
CHAPTER-VIII
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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8.1 Summary

The present study is a comprehensive pursuit that has been taken by researcher to explore the Socio-Economic status of rural areas in Dakshin Dinajpur District and to investigate the Inter-regional disparities in Socio Economic aspects and also an approach for inclusive planning for the future development of this area. After designing the research hypothesis researcher has tried to set up the objectives and required methods for the study. The analysis has based on some empirical study with the help of quantitative and qualitative approach. The study may contribute some basic knowledge about the Socio-Economic status of the study area and hoped that this criterion of study may be referred for the Socio-Economic Status study of any region.

After going through the detail investigation and observation and coming to the end of this study the researcher has summarized the thesis in the following manner:

- 1) Dakshin Dinajpur, one of the backward district of west Bengal is influenced by the International Border as it bounded three sides by Bangladesh border. It has a greater significance of multi ethnicity composition of population.
- 2) This District has a total number of eight Community Developmental Blocks and two Subdivisions, eight Panchayat Samities, 65 GPs, 929 Gram Sansad, 1638 Mouzas and 1579 inhabited villages with a total rural population of 1676276 (As per 2011 census)
- 3) The total area of this district has been recorded as 2219 sq. km which is 2.5% of total State area and ranked 16 in the entire state and 477 in India in terms of Geographical area of the District.
- 4) In first chapter, Researcher has tried to explain the basic information of the study such as location of the study area, Significance of the study, Objectives and data sources of the study and methodologies adopted for the study. The researcher also mentioned some notable researcher work in the form of literature review associated with the study.

- 5) The second chapter entitled as “Physical and Socio Economic background of study area” has demonstrated the basic physical aspects of study area such as physiography, drainage, climate, Soil, Natural vegetation and on the other hand some socio economic background like Demography, Education, Caste composition, Occupational structure, Economic Structure and transport and communication.
- 6) The third chapter has introduced about the basic concept of Indicators, historical background of Indicator movement, Position of various socio economic developmental indicator of India, characteristics of Indicators and expressed the way for selecting the required Indicators for achieving the objectives of the present study. The Indicators have been classified in two heads i.e. Social Indicators and Economic Indicators. Altogether the researcher has taken a total number of fifty Indicators to clearly identify the Social as well as Economic Status of the Study area.
- 7) In fourth chapter, the researcher has analyzed the social status of study area and measured its various dimension taking some social and demographic indicators like population density, sex ratio, marital status, literacy, caste composition, religious composition etc. Researcher has also adopted the help of the primary data which have been collected from field survey and finally researcher has classified the whole region into four developmental zones based on the Social composite index values. Balurghat and Tapan blocks are falling under the category of High level status whereas Harirampur and Hili blocks are listed under the least developed status. The rest four blocks i.e. Gangarampur, Kushmandi and Kumarganj, Bansihari blocks have been categorized as moderately high and moderately low social status respectively.
- 8) In fifth chapter, “Measurement of Economic Status” the researcher has explained the overall status of economic condition of study area. This chapter vividly illustrates the status of working population and non-working population, status of health infrastructure, status of educational infrastructure, irrigation facilities, power supply, drinking water facilities, banking facilities, and transport and communication system. The researcher has calculated the Composite Index values and finally represented the result by using Kendall’s rank Coefficient Index Method and the categorized the whole region into different Economic Developmental zones namely High, Moderately High, Moderately Low and Low. Like social aspect, Balurghat and Tapan has categorized as

High developmental category among all the eight CD Blocks and Harirampur and Hili blocks are found to be low developed zones in terms of Economic aspects. Rest four blocks namely Kumarganj, Gangarampur and Banshihari, Kushmandi are demarcated as moderately high and Moderately Low Economically Developed Blocks.

- 9) The sixth chapter mainly focused on the overall Socio Economic Development of the study area based on combined Composite Index values following Kendal's Ranking Coefficient Method and Mean Composite "Z" Score Method. This Chapter has also encompassed the temporal variation of the combined Composite Index Values from 2001 to 2011. It has also spelled out with four developmental zones viz. High, Moderately High, Moderately Low and Low. Finally, all the blocks have been grouped into above mentioned Socio Economic Developmental zones like Balurghat and Tapan as High, Harirampur and Hili as Low and rest four blocks i.e. Gangarampur, Kumarganj and Banshihari and Kushmandi as Moderately High and Moderately Low respectively. The Researcher also tried to examine the correlation between Socio Economic Composite Index Values and Population Distribution of eight CD Blocks by using Karl Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and finally tested the result by Student's 't' test Method and found a very positive Correlation Coefficient i.e. 0.805 (80.50%)
- 10) Chapter seven is basically dealing with the major problems of the study area. The problems have been identified under Social and Economic aspects such as Demographic, Educational, Health, Infrastructural, Rural Dominancy, International Migration, Economically active population problem, Unemployment, Transportation and Communication etc. The study area is also suffering from the access of Industrial Development as no large Industry is present till date. In this chapter, Researcher has also suggested some foremost important aspects through which the District could get a positive momentum towards the overall Socio Economic Development in coming days. Moreover, the Researcher has focused on some strategies like agricultural development, agro based industries, water resource management, mass education, community health and infrastructural development and rural tourism etc. for the improvement of existing Socio Economic situations.

8.2 Conclusion

The present research is a comprehensive initiative to explore the existing Socio-Economic Status and level of Development and its Intra-Regional disparities in the District of Dakshin Dinajpur. The foregoing study shows that there are remarkable Regional Disparities in the level of Socio-Economic Development among various C.D Blocks of the study area. The present study has also shown the temporal variation of the level of Socio-Economic Development. The District is basically a backward area which is bounded by the International border of Bangladesh by three sides i.e. North, South and East and the basic economy of the district is based on agriculture. It is also characterized by a rural dominant district as more than 86% population to the total district population resides in rural areas which is much higher than the state's average i.e. 68.13% as per 2011 census. The study has identified the overall status of Socio-Economic development of this area. There are lot of challenges for a sustainable development of this district. Balurghat and Tapan are comparatively high developed Blocks within the District in respect Social, Economic as well as Socio-Economic Context. The locational advantage of these two Blocks have acted as a catalyst for such development. The Infrastructural development of these two blocks are comparatively better as because of their better access and nearest location to the District Head quarter, Balurghat. In fact, these two blocks are enjoying the availability of basic amenities and services provided by the District Head Quarter, Balurghat. In case of Moderately High Developed Blocks we could tell that Gangarampur and Kumarganj blocks are coming under this category. These four Blocks i.e. Balurghat, Tapan, Gangarampur and Kumarganj have the level of development above the average of the district. While the rest four Blocks i.e. Kushmandi, Banshihari, Harirampur and Hili, are comparatively less developed and its development level is below the district average. Among those Banshihari and Kushmandi blocks are falling under the category of Moderately Low Developmental zones. On the other hand, Harirampur and Hili Blocks have been demarcated as Low Developed Blocks according to Social, Economic and Socio-Economic aspects. The basic observation concludes that the blocks having Moderately High status is approaching towards the High Development in comparison to the blocks having Moderately Low developmental status. This is because of the insufficiency of basic amenities and basic infrastructural availability of those Blocks. The early age marriage coupled with inadequate women education facilities also responsible for such

backward situation. So, remarkable attention must be paid to Low Developmental Blocks like Banshihari, Kushmandi, Harirampur and Hili.

Among all the variables the Education is most and crucial point which should be improved quantitatively and qualitatively by setting up Higher Study centers, mass literacy centers and quality infrastructure in school including an adequate teacher student ratio. Then the second vital point which should be kept in mind that the Health Condition and health infrastructure in the study area. This factor is remained in unsatisfactory status in less developed Blocks. The field survey has identified a lots of challenges for better medical opportunities in Hili, Kushmandi, Harirampur and Banshihari blocks. This is the district where no higher level health care services are present like Govt. Medical College, or Private Health care provider. But recently A super specialty hospital has been set up in Balurghat but all sort of medical services is yet to start and for that reason the residents of this district are dependent on nearest Malda Medical College which is 110 km from Balurghat. A number of Health centers are there without basic facilities and failed to get the confidence of the common people of these Blocks. Job opportunities is the another factor which act as a push factor for outward migration of youth people from this district. The lack of awareness about proper family planning along with the poor conditions of public health significantly impacted upon the age-sex structure as it reduce the number of working force and increase the dependency rate. The researcher has finally concluded that there is a positive correlation between the developmental status and population distribution and the result has been tested earlier. Policy makers must think this issues and barriers of current status of development of each block. So, based on these aspects it can be said that attention must be paid to the respective sectors specially Education, Health and basic civic amenities in all C.D Blocks so that a balanced Socio-Economic Development could take place across all Blocks and disparities in development could be minimized in the district. Policymakers may prepare a comprehensive plan of development separately for each C.D Block based on advantages, disadvantages and existing situations of each Block. This way a customized plan could come up with a vision to take care each aspect within a stipulated time frame so that these developmental gap could be filled up and the peoples living across all C.D Blocks could live a better life in the coming days.