
CHAPTER - VII
PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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7.1 Introduction

The objectives of the present research i.e. “A Study on Status of Socio-Economic Conditions of Dakshin Dinajpur District: A Geographical Analysis” is to identify the Status and level of development of various C.D Blocks based on Some major social and economic indicators and to identify the spatial as well as temporal pattern of development. And after going through the research work the researcher is coming up with some problems that exists among the various C.D Blocks as well as over the entire district. The district is one of the backward regions of entire state in terms of some social as well as economic aspects and the level of urbanization, industrialization is also very low throughout the district. Even today when the whole world is fast moving towards industrialization and the overall economy is shifting towards tertiary sector and the social structure is moving towards rapid urbanization, then the district of Dakshin Dinajpur is basically depending on agrarian economy. So, the status of population in terms of socio-economic perspective is clearly understood to all of us. A baseline survey over some selected villages on Socio-Economic status has been conducted by researcher to identify the major area of problems which need immediate government intervention and attention. The village level data identify the problems associated with the basic needs like electrification, sanitary conditions, and income source and income level, educational status, health facilities, housing conditions and so on. The secondary data has been used for analytical purpose and given the true direction for forward action.

The following facts clearly states about some major issues spreading across the eight C.D. Blocks of the district as well as the district as a whole. These includes the major demographic, social, infrastructural and economic problems of the study area.

7.2 Problems

The Problems of the district has been divided under following categories

7.2.1 Smaller District

The district is a smaller district having 2219 sq.km area and ranks 16th in state and 477th in India in terms of geographical area i.e. very small in terms of area. This is because big companies are not interested to establish their commercial set up for their small business hinterland and small volume of effective customer.

7.2.2. Rural Dominant

The district has altogether 1631 villages and ranked 11 in state and 110 in India i.e. rural predominant district and only two Municipalities and the rate of urban population is 14.10% which is much lower than states average.e.31.87%. This means the opportunity for employability is low in service sectors.

7.2.3 Low Volume of Population

The district has a very low population i.e.1676276 as per census of India 2011 and ranks 19th in State as well as 295 in India in terms of population.

7.2.4 Sex- ratio

Sex ratio of the district of Dakshin Dinajpur is 956 taking 7th rank in State and 267th Rank in India. In case of rural sex-ratio the district scores 952 which is lower than that of states average i.e. 953 and ranks 12th in the state and 315th in the Country. This signifies that the rural population is still unaware about the importance of equality of sexes and women education is still at a neglected stage.

7.2.5 Low Density of Population

Density Regarding Density of population the district has 755 persons per sq.km amongst it 658 persons per sq.km is rural population density. The district ranks 14th as per overall population density in state and 149 in India. In case of rural population density, it ranks 12th in West Bengal and 114th in India. Population density signifies the pool factors available at a particular place.

7.2.6 Low Decadal Growth of Population

Decadal growth of the district recorded for the last census year 2011 is 11.52% which is lower than the states average i.e.13.84%. The growth rate of rural population in the district is 10.23% higher than states average 7.68%. It ranks in the state 10th and

383th in India. Besides natural growth peoples are not ready to come and stay here as their permanent resident.

7.2.7 Economically Active Population

The district has altogether 1070862 economically active populations as per census of India 2011 which ranks 19th in the state of west Bengal and 267th in India and rural economically active population occupies the rank 17th in the State and 192nd in India. This figure signifies the job opportunities among the district as a whole.

7.2.8 Migration

In migration from Bangladesh is a common problem in this district since independence as three sides of the district is bordered by Bangladesh. This is putting immense pressure on population and social structure of the adjoin Blocks of the district.

7.2.9 Level of Unemployment

Employment is one of the most significant issues in terms of the living conditions in Dakshin Dinajpur District. The rate of employment generation has been lower than the rate of growth of the total population. The job creation has shifted towards more casual and marginal work for both men and women. In Dakshin Dinajpur, the decline in the proportion of cultivators has been accompanied by an increase in the share of agricultural workers.

7.2.10 Transportation-Roads and Railways

One of the most important reasons for the backwardness of the district is the lack of road connectivity as already stated there is only one link road erstwhile State highway non 10 now converted into National Highway no 512 which connects the district with the rest of the state and the country. The length of the road network under the control of the public works department is approximately 350Km and the district ranks 18th in the state in respect of PWD surface road network. Railway service is also restricted and only one single line via Eklakhi is connected within the outer world.

7.2.11 Irrigation

The district is traversed by a number of potential rivers channels, canals and water bodies. Surprisingly, only 34.5% of the cultivable area is under irrigation network in the district.

7.2.12 Agriculture

The paddy cultivation is gradually becoming costlier and the farmers' prices are fluctuating. Jute, which used to be grown in large quantum in the district, has lost its viability in the face of easy availability of substitute cheaper products.

7.2.13 Industry

There is no known initiative/interest among the people towards setting up of industries in the district. Conventional metallurgical and engineering industries are not viable, as the district has no mineral reserve. The modern industries like software technology and bio technology are a far cry as the district cannot provide logistic and technical manpower support. Only a few enterprising people have so far ventured outside the traditional rice mill and oil mill sectors.

7.2.14 Physical Infrastructure

Health and Educational infrastructural problems are the major areas which leads to backwardness of some blocks of the district. There is also spatial variation among all C.D Blocks regarding this problem.

7.2.15 Attitude of People

There also appears to be psychological barrier in the mindset of the people. The people in general appear to be contented with what they have got from ancestors. The agrarian society of the district is in general comparatively lazy and this is why peoples' attitude towards doing something new is also a common problem among the residents of the district

7.3 Recommendations

Though the district has several problems but there are positive sides also through which the C.D Blocks in general and the district as a whole in particular could improve its various conditions which ultimately will lead to overall socio- economic development in the whole district.

7.3.1 Agricultural Development

The district is agriculturally rich there is surplus paddy and vegetable production in the district. The economy of the district is dependent on agriculture. The

availability of agricultural labour is also on the higher side. There are a well-structured and experienced agro-extension network services supported by Research and Development facilities. This could uplift the overall income of the farmers. So Attention must be paid on agricultural sector so that overall economic development could reach to a desired line through agricultural and allied activities.

7.3.2 Water Resource

The district is highly potential with surface water resources. Utilization of surface water can be effectively monitored for further development in agriculture sector thus reducing the thread to the shrinkage of ground water which is necessary for the security of safe drinking water.

7.3.3 Agro-Industries

There are also large opportunities in agro-based and agro-processing industries. Rice bran oil and paddy husk based industries and products offer veritable opportunities. Fruits and vegetable processing sectors also offer opportunities. What is needed is making the necessary logistic support available to the interested entrepreneurs.

7.3.4 Health and Educational Infrastructure

Govt. should provide adequate health and educational infrastructures among all C.D Blocks throughout the district so that every person should get access for the two basic needs of human wellbeing. Private organizations too should think into the matter carefully for their corporate social responsibility.

7.3.5 Hili-The Largest Land port

Hili is the second largest land port of the state located at in this district, products can be exported to Bangladesh and South-eastern Asian Countries through Bangladesh. Hili land port is so long serving that the interest of the exporters from outside that district and the state, with only a few locals making marginal gains as their agents. The opportunity is there for the local entrepreneurs to take advantage of this unique opportunity of having a land port in the district.

7.3.6 Handloom and handicrafts

The district has a long tradition in handloom and handicrafts which have great consumer demand both in domestic and in export market. The Traditional strength of the district in these sectors should be more expanded through training, design and Research and Development support for the betterment in economic sector.

7.3.7 Self-Help Group

The district has registered substantial growth of employment for the women specially in the rural areas. There are presently about 5000 self-help groups in the district-most of which nearly 90% formed by the women. Most of the women SHGs are engaged in income generating and self-sustaining. This is empowering women as well as rural economy to some extent and could be beneficial if proper attention is given on this segment.

7.3.8 Tourism

The water bodies of the district are the envy of many others outside the district. This advantage required to be utilized to the fullest extent through development of pisciculture, social forestry along the embankments and conversion to tourist spots with boating and water sport facilities. This could be the alternative source of income and will be a boon to the economy of the district. Based on this rural tourism could get a new dimension. Hili border Tourism could have a huge potentiality.

7.3.9 Cultural Harmony

The district is culturally rich. There is a long tradition for pursuit of intellectual maturity. Social bindings are also very strong in a pro-active manner. Even being a bordering district, the people of the district maintain high standard of communal harmony and caste co-existence.

7.3.10 Peace Loving People

The people of the district are generally peace loving even being a border district, the evils of cross-border social problems are less. The migration has added to the population of the district, but at the same time it has a soothing effect. The people coming from Erstwhile undivided Dinajpur now in Bangladesh having lost their home

and hearth do not want to lose the same again and want to lead their lives peacefully in their adopted land.

The above all recommendations are not only for the entire district but also for micro region like C.D. Blocks too. Because without proper development in demographic, educational and infrastructural sectors the overall development of any place could never be a reality for a region.

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