

CHAPTER – 2

Phansidewa Development Block: Administrative and Socio-Economic Profile

2.1: Introduction

Management or administration procedure of a government is not same everywhere. Management of a governmental institution depends on many factors like the culture, custom, education and several other socio-economic ingredients of the state or region. As it is evidenced from the fact that the governance of the Gram Panchayats in Kerala is not similar to governance of the Gram Panchayats in West Bengal, because environment prevailing in these two states are completely different. Therefore, understanding of the environment is *sine qua non* to understanding the governance of an institution. Keeping this objective in mind, this chapter has been devoted to the study of the socio-economic and administrative profile of Phansidewa Development Block.

2.2: Profile of Phansidewa Development Block

Phansidewa is one of the community development blocks located under the jurisdiction of Siliguri Sub-Division in Darjeeling district. Study of the details socio-economic profile of the block seems essential for developing a comprehensive understanding of the reasons responsible for existing management practices prevailing in the Gram Panchayats. The priori assumption is that this study of the profile will facilitate in identifying the factors responsible for making management of a Gram Panchayat successful.

2.3: Location

Phansidewa Development Block lies between 26°35'N to 26°35'N longitude and 88°22'E to 88°36'E latitude. It has an average elevation of 98 meters (324 feet) above the sea level.



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2.4: Topography

Phansidewa is one of the important development blocks under the Siliguri Sub-Division in the district of Darjeeling in West Bengal with geographical area of 308.65 sq. kms. (Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa, Block Profile) The block has four types of borders i.e., international, inter-state, inter-district and inter-block. Phansidewa is bounded in the North by the border of Matigara Block under the Siliguri Sub-Division, on the east by the Indo-Bangladesh international border, on the West it is partly confined by the boundary of Kharibari Block and partly by the boundary of Naxalbari Block. In the South-West there is inter-state boundary of neighbouring state Bihar. On the south its jurisdiction is defined by the boundary Uttar Dinajpur district. See Fig 2.1 for having a glimpse of its geographical position.

2.5: Gram Panchayats under the Phansidewa Development Block

Phansidewa block consists of seven Gram Panchayats, encompassing area of 113 mouzas with total area of 308 Square kilometres. List of the Gram Panchayats has been shown in Table 2.1 along with their respective areas in square kilometres.

TABLE 2.1: GRAM PANCHAYATS UNDER PHANSIDEWA BLOCK

| Sl. No. | Name of Gram Panchayat | Area (sq. kms) |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Bidhannagar-1 | 44.332 |
| 2. | Bidhannagar-2 | 33.758 |
| 3. | Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 49.914 |
| 4. | Ghoshpukur | 53.378 |
| 5. | Hetmuri Singhijhora | 53.714 |
| 6. | Jalas Nizamtara | 39.693 |
| 7. | Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 33.340 |

Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa, Block Profile

Table 2.1: shows that the Hetmuri Singhijhora Gram Panchayat covers the largest area, which is around 18% of the total area of the block; whereas, the Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat is found to be the smallest Gram Panchayat in terms of area, which is around 10% of the total area of the block. Geographical area of the block

has been shown in Fig. 2.1 and list of Mouzas has been shown in Table 2.2 as shown below:

MAUZA MAP OF PHANSIDEWA DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
PHANSIDEWA : DARJEELING
INDICATE 0-10 KM DISTANCE FROM BANGLADESH BORDER BY STAR MARK

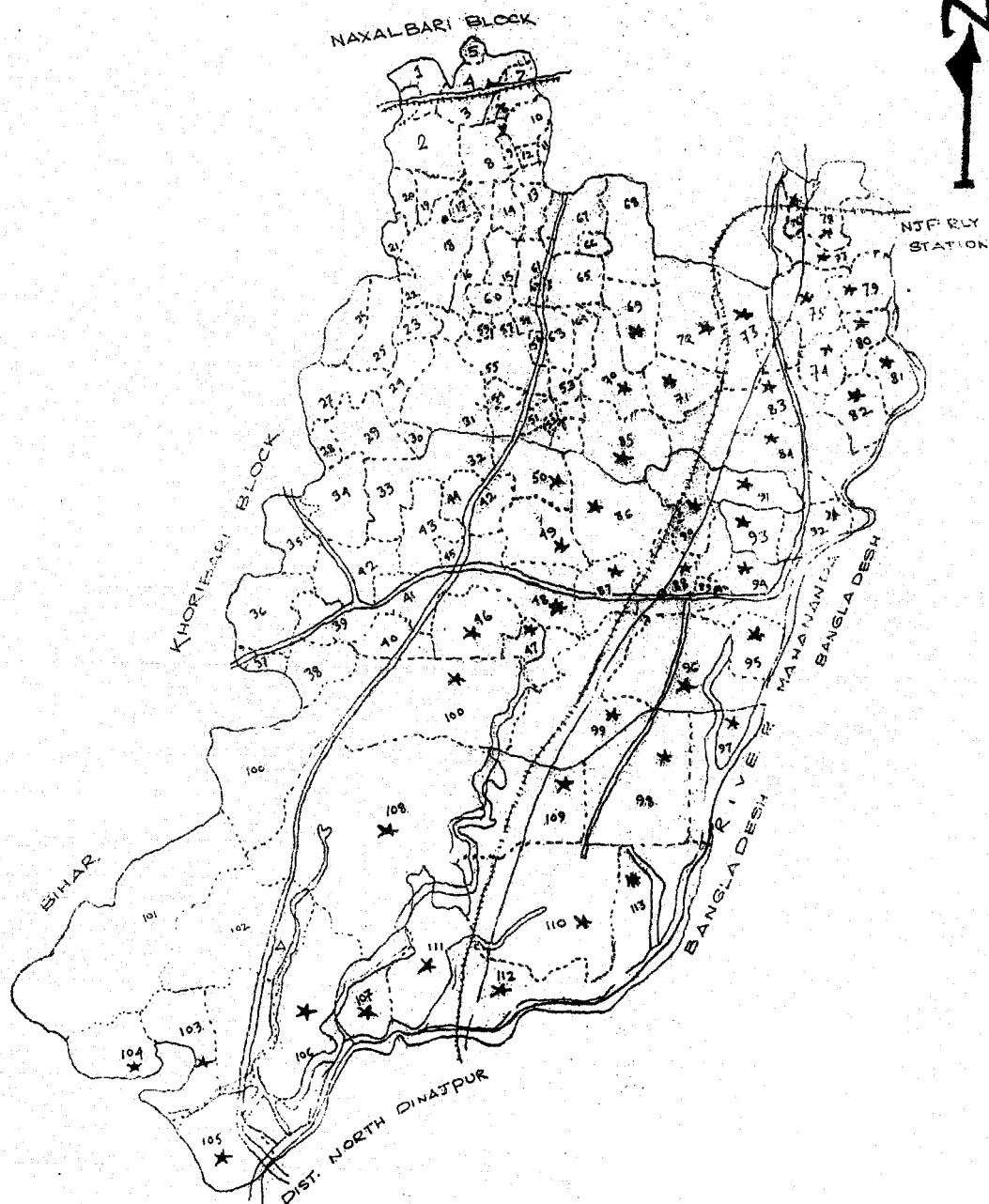


FIG 2.1: MAP OF PHANSIDEWA DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa, Block Profile

TABLE 2.2: MOUJAS UNDER THE PHANSIDEWA BLOCK

| Sl.No | Name of the Mouza | J.L. No | Sl. No | Name of the Mouza | J.L.No | Sl. No | Name of the Mouza | J.L. No |
|-------|------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Mahideb | 01 | 40 | Ambari | 40 | 79 | Dwara Baksa | 79 |
| 2 | Chowpukuria | 02 | 41 | Moilani | 41 | 80 | Rahamu | 80 |
| 3 | Krishnapur T.G | 03 | 42 | Harivita | 42 | 81 | Laldas | 81 |
| 4 | Sannyasi Thanner Chhat | 04 | 43 | Farabari | 43 | 82 | Hatiram | 82 |
| 5 | Sannyasi Than | 05 | 44 | Haodavita | 44 | 83 | Kashiram | 83 |
| 6 | Jabrali | 06 | 45 | Thakurganj | 45 | 84 | Leusipakuri | 84 |
| 7 | Jabrali Chhat | 07 | 46 | Jogivita | 46 | 85 | Hetmuri | 85 |
| 8 | Singhijhora | 08 | 47 | Lachuvita | 47 | 86 | Lembutari | 86 |
| 9 | Harising | 09 | 48 | Fulbar | 48 | 87 | Kantivita | 87 |
| 10 | Harising Chhat | 10 | 49 | Churaman | 49 | 88 | Mohipal | 88 |
| 11 | Kadopani | 11 | 50 | Bhalomanshi | 50 | 89 | Dhamnagachh | 89 |
| 12 | Bhaisdubi | 12 | 51 | Thuna | 51 | 90 | Kadmi' | 90 |
| 13 | Loha Kachi | 13 | 52 | Tunar Chhat | 52 | 91 | Sahananda | 91 |
| 14 | Rangali | 14 | 53 | Baramala | 53 | 92 | Rupandighi | 92 |
| 15 | Visti | 15 | 54 | Bandir Chhat | 54 | 93 | Guabari | 93 |
| 16 | Taipoo T.E. | 16 | 55 | Bandi | 55 | 94 | Bandargachh | 94 |
| 17 | Panaullar Chhat | 17 | 56 | Dulur Chhat | 56 | 95 | Purba Bansaon Kismat | 95 |
| 18 | Halal | 18 | 57 | Muktar Chhat | 57 | 96 | Uttar Bansaon Kismat | 96 |
| 19 | Banur Chhat | 19 | 58 | Sangatram | 58 | 97 | Bansaon Mangachh | 97 |
| 20 | Bangaru | 20 | 59 | Nitu Vita Chhat | 59 | 98 | Madhya Bansaon | 98 |
| 21 | Dhemaler Chhat | 21 | 60 | Gangaram Maler Chhat | 60 | 99 | Paschim Bansaon Kismat | 99 |
| 22 | Bhubanguri Chhat | 22 | 61 | Meherulla | 61 | 100 | Paschim Madati | 100 |
| 23 | Bhariadangi | 23 | 62 | Heladadam Chhat | 62 | 101 | Mandilajhar | 101 |
| 24 | Bhariadangi Chhat | 24 | 63 | Sarkergachher Chhat | 63 | 102 | Bara paikpara Arazi | 102 |
| 25 | Patharhiriria | 25 | 64 | Sarkergachher | 64 | 103 | Chhpto Paikpara Arazi | 103 |
| 26 | Patharhiriria Chhat | 26 | 65 | Baraigachh | 65 | 104 | Lahugaon | 104 |
| 27 | Fakirdeep | 27 | 66 | Raghunath Chhat | 66 | 105 | Dhakpara | 105 |
| 28 | Mohanlaler Chhat | 28 | 67 | Abhiram | 67 | 106 | Budharugaon | 106 |
| 29 | Sastugachh | 29 | 68 | Turivita | 68 | 107 | Chikanmati | 107 |
| 30 | Tarabari | 30 | 69 | Tarbandha | 69 | 108 | Purba Madati | 108 |
| 31 | Gangaram T.G. | 31 | 70 | Antugachh | 70 | 109 | Paschim Bansaon | 109 |
| 32 | Madhabvita | 32 | 71 | Bhusivita | 71 | 110 | Bansaon Mangachh | 110 |
| 33 | Tetulguri | 33 | 72 | Radha | 72 | 111 | Bansaon Chakla | 111 |
| 34 | Kuchia | 34 | 73 | Nirmal | 73 | 112 | Purba Bansaon Chakla | 112 |
| 35 | Dandrajhar | 35 | 74 | Mahammad Baks | 74 | 113 | Purba Bansaon | 113 |
| 36 | Kaduvita | 36 | 75 | Narayan | 75 | | | |
| 37 | Dhaknagachh | 37 | 76 | Kalaram | 76 | | | |
| 38 | Dhamvita | 38 | 77 | Bara Pathuram | 77 | | | |
| 39 | Foudigachh | 39 | 78 | Chhoto Pathuram | 78 | | | |

2.6: Population

According to the Census Report of 2001, the total population of the block is 171,306. Out of them 87,782 are male and 83,524 are female. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population in the block is 55,515 out of which 27,748 are male and 25,648 are female. Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 51,870, out of which 26,898 are male and 26,756 are female. Phansidewa block has registered a population growth of 22.38 per cent during the 1991-2001 decade. Growth rate of population over the same period in West Bengal was 17.84 per cent, while the same for the whole Darjeeling district was 16.94 per cent. It reflects that growth rate of population in the block appears much higher than normal growth rate prevalent in the state. Gender-wise distribution of the population in the Gram Panchayats under the Phansidewa block has been shown in Table 2.3. The table reflects that the proportions of male-female ratio in the whole block stands at 51:49.

TABLE 2.3: GENDER-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Name of the Gram Panchayat | Total Population | Male | Female |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 25,212 | 12,887 | 12,325 |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 22,294 | 11,404 | 10,890 |
| 3. Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 23,477 | 12,105 | 11,372 |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 27,636 | 14,047 | 13,589 |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 27,707 | 13,892 | 13,815 |
| 6. J alas Nizam tara | 26,368 | 13,754 | 12,614 |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 18,612 | 9,693 | 8,919 |
| Total | 1,71,306 | 87,782 | 83,524 |

Source: Census Report, 2001 (Courtesy Office of the BDO, Phansidewa)

2.7: Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Communities

Phansidewa block has heterogeneous population consisting of SC (32.41%), ST (30.28%) and others (37.31%). The ST population is concentrated in the Bidhannagar-2 (60%), Ghoshpukur (53%) and Hetmuri Singhijhora (53%) Gram Panchayats. The SC population is evenly distributed over all the Gram Panchayats

except Jalas Nizambara, where SC population is 58% of the total population of the Gram Panchayat. See Table. 2.4. Concentration of the non-SC/ST category of population is found in Chathat Bansgaon Kismat G.P., where the non-SC/ST population stands at 78%, while in Bidhannagar - 1 this proportion is almost 50% and it is 48.6% in Phansidewa Gram Panchayat.

TABLE 2.4: SCHEDULED CASTE, SCHEDULED TRIBE AND OTHER COMMUNITIES

| Name of G.P's | Total Population | S.C. | S.T. | Others |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 25,212 | 6,499 (25.8%) | 6,260 (24.8%) | 12,453 (49.4%) |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 22,294 | 6,888 (30.9%) | 13,376 (60.0%) | 2,030 (9.1%) |
| 3. Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 23,477 | 4,695 (20.0%) | 352 (1.5%) | 18,430 (78.5%) |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 27,636 | 6,872 (24.9%) | 14,743 (53.3%) | 6,021 (21.8%) |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 27,707 | 6,851 (24.8%) | 14,587 (52.6%) | 6,269 (22.6%) |
| 6. Jalas Nizambara | 26,368 | 15,500 (58.7%) | 1,200 (4.5%) | 9,668 (36.6%) |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 18,612 | 8,210 (44.1%) | 1,352 (7.3%) | 9,050 (48.6%) |
| Total | 1,71,306 | 55,515 | 51,870 | 63,921 |
| Percentage | - | 32.41% | 30.28% | 37.31% |

Source: Census Report, 2001 (Courtesy Office of the BDO, Phansidewa)

2.8: Gender-wise Classification of Workers and Marginal Workers

The data on working population of the Gram Panchayats in the Phansidewa block has been shown in Table 2.5 below. 51,630 persons out of total population of size 171,306 belong to workers' category. That is, around 30% of the total population live on daily wages earned from industry or agriculture. Out of them ratio of men to women is 75:25.

TABLE 2.5: GENDER-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS

| Name of the Gram Panchayats | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 7,885 | 5,986 | 1,869 |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 7,095 | 4,945 | 2,150 |
| 3. Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 5,311 | 4,817 | 494 |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 9,625 | 6,114 | 3,511 |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 9,305 | 6,029 | 3,276 |
| 6. Jalas Nizam tara | 7,358 | 6,579 | 779 |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 5,081 | 4,486 | 595 |
| Block Total | 51,630 | 38,956 | 12,674 |

Source: Census Report, 2001 (Courtesy Office of the BDO, Phansidewa)

In addition to Worker Population as shown above, a group of people occasionally work in tea gardens and agricultural fields as marginal workers. Data regarding these marginal workers have been shown in Table 2.6 given below. The table shows that out of total population there are 10370 marginal workers, which is close to 6% of total population. Proportion of men and women in total marginal workers is 45:55

TABLE 2.6: MARGINAL WORKERS IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Name of the Gram Panchayats | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 1,444 | 430 | 1,014 |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 1,741 | 668 | 1,073 |
| 3. Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 1,363 | 875 | 488 |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 1,841 | 793 | 1,048 |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 1,951 | 904 | 1,047 |
| 6. Jalas Nizam tara | 1,311 | 558 | 753 |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 719 | 432 | 287 |
| Block Total | 10,370 | 4,660 | 5,170 |

Source: Census Report, 2001 (Courtesy Office of the BDO, Phansidewa)

2.9: Poverty Level and Data on Families Living Below Poverty Level

Poverty level in the block is much higher than national average in this respect. Poor literacy level coupled with concentration of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the total population may be ascribed as the reason behind the high level of poverty.

TABLE 2.7: DISTRIBUTION OF THE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE FAMILIES IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Sl. No | Name of the Gram Panchayat | Category | | |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------|--------|----------|
| | | Household | BPL | % of BPL |
| 1. | Bidhannagar-1 | 5,499 | 2,274 | 41.35 |
| 2. | Bidhannagar-2 | 6,156 | 1,908 | 30.99 |
| 3. | Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 5,707 | 3,268 | 57.26 |
| 4. | Ghoshpukur | 6,381 | 2,137 | 33.49 |
| 5. | Hetmuri Singhijhora | 6,577 | 2,574 | 39.14 |
| 6. | Jalas Nizamtara | 6,783 | 2,901 | 42.77 |
| 7. | Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 5,346 | 2,288 | 42.80 |
| | Total | 42,449 | 17,350 | 40.80 |

Source: Rural Household Survey 2005 (After Revision) Courtesy: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa

Table 2.7 reflects that, on average, more than 40% families in the block live below the poverty level. This percentage is very high in Chathat Bansgaon Kismat Gram Panchayat, where more than 57% families are living below the poverty level. This is necessary to explore the reason behind such a high level of poverty in the Gram Panchayat.

2. 10: Literacy Level and Education

Table 2.8 given below shows the number of literate male and female living in different Gram Panchayats. Total number of literates in the Phansidewa block is 71,249 which accounts for only 42% of the total population of the block. Out of the total male population 45,519 are literates, which stand at 52% of the total male population of the block. Number of female literates are 25,730, which is only 31%

of the total female population of the block. Male-female ratio in the block in terms of literacy is 64:36.

TABLE 2.8: GENDER-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATES IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Name of G.P's | Total | Male Literacy | Female |
|------------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 10,816 | 6,810 | 4,006 |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 8,229 | 5,357 | 2,872 |
| 3. Chathat Bansaon Kismat | 7,513 | 5,211 | 2,302 |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 13,012 | 8,054 | 4,958 |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 10,384 | 6,491 | 3,893 |
| 6. Jalas Nizamtara | 12,555 | 8,052 | 4,503 |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansaon Kismat | 8,740 | 5,544 | 3,196 |
| Block Total | 71,249 | 45,519 | 25,730 |

Source: Census Report, 2001 (Courtesy Office of the BDO, Phansidewa)

Table 2.9 reflects that female literacy in the block is very low. This record of female literacy is worst in Chathat Bansaon Kismat, where this percentage is only 20%. It indicates that there is a strong need for exploring the reasons behind such a low literacy level in the specific Gram Panchayat. In Bidhannagar-2 Gram Panchayat female literacy is 26%, which is also low. Higher concentration of tribal population and very high level of poverty are the probable reasons behind such a low level of female literacy.

TABLE 2.9: GENDER-WISE LITERACY RATE IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Name of Gram Panchayats | Total | Male Literacy | Female |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------|--------|
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 43% | 52% | 32% |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 37% | 47% | 26% |
| 3. Chathat Bansaon Kismat | 32% | 43% | 20% |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 47% | 57% | 36% |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 37% | 46% | 28% |
| 6. Jalas Nizamtara | 48% | 58% | 35% |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansaon Kismat | 47% | 57% | 35% |
| Block Total | 42% | 52% | 31% |

Source: Calculated by the researcher on the basis of data shown in Table 2.8

2.11: Educational Institutions in the Gram Panchayats

Lots of arrangements have been made by the state government for promotion of education and literacy in the block. Table 2.10 shows the number of primary and secondary schools established and aided by the state government for promotion of education in the block.

TABLE 2.10: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Name of the Gram Panchayats | Category of Institutions | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| | Primary School | High School | HS (10+2) Schools | Library | College |
| 1. Bidhannagar- 1 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 1 | - |
| 2. Bidhannagar- 2 | 17 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 3. Chathat Bansaon Kismat | 17 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | 18 | 1 | 3 | 1 | - |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | 17 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| 6. J alas Nizam tara | 22 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 (B. Ed) |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansaon Kismat | 15 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - |
| Block Total | 117 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 1 |

Source: Annual Administrative Reports of Gram Panchayats 2011-12

2.12: Mode of Transportation

Phansidewa block is well connected with the other parts of the country by all the modern modes of transportation. This block is very adjacent to the major railway station, bus terminus and airport, which enable the population of the block to use necessary transportation to move to any part of the country. The block encompasses a by-pass route running through the J alas Nizam tara Gram Panchayat, which is looked upon as the gate-way to North Eastern states. Daily thousands of heavy goods vehicles from various parts of the country move to the North-Eastern States. Of the seven Gram Panchayats under Phansidewa block, four Gram Panchayats viz., Bidhannagar-1, Bidhnnagar-2, Ghoshpukur and Hetmuri Singhijhora are located on both the sides of the National Highway 31 (N.H 31). It provides a natural advantage of better road transportation to the villagers of those

Gram Panchayats. Besides National Highways, the Gram Panchayats have large number of rural roads, mostly constructed by the Panchayats under schemes sponsored by Central and state government. Table 2.11 shows that majority of the rural roads in some Gram Panchayats are yet to be constructed and metalled. Especially, in two Gram Panchayats viz, JalasNizamtara and Chathat Bansgaon Kismat, more than 50% roads are neither metalled nor motorable.

TABLE 2.11: ROADS OF THE GRAM PANCHAYATS UNDER THE BLOCK

| Sl. No | Name of the Gram Panchayat | Category of Roads (K.M) | | | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| | | Kachha | Bricked Morrum | Pucca Metalled | Others | Total | Motorable | Non Motorable |
| 1. | Bidhannagar-1 | 18 | 28 | 41 | 2 | 89 | 65 | 24 |
| 2. | Bidhannagar-2 | 22.80 | Nil | 41.50 | 31.20 | 95.500 | 87.70 | 7.80 |
| 3. | Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 47 | Nil | 25 | Nil | 72 | 21 | 51 |
| 4. | Ghoshpukur | 96 | Nil | 16 | 8 | 120 | - | - |
| 5. | Hetmuri Singhijhora | 15 | Nil | 66 | 20 | 101 | 76 | 25 |
| 6. | Jalas Nizamtara | 130 | 25 | 45 | 36 | 236 | 125 | 86 |
| 7. | Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 25 | Nil | 45 | 10 | 86 | 60 | 26 |

Source: Annual Administrative Reports of Gram Panchayats 2011-12

Table 2.11 presents the position of the roads of the seven Gram Panchayats under the jurisdiction of the Phansidewa block. The table reflects that Jalas Nizantara G.P has the longest length of roads (236 K.M) out of which 19.06% is metalled, whereas 130 K.M. (55.08%) are un-metalled roads. On the other hand, Chathat G.P. is endowed with shortest length of the road connectivity, which is 72 K.M. only; out of which only 34.73% is metalled and the remaining 65.27% (47 K.M.) is un-metalled. Village roads in the Ghoshpukur G.P are found in poor condition, where out of the total 120 K.M. roads only 13.33% is metalled and more than 80% is un-metalled. Comparatively better roads are found in the Bidhannagar-1 G.P., where 46.06% of the roads are metalled and 20.22% of the roads are un-metalled.

Among the others sources of transportation the block has three railway stations within its jurisdiction. New Jalpaiguri, the main railway station in North Bengal, is also very adjacent to the block. Tenzing Norgay Bus Terminus, the biggest bus

terminus in North Bengal, is just a few kilometres from the block. The nearest airport is situated at Bagdogra, which is also adjacent to the block.

While the block is enjoying the advantage of National Highways, its inter-panchayat road connectivity is left in a very bad shape. On the basis of the data on the rural roads as depicted in Table 2.11 it is felt that proper emphasis must be given on the construction of the rural roads in order to facilitate movement of the population of the block for improvement of their standard of living. Priority must be given to the construction of metalled and motorable roads by utilising the grants received from Central and the State Governments.

2.13: Administrative Set Up of the Phansidewa Block and Panchayat Samiti

Administrative head quarter of this block is located at Phansidewa. Phansidewa Panchayat Samiti, which is the inter-mediate second tier of the three-tier system of the Panchayati Raj in West Bengal, has its office at Phansidewa. The Block Development Officer (BDO) is the ex-officio executive officer of Panchayat Samiti, who is also the administrative head of the block as well. The BDO is assisted by the Joint Block Development Officer (Jt BDO), the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) and number of Extension Officers of respective departments. A team of office personnel consisting of accountant, cashier, clerks and record suppliers is there.

Sabhapati, who is the leader of ruling political party winning in majority of seats, is recognised as the administrative head of the Panchayat Samiti. The PDO is the ex-officio secretary of the Panchayat Samiti.

Phansidewa Panchayat Samiti consists of 21 elected members and has proportionate representation of members from the weaker sections of the society including women and scheduled tribe. Table 2.12 shows that the Panchayat Samiti has only two members from the general caste category.

TABLE 2.12: SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE PARTICIPATION IN PHANSIDEWA PANCHAYAT SAMITI

| Name of the Panchayat Samity | Total Members Elected | S.C | S.T | Women | S.C (Women) | S.T (Women) | General (Woman) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Phansidewa | 21 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa based on Panchayat Election 2009, Block Profile

2.14: Political Composition of Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayats

Panchayats in West Bengal has a long political history. Political parties actively participate in Panchayat Elections in West Bengal and form Panchayats at different tiers. Leaders of the political parties visualise it as an opportunity to participate and implement their own political principles and schemes at the grass-root.

TABLE 2.13: POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF PANCHAYAT SAMITI SEATS

| Name of Panchayat Samiti | Number of Panchayat Samiti Constituencies | CPI(M) | INC | Independent | Sabhapati | Sahakari Sabhapati |
|--------------------------|---|--------|-----|-------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Phansidewa | 21 | 7 | 13 | 1 | INC | INC |

Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa based on Panchayat Election 2009

Table 2.13 shows the political composition of the Panchayat Samiti. In the Panchayat election held in 2009 Indian National Congress (INC) won in thirteen seats, CPI (M) won in seven seats and one independent candidate won in remaining one seat. As a result of winning in the majority of the seats, INC formed the Panchayat Samiti at Phansidewa Block.

2.14.1: Scheduled Caste and Backward Community Participation in Gram Panchayats

As per the Census Report of 2001, 32.40% of the population of the Phansidewa block is Scheduled Caste and 30.27% is Scheduled Tribe. Remaining 37.31% belongs to other castes. Women and each category of the population have fair representation in the Gram Panchayats. Table 2.14 demonstrates that out of the

total 109 members of the seven Gram Panchayats, 'proportion of S.T. and female members' is around 36% of the total seats. The seat arrangement for the Gram Panchayat is made as per the West Bengal Panchayat Acts 1973.

TABLE: 2.14: CATEGORY AND GENDER-WISE REPRESENTATION IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| No of G.P's | Total Number of Elected Members | S.C | S.T | Women | S.C (Women) | S.T (Women) | General (Woman) |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 07 | 109 | 35 | 39 | 39 | 12 | 16 | 11 |

Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa

Table 2.15 shows that in the Panchayat Elections 2009 the CPI (M) and the Indian National Congress (INC) emerged as the main political parties in the seven Gram Panchayats where, the CPI (M) holds the post of the Pradhan in the three Gram Panchayats and the INC holds the post of Pradhan in the two Gram Panchayats. It can also be observed from Table 2.15 that the Independent (IND) candidates have also emerged in considerable numbers from the Bidhannagar-2, Ghoshpukur and the Hetmuri Singhijhora Gram Panchayats where, the Independent members succeed to select the Pradhans independent of any political affiliation. Strong polarization of the votes is observed between the CPI (M) and the INC in the Gram Panchayats of the Phansidewa block.

TABLE 2.15: POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF GRAM PANCHAYAT SEATS

| Name of the Gram Panchayat | Number of Constituencies/ Gram Sansads | G.P Seats | CPI (M) | RSP | INC | IND | Others | Pradhan | Upa-Pradhan |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|---------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------|-------------|
| Bidhannagar-1 | 15 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | INC | INC |
| Bidhannagar -2 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | IND | CPI(M) |
| Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 14 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | INC | INC |
| Ghoshpukur | 15 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | CPI(M) | IND |
| Hetmuri Singhijhora | 18 | 20 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 0 | IND | INC |
| JalasNizam Tara | 16 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | CPI(M) | CPI (M) |
| Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 12 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | CPI(M) | INC |

Source: Office of the BDO, Phansidewa

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) won only one seat from the Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat G.P. in the Panchayat Elections 2009. The table shows that independent candidates won in 16% of the total seats. It means political choice is applied in 84% cases. It illustrates the unique feature of the grass-root politics, especially in the State of West Bengal where political inclination of the voters is a dominant factor.

2.14.2: Gender-wise Classification of Participation in Gram Panchayats

Table 2.16 shows the category-wise and gender-wise distribution of members elected to Gram Panchayat seats in seven different Gram Panchayats. The mandatory reservation of the seats for the women in the Panchayats as per West Bengal Panchayat Act 1973 is 33%.

TABLE 2.16: GENDER-WISE AND CATEGORY-WISE REPRESENTATION
IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Name of G.P. | Gender | S.C. | S.T. | Others | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|------|--------|-------|
| 1. Bidhannagar-1 | Men | 02 | 03 | 04 | 09 |
| | Women | 03 | 01 | 02 | 06 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 15 |
| 2. Bidhannagar-2 | Men | 03 | 06 | NIL | 09 |
| | Women | 03 | 02 | NIL | 05 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 14 |
| 3. Chathat Bansgaon | Men | 03 | 01 | 05 | 09 |
| | Women | 01 | 01 | 03 | 05 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 14 |
| 4. Ghoshpukur | Men | 03 | 07 | NIL | 10 |
| | Women | 03 | 05 | NIL | 08 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 18 |
| 5. Hetmuri Singhijhora | Men | 01 | 08 | 01 | 10 |
| | Women | 03 | 07 | NIL | 10 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 20 |
| 6. J alas Nizam tara | Men | 09 | NIL | 02 | 11 |
| | Women | 04 | 01 | 01 | 06 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 17 |
| 7. Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | Men | 05 | 01 | 02 | 08 |
| | Women | 03 | NIL | 01 | 04 |
| Total Seats | | | | | 12 |

Source: The Kolkata Gazette, Extraordinary, July 7, 2009

Table 2.16 reflects fair representation from all sections of the society as per the mandates of 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992. However, Bidhannagar - 1 G.P has 40% women representation. In Bidhannagar -2 and Chathat Bansaon G.P this percentage is found to 36% each. In Ghoshpukur G.P. this percentage is 44%. In Hetmuri Singhijhora women constitute about 50% of the elected representatives. Representation of larger number women than what is constitutionally mandated reflects growing interest of women in rural self-governance. Mandates of the reservation policy to ensure proper representation of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe and women members in the Gram Panchayats are found duly complied with in the block.

2.15: Climate

The climate of the block consists of moderate hot summer with an average humidity, except monsoon period the Maximum and Minimum temperature recorded in the block is 40 and 09 degree Celsius (Approx) respectively. The annual rainfall is recorded as 390 mm (Approx). Phansidewa is purely an agriculture intensified block in the district of Darjeeling. The agro-climatic condition of the block is mainly influenced by the presence of a number of rivers and irrigation facilities. Due to this climatic condition paddy and jute are the major crops produced in the block.

2.16: Agriculture

In India, around seventy percent of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood and about a considerable part of the country's national income is derived from agriculture. Thus, economic growth of the country, to a great extent, depends on the betterment of agriculture sector. Since independence many measures have been taken in order to ensure development of agriculture. Since agricultural development and rural development are inter-linked, in order to accelerate rural development there is a need for placing emphasis on agriculture.

Phansidewa is an agricultural block. Total agricultural Land in the block is 16,560.54 Acres. Agriculture is the main occupation of the block, where considerable section of the population depends upon agriculture. The majority of

the working people are cultivators or agricultural labourers. Paddy is the most important crop of the block. Besides paddy, jute and other vegetables are also cultivated in the block. Table 2.17 shows the production of the major crops cultivated in the block. The table shows that paddy and jute are the main crops grown in the block. Besides paddy, other crops like wheat, maize and potato are also cultivated in the block. Different kinds of vegetables are also grown in the block Table 2.18 shows the details of the vegetables grown in the block. It provides the additional source of income to the cultivators of the block.

TABLE 2.17: YIELD OF CROPS PRODUCED IN THE BLOCK IN 2013-14

| Name of the Block | Paddy (Aus) for 2013-14 | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Area (Hectre) | Yeild/ Hectre (K.G) |
| Phansidewa Khoribari | 800 | 2,010 |
| | Paddy (Aman) HYV for 2012-13 | |
| | 14,280 | 3,400 |
| | Paddy (Aman) Local Variety for 2012-13 | |
| | 760 | 2,200 |
| | Paddy (Aman) Hybrid for 2012-13 | |
| | 1,290 | 3,600 |
| | Paddy (Bodo) for 2013-14 | |
| | 2,200 | 4,900 |
| | Jute (Capsularies) for 2013-14 | |
| | Area (Hectre) | Yeild/ Hectre (Balles) |
| | 160 | 6 |
| | Wheat for 2013-14 | |
| | Area (Hectre) | Yeild/ Hectre (K.G) |
| | 720 | 2,400 |
| | Maize for 2013-14 | |
| 730 | 3,200 | |
| Potato for 2013-14 | | |
| 810 | 23,600 | |

Source: Office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Phansidewa Khoribari Block, Phansidewa.

TABLE 2.18: DATA OF THE SEASONAL VEGETABLES

| Name of the Block: Phansidewa Khoribari | Vegetables for 2013-14 | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| Name of the Vegetables | Area (Hectre) | Yeild/ Hectre (K.G) |
| Bringal | 515 | 30,000 |
| Ladies Finger | 60 | 12,000 |
| Amaranth | 125 | 12,200 |
| Spinach | 95 | 11,500 |
| Cucumber | 130 | 18,500 |
| Pumpkin | 85 | 30,100 |
| Other Gourd | 120 | 16,500 |
| Cauliflower | 407 | 33,500 |
| Cabbage | 425 | 52,500 |
| Tomato | 495 | 52,000 |
| Beet | 100 | 20,000 |
| Raddish | 90 | 12,000 |
| Onion | 100 | 13,500 |
| Garden Pea | 100 | 12,000 |

Source: Office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Phansidewa Khoribari Block, Phansidewa.

2.17: Land utilisation

Total land area in the Phansidewa block is 76,000.02 Acres, of which net cultivated area is 16,560.54 Acres. The distribution of the total area is presented below in Table 2.19 shows the description of the land in the Phansidewa block.

TABLE 2.19: DISTRIBUTION OF LAND IN PHANSIDEWA BLOCK

| Description of Land | Area (Hectares) |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Agriculture Land | 16,560.54 |
| Danga | 8,251.13 |
| Homestead Land | 2535.29 |
| Roads | 724.71 |
| Tea Garden | 12,232.82 |
| Pineapple Garden | 499.60 |
| Forest | 227.07 |
| Factory | 141.43 |
| Pond | 112.66 |
| Hospital | 5.10 |
| Railways | 75.68 |
| River | 1,576.76 |
| Schools | 79.72 |
| Village Market (Hat) | 31.26 |
| Play Ground | 13.06 |
| Canal | 100.52 |

Source: Office of the Block Land and Land Reforms Officer, Phansidewa

2.18: Irrigation and Role of Panchayat

The three-tier Panchayat organization is playing key roles in planning, implementing and management of irrigation schemes. Minor irrigation sector is the key area where the beneficiaries are actively associated at all the stages of development under the leadership of Panchayats. In the Phansidewa block panchayats are actively involved in implementation of all minor irrigation schemes right from the time of site selection to construction, maintenance and management of irrigation projects. Dug-wells are selected and constructed by Panchayat Samiti with the active involvement of the beneficiaries in the process of construction. After construction these projects are handed over to the beneficiaries for use. In addition, deep tube-wells of different capacities have been handed over to the Panchayat Samiti for operation. Table 2.20 shows the provisions of irrigation facilities under Phansidewa Block

TABLE 2.20: IRRIGATION FACILITIES UNDER PHANSIDEWA BLOCK

| Sl. No | Name of the G.P | Source of Irrigation | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | No of Shallow Tube Wells | No of Deep Tube Wells | No of Ponds/ Jhils | Name of Irrigation Project | Name of Rivers Providing Irrigation |
| 1. | Bidhannagar-1 | 125 | 80 | 3 | Nil | Buri Balason Motia |
| 2. | Bidhannagar-2 | 78 | 55 | 20 | Nil | Chenga |
| 3. | Chathat Bansgaon Kismat | 15 | Nil | 12 | Nil | Nil |
| 4. | Ghoshpukur | 15 | 8 | 3 | Nil | Chenga |
| 5. | Hetmuri Singhijhora | 165 | 20 | 8 | Teesta Sub Cannel | Chenga, Galandi, Sannasi |
| 6. | Jalas Nizamtara | 32 | 10 | 4 | Mahananda Sub Cannel | Mahananda |
| 7. | Phansidewa Bansgaon Kismat | 75 | 18 | 57 | Mahananda Sub Cannel | Balason |

Source: Annual Administrative Reports of Gram Panchayats 2011-12

2.19: Industrial Position of the Block

Phansidewa Development Block is not an industrially developed block. However, some small enterprises and small factories are located in different parts of the block. Most of those have been set up under private entrepreneurship. Among the industrial units, tea processing factories constitute the lion's share. Other than tea processing, there are some food processing units as well as fertiliser factory. A list of some of the Industrial units located in different Gram Panchayats under Phansidewa Block has been shown in Table 2.21 given below:

TABLE: 2.21: INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN PHANSIDEWA BLOCK

| Name of the Industrial Unit | (G.P.) | Type of Production |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| M/S Ganesh Grains Ltd | JNT | Flour Mill |
| Eva Exotica Pvt. Ltd | JNT | Poultry Feed |
| Darjeeling Cements Pvt. Ltd | JNT | Cement Manufacturing |
| Goaltuli Food Product | Goaltuli More | Food Products |
| Bagmoti Pulp and Paper Pvt. Ltd | Ghoshpukur | Paper Roll |
| M/S Goyal Merchant Pvt. Ltd | Ghoshpukur | Jute Yarn |
| M/S Rainbow Agro food Pvt. Ltd | Kantivita | Food Processing (Juice Making) |
| M/S Bajendra Plantations Pvt. Ltd | Bidhannagar-II | CTC Processing |
| Hill Steel Wool Pvt. Ltd | JNT | Steel Wool |
| Varsha Biotech Pvt. Ltd | JNT | Bio Pesticides and Fertilizers |
| M/S Duke Tea Pvt. Ltd | Bidhannagar-1 | Tea Processing |
| M/S Raghunath Fertilizer Pvt. Ltd | Bidhannagar-1 | Fertilizer Manufacturing |
| M/S Mars Tea (India) Pvt. Ltd | Bidhannagar-1 | CTC Processing and Tea |
| M/S Darshananda Holding Pvt. Ltd | Bidhannagar-1 | CTC Processing and Tea |
| M/S Kyan Agro Agency | Ghoshpukur | CTC Processing |
| M/S Shakti Tea Processing and | Bidhannagar-2 | CTC Tea Processing Manufacturing Pvt Ltd |
| M/S Raj Fireworks | JNT | Fireworks |

Source: Record of the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles, Govt of West Bengal.

2.20: Bank and Postal Services

The Phansidewa block has six bank branches located in six Gram Panchayats. The State Bank of India and the Central Bank of India has two branches each in the block and the Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank which is a State Co-operative Bank has two branches in the block. In Bidhannagar-2 Gram Panchayat there is no bank. Name of the banks and their location have been shown in Table 2.22 as given below:

TABLE 2.22: BANKING SERVICES IN THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

| Sl. No. | Name of The Bank | Branch | Name of the G.P |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | State Bank of India | Leusipukuri Branch | Jalas Nizamtara G Panchayat |
| 2. | State Bank of India | Hansqua Branch | Hetmuri Gram Panchayat |
| 3. | Central Bank of India | Phansidewa Branch | Phansidewa Gram Panchayat |
| 4. | Central Bank of India | Bidhannagar Branch | Bidhannagar-1 Gram Panchayat |
| 5. | Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Ghoshpukur Branch | Ghoshpukur Gram Panchayat |
| 6. | Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Chathat Branch | Chathat Gram Panchayat |

Source: Annual Administrative Reports of Gram Panchayats 2011-12

Postal Service:

1. No of Sub-Post Office- 2
2. EDPO- 7

2.21: Medical and Health Amenities

TABLE 2.23: PUBLIC RURAL HOSPITALS WITH NUMBER OF BEDS

| Sl. No. | Health Centre | Location | Number of Beds |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. | Block Primary Health Centre | Phansidewa | 30 |
| 2. | Primary Health Centre | Bidhannagar | 10 |
| 3. | Primary Health Sub Centre | - | 21 |

Source: Annual Administrative Reports of Gram Panchayats 2011-12

Private Initiative:

Navjeevan Hospital and rural Health Care Centre, Ghoshpukur G.P, Managed by the 'Daughters of the Cross' a missionary Institution.

Moreover Phansidewa block has a proximity to the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital which serves as a major supporting unit for all the bocks adjacent to it.

TABLE 2.24: PHANSIDEWA BLOCK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Total Geographical area (in sq. Kms.) | 308.65 |
| 2. | No of Panchayat Samities | 01 |
| 3. | No of Gram Panchayats | 07 |
| 4. | No of Mouzas | 113 |
| 5. | No of I.T.D.P. Mouzas | 46 |
| 6. | No of Villages | 340 |
| 7. | No of Electrified villages | 225 |
| 8. | No of Police Station | 01 |
| 9. | Melas and Festivals | 8 No's Melas in different occasions |
| 10. | Places for Tourist attraction | 1 (one) Aqua-duct at Haptia and 2 (two) Picnic spots at Jals Nizamtara G.P and Bidhannagar. |
| 11. | No. of WBSEB Station | 01 |
| 12. | No of railway Station | 03 |
| 13. | No. of Bus Terminus | 02 |
| 14. | National Highway | 01 (NH 31) |
| 15. | No. of SSK | 91 |
| 16. | No. of MSK | 04 |
| 17. | No. of ICDS Centre | 122 |
| 18. | No. of SHG Group | 332 |
| 19. | No. of Tea Garden | 14 |
| 20. | Rural Library | 05 |
| 21. | No. of Military/Paramilitary establishment | 04 |
| 22. | No. of Telephone Exchanges | 03 |
| 23. | No. of Mobile Tower | 05 |

2.22: Summary and Conclusion

Phansidewa block lies between 26°35'N to 26°35'N longitude and 88°22'E to 88°36'E latitude. This is one of the important blocks under the Siliguri sub-division in the district of Darjeeling in West Bengal with geographical area of 308.65 square kilometres. Presence of a big percentage of tribes and backward classes is a unique feature of the block. According to the census report of 2001, the total population of the block is 171,508. The figures of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population in the block are 53,372 and 53,654 respectively. If the percentages of other backward classes are added together, more than 70% population is found backward. Literacy level is very poor, particularly female literacy is abnormally low. In addition to this percentage of families living below the poverty level is more than 40%, which much higher than the national average. Majority of the population are tea-garden workers and marginal labours. In the light of the composition of population, it is apparent that the Gram Panchayats have a big role to play here.

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