.

Figure: 5.8: Animal Asset Surveyed in two Districts

In the above figure we can see that these animal assets are not much available in the all blocks surveyed in Bardhaman. It indicates that farmers of this district mostly dependent on mechanized agriculture. On the other hand, concentration of animal asset is much higher in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Farmers of this district largely depend on animal power to cultivate their lands. Similarly, farmers of this district earn a large portion of their income from these animal assets.

VII. SUMMARY

In the summary of this chapter we can say thatWest Bengal is the most densely populated state as per 2011 census (1029 persons per sq. km). The total Scheduled Caste population in the state is 184.53 lakh and the total Scheduled Tribe population is 44.07 lakh and constitute 23.01 per cent (all India: 16.20 per cent) and 5.50 per cent (all India: 8.20 per cent) of the entire population of the state respectively. The average literacy rate in the state is 68.64 per cent which is higher than the national average of 65.38 per cent. Of the total rural workers, 19.53% and 19.30% are cultivators and agricultural labourers, respectively, while 4.72 percent are engaged in household industries. We have classified lands into two categories viz. area according to village paper and net available sown area. Agricultural land available in Bardhaman district is 698762 hectare according to village paper and net sown are is

452462 hectare. On the other hand, area according to village paper is 221909 hectare in Dakshin Dinajpur district whereas net sown area is 183615 hectare. It is less than half of area available in Bardhaman district. We found that landholding is quite good in Bardhaman compared to Dakshin Dinajpur. Similarly, level of education is high in Bardhaman and in Dakshin Dinajpur it is very less. Total 88 farmers out of 120 farmers of Bardhaman are bank account holder and total 83 farmers are insurance policy holders whereas this number is 56 and 23 respectively in Dakshin Dinajpur. It has found that more or less all farmers are using mobile phone in both the districts. On the other hand, animal asset is higher in Bardhaman compared to Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal.